

Fulton County 4-H Dog Club Fund

LeeAnn Pollock has been involved as a 4-H leader in 4-H dog training for many years. Now called the Fulton County Mighty Mutts, LeeAnn started with the club when her son was in 8th grade. Together they began working with dogs in agility training. Now over 20 years later, she is still involved! The Mighty Mutts has greatly changed over the years.

In the beginning, Leanne and others involved had to raise \$1,000 to begin the agility project. With the help of the community and fellow club members, they were successful! Over time, new needs came up, and Leanne realized that donors could have the added benefit of a tax deduction if the funds were to pass through the Fulton County Community Foundation (FCCF). In September of 2006, the Fulton County 4-H Dog Club Fund was established with the FCCF.

Parents and donors have been so generous to the group with their monetary donations, as well as their gifts of time and labor. Donors have become sponsors for Mighty Mutts members, enabling the club to purchase equipment and trophies. Gifts range from \$5 to several hundred dollars, and every donation counts.

When the Mighty Mutts were in need of a new storage unit, a husband and wife graciously donated the labor needed. Local company, Ramco, then donated the materials by passing the donation through the Community Foundation. The storage unit, located at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds, now holds the club's agility equipment and various supplies.

The Mighty Mutt members are also very active in finding sponsors and in writing handwritten thank-you notes to those sponsors. Leanne believes that the members are gaining important communication skills and are building character through their participation.

When Leanne first joined the Dog Club, there were approximately 6-8 kids involved. Now there are 30-40 kids and dogs participating. Through the Club, the kids don't only learn how to show dogs, but they also learn manners, how to clean up after their dogs, how to take care of dogs by keeping their vaccines up-to-date, and how to be all-around good pet owners. While the kids are training the dogs, they themselves are learning valuable lessons as well!

The Club is thankful to the Fulton County Community Foundation for their assistance through the Fulton County 4-H Dog Club Fund. The club is successful due all of those involved—the leaders, kids, parents, and the generous support of the donors in the community.