TO: All 2015 High School Graduates and College Students Potentially Eligible to apply for the St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program

FROM: Eva Beeker, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development

RE: St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program, Midge and Bill Bender Scholarship, and 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship

Congratulations on your impending graduation from high school or ongoing college career! If you are planning to continue your education you will be happy to learn the St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council has a 4-H scholarship program to assist graduating seniors and college students who are current or former St. Joseph County 4-H members!

The 4-H Youth Council is making available five (5) post-high school education scholarships in the amounts of $1,500, $1,000 and three (3) at $750. These scholarships may be applied toward tuition, laboratory fees and/or textbook purchases at any trade school, college or university (with the scholarship being made payable directly to the educational institution).

- $1,500 Youth Council Scholarship for Most Qualified High School Candidate: 2015 is the seventh year the Youth Council has offered a scholarship to an outstanding high school candidate.
- $1,000 Youth Council Scholarship for Most Qualified College Candidate: 2015 is the seventh year the Youth Council has offered a scholarship to an exemplary college candidate. College students must be in their first four (4) years of enrollment.
- $750 Youth Council Scholarship for High School Seniors: The Youth Council is offering three (3) scholarships of this amount to excellent high school candidates.
- $1,500 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship: 2015 marks the 14th year that three (3) former St. Joseph County 4-H members will be pooling resources to fund a $1,500 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship donors and their previous 4-H club affiliations include: Bret Comstock (Leonidas Do-Best), Wade Rohrer (Howardville) and Mike Rumsey (Rolling Clovers). Bret, Wade and Mike feel very strongly about the need to “give back” to the 4-H Youth Program in appreciation for all that 4-H has done for them, including providing the opportunity to develop “life skills” that have helped them become positive, productive members of their communities.
- $500 Midge and Bill Bender Scholarship: 2015 is the 13th year this scholarship is available. College students who received a Youth Council Scholarship in 2014 are eligible to apply and receive this scholarship in 2015. The Midge and Bill Bender Scholarship is open to both high school seniors, and college freshmen and sophomores, but will be awarded as the scholarship committee sees appropriate.

Please download a copy of the 4-H Youth Council scholarship application from the St. Joseph County 4-H website. Eligibility requirements are listed on page one (1) of the application. All eligibility requirements must be met in order to be granted a scholarship interview, so be sure to review the requirements carefully. Completed applications are due in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2015.
Letters of Recommendation and Other Supporting Documents: Please note that you are required to obtain a written recommendation from your 4-H leader of choice (either your club organizational leader or a project leader) (See the 4-H Leader Recommendation Form). Remember to be sure and follow up with your leader of choice to make sure they have submitted the appropriate recommendation form to the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by the Friday, March 27, 2015 deadline noted on the form.

You are also required to submit a copy of your official 4-H Project Completion Record (available from the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office) along with your completed application form, and submit a copy of your official high school/college transcript.

Scholarship Selection Committee: The 4-H Scholarship Selection Committee will include one (1) representative each from the 4-H Youth Council, 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship funding group and a person from the community.

Required Interview Process: Applicant interviews will be conducted Saturday, April 25 starting at 9:00 a.m., at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension Office. Interviews will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals on a first-come, first-served basis. It is your responsibility to call 269/467-5521 by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2015 to set up an interview time.

Selection Process Results: All applicants will receive a letter following the interviews informing them of the results of the selection process.

The 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship, Midge and Bill Bender Scholarship, and the 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program provide excellent opportunities for you to obtain financial support for pursuing your post-high school education. Do not miss this opportunity to put your “4-H career” to work for you as you work toward achievement of your career goals!

Please do not hesitate to call me at 269/467-5521 if you have any questions regarding the 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program, 4-H Achievement/Service/Leadership Scholarship, and/or Midge and Bill Bender Scholarship.

cc: 4-H Club Organizational Leaders (cover letter only)

Deadline Reminder and Check List: Scholarship application forms, plus all required supportive materials, are due in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2015. Only applicants for whom all application-related documents have been received by the March 27 deadline will be granted an interview. Application-related documents due by this deadline include:

1. 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Award Program Application Form (6 pages)
2. 4-H Leader Recommendation Form
3. 4-H Project Completion Record
4. Official copy of your high school/college transcript