

The Fulton County 4-H Fund

The Fulton County 4-H fund was created in 2006 by former Fulton County Community Foundation President, Joanne Bendall.

Joanne worked in her family's business at the Fulton County Community Sale Barn, for 25 years. She was born into the sixth-generation of Fulton County farmers in her family, and she embraced the idea of simple living.

After she graduated high school, Joanne attended Purdue University to become a home economics teacher. She strongly believed that individuals should be taught life skills. After graduating from Purdue, she received a job at South Bend Community School Corporation where she created the School Age Mothers program. This innovative program provides young mothers with various opportunities to practice important skills. It also encourages young women to further their education with the intent to build a brighter future for themselves and their family. After working with this program, Joanne moved on to become the Director of career and adult education.

After 47 years of dedicated work, she retired from the education field to enjoy a calm life in Fulton County. Bendall took this opportunity to become more active within the community while also becoming a member of the First Baptist Church. Some of the groups and organizations that she enjoyed being involved with are: Master Gardeners, Retired Teachers Association, Tri Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the 4-H Foundation.

Joanne enjoyed contributing to the 4-H foundation. She served as a 4-H leader for 16 years, which later led her to be appointed to the Indiana State Fair Board by Governors Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon.

The Fulton County 4-H Board created the 4-H fund for the sole use and benefit of the Fulton County 4-H Board, as they wanted to carry out the board's role and mission within the county. When the fund was started, the Community Foundation matched gifts \$1 to \$1. Joanne was challenged to raise money for the fund, and in a matter of 90 days, she and the board raised \$25,000, meaning that the fund held \$50,000. In a remarkable 6 years of work, \$92,000 had been raised for the fund in order to benefit several areas of the Fulton County 4-H Fair.