



University of NH
Cooperative Extension

MEDIA RELEASE

NH TEENS APPLYING THEIR TALENTS AND INTERESTS TO BRING ABOUT POSITIVE, LASTING CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Two teams of young changemakers, taking the initiative to help two causes: improving conditions for abused animals and funding parity in youth sports in their communities.

CONCORD, NH – January 29, 2007 – Congratulations to the Peppermint Ponies and The Suncook Valley Sports Swap teams! These teams of young changemakers are unique in that they are the first to launch as a result of the NH 4-H Youth Venture Partnership.

The Peppermint Ponies, of Fremont, NH, transformed their nearly two-year-old 4-H club into a community-benefiting 4-H Venture. They did this by developing a program to help abused animals. The team plans to make and sell personalized horse shoes, giving the proceeds to the NHSPCA, the NH Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals.

Members of The Suncook Valley Sports Swap plan to create a sportship - a scholarship program to help offset pay-to-play fees for young under-privileged athletes in their community of Pittsfield, NH. The team plans to raise the sportship funds by hosting sports swaps twice a year. At the swaps, people could buy and sell used sporting equipment at reasonable prices.

4-H Youth Ventures empower NH 4-H youth to create, manage, and sustain their own social ventures that are designed to benefit their schools or communities. Ideas for A Ventures can be most anything a Venturer is interested in or passionate about. For instance, The Peppermint Ponies applied their love of horses and The Suncook Valley Sports Swap, their devotion to sports.

Each qualifying *4-H Youth Venture* team will receive up to \$1,000 in start-up money to fund approved venture programs. A qualifying venture:

- Is a new initiative started by young people called Venturers, ages 12-18
- Is led, created, and managed by a strong, energetic team of Venturers who are committed to long-term success
- Has clear, attainable goals, a credible plan and budget
- Has an adult partner willing to support, but not control the venture
- Leaves a lasting benefit to the community

About Youth Venture:

Youth Venture is a national not-for-profit organization that invests in young people as changemakers by providing the tools and support they need to create, lead, and launch organizations, clubs, or businesses (“Ventures”) that make a difference in the community. Participation is available to youth between the ages of 12-20. For more information, please visit: www.youthventure.org

About 4-H New Hampshire

4-H is the youth educational program of UNH Cooperative Extension. The mission of 4-H is to help youth acquire knowledge, develop life skills and form attitudes to enable them to become self directing, productive and contributing members of society. 4-H emphasizes the importance of involving youth in the learning process. It is offered free of charge to youth ages 5-18. Youth from all cultural and economic backgrounds get involved in 4-H fun and learning. Members and volunteers live in towns, cities, farms, and suburbs. For more information, please visit: <http://extension.unh.edu/4h/4H.htm>

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