

Generosity

In 1999, a team of evaluators from the National 4-H Impact Design Implementation Team was given the charge of determining the “critical elements in a 4-H experience.” Those four essential elements include; Independence, Belonging, Mastery and Generosity.

4-H members in Thomas County recently had a chance to experience Generosity first hand through the “Concrete Cowboys” Project. Thomas County 4-H Agent Cindy Wynn, came across a story about a man named Malik Divers who ran a small horse stable in West Philadelphia. Divers’ main goal was simply to give young people in their area the opportunity to do something that he did as a kid – ride horses. The horses help keep kids busy and out of trouble and they also help build valuable skills such as patience and responsibility. Wynn shared the story with a group of her 4-H’ers and they decided that they wanted to help.

Wynn contacted the author of the story who put her in touch with Malik. “I basically asked him what we could do to help and he replied that they would be appreciative of anything we donated! One huge need he had was saddles! The 4-H’ers got the word out and in less than 24 hours, we had two nice western saddles donated!” Wynn stated.

“Our 4-H’ers were moved by the story and very responsive. I think for many of our kids who have their own horses, a light came on and they saw a chance and an opportunity to help others. Conducting this project to collect new and gently used tack items to be sent to Philadelphia was a great lesson on generosity and a unique opportunity to practice service for others! Malik is a kind and humble man and his story is so incredibly inspiring!” Wynn commented. Anyone who would like to donate tack items can contact Cindy Wynn at the Thomas County Extension Office at (229)225-4130. They are also accepting monetary donations to assist with shipping costs.



Thomas County 4-H’ers pose with items donated for the “Concrete Cowboys” Project