Dear 4-H Extension Educators,

I am Olivia Hamilton from Pontotoc County and I serve as the Oklahoma 4-H Secretary. On behalf of the 2014-15 Oklahoma 4-H State Council, I write this letter with the hope that your county 4-H program will become an active participant in the state service projects.

Change 4 CHANGE and Pull for Ronald are this year’s state service projects. The Change 4 CHANGE service projects have been very successful in the past years. Change 4 CHANGE is a service project where you collect loose change or bills and the money raised benefits the Oklahoma Children’s Hospital. The hospital uses the money in various ways, all to help the children. Pull for Ronald is a service project that started a long time ago. This service project collects pop tabs and then sends them to the Ronald McDonald House in Oklahoma City. The Ronald McDonald house will then exchange the pop tabs for money and use the money to benefit the families staying there.

One of the Council’s goals is to encourage and try to receive support from every county in the state to help a cause that affects everyone. Change 4 CHANGE is a project that is near and dear to my heart. In my home county, Pontotoc, there is a 4-H family that has spent time in Children’s Hospital and my own family has spent time in there as well.

I am pleased to say, Council has been working on updating informational materials for these service projects. Buckets are a good, convenient and inexpensive way to collect money. Buckets can be passed around during livestock shows, athletic games, any 4-H event, and numerous other places and events. A half sheet that shares more specific information about Change 4 CHANGE service project has been provided to be placed on the outside of the bucket. A flyer for the Oklahoma 4-H Change 4 CHANGE Challenge has also been provided. This year Council decided to have a challenge to encourage more counties and 4-H members to participate in the Change 4 CHANGE service projects. Tom Mankse has agreed to shave his mustache of 25+ years at Roundup, if Oklahoma 4-H raises over $15,000. I am very excited and believe we can do it. The State 4-H Council asks that your county 4-H program and local 4-H clubs participate in a service project that allows us to give back and help others in need.

If you have any questions please feel free to email Olivia Hamilton at okhclover@yahoo.com or call me at (580) 272-3427. Email Steve Beck, State 4-H Council Advisor at steve.beck@okstate.edu or call him at (405) 744-8887. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Olivia Hamilton
Oklahoma 4-H Secretary