

### **Arapahoe County 4-H Foundation 2016 Scholarship Winners**

The 4-H Foundation funds up to three \$1,500.00 scholarships and one Arabelle J. Burnett Excellence scholarship of \$2,500 each year. Here are the 2016 recipients.



*From left: Lydia Van Kirk, Emily Gray, Joseph Yousling, Brianna Osborn*

**Brianna Osborn** will be receiving the \$2500 Arabelle Burnett Scholarship this year. Brianna will graduate from Bennett High School with a GPA of 4.20. She is an 11 year 4-H member and is active with both Antelope Crossing and Elk Creek 4-H Clubs. She will be attending CSU for a degree in Biomedical Science and then she plans to go to Veterinary school to obtain her life-long dream of becoming a Veterinarian. She credits 4-H for playing a major role in shaping her career choice and helping her become a less self-conscious person thru leadership conferences such as National Western Roundup, Leadership Development Conferences, County 4-H Extravaganza and State conference. She also credits these conferences for valuable leadership training. Her projects have included cake decorating, photography, shooting sports, sketchbook/ visual arts, leathercraft, goat, dog horseless horse and veterinary science. Brianna has successfully participated in county, state and national contests in Parliamentary Procedure, Consumer Choices, Speech and Demonstration contests. She has also mentored younger members with their 4-H projects and 4-H contests. Brianna is very active as a community volunteer, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, county fair, National Western Stock Show, Kids Spree and many other areas too numerous to mention. Brianna has also been active in both Future Farmers of America and the National Honor Society. One of her long term career goals is to specialize as an Exotic Veterinarian, focusing on big cats. Congratulations Brianna and we wish you the best as you study to become a veterinarian.

**Joseph Yousling** is receiving the \$1500.00 Melody Kollath scholarship. He is an eight year member of Elk Creek and Smoky Hill 4-H Clubs and will be graduating from Cherokee Trail High School with a 3.136 grade average. Joseph will be attending Morningside College in Iowa to study psychology and secondary education. His projects include Photography, Leadership, Electricity, Computer, Entomology, Geospatial, Global Citizenship, Cake Decorating, Garden, and a Self-Determined Entrepreneurial project which led him to establish his own dog sitting business. He has participated in speech and demonstration contests and

served as MC of the Talen Show. Joseph has worked with younger members on demonstration and cake decorating skills. He is a member of the Arapahoe County Junior Leaders and has served as the group's chairman of the Ronald McDonald House meal project the past five years. The Junior Leaders cook and serve one meal each year to the house residents. He has also served as a District 3 4-H Senator and attended State 4-H conference and LDC leadership training workshops. He served as a Youth Representative to the Arapahoe County 4-H Foundation, has served as President of his 4-H club as well as holding many other 4-H club offices. He is also a member of the Junior Leader 4-H council and has participated in the Arapahoe County 4-H Urban Ranchers Day camp. Joseph is a member of his High School cross country and track team, participates in orchestra and boys choir. He is also a member of the Link Crew and was selected to take the Teacher Cadet Class and has earned a 1st Degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Joseph also works to help pay for his college education. The highlight of Joseph's 4-H involvement was being selected to attend the Citizenship Washington Focus conference in Washington DC. He says it made him appreciate America, and America's history and he is proud to be an American! Congratulations, Joseph!

**Emily Gray** is an Eagle Crest High School graduate with a 3.77 grade point average. She will study Biochemistry at the University of Northern Colorado and then transfer to the University of Colorado Denver to receive her pharmacy degree. She is an eight year member of the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club and during that time her main project interests have been raising rabbits, cake decorating and cooking. She has also taken cats, horseless horse, wildlife, entomology, gardening, photography, arts and crafts, forestry, vet science, home environment, ceramics, consumer savvy, pets, model craft and global citizenship projects. She says that through these projects, she has learned many skills that are directly related to the specific projects. She has mentored the younger members in the rabbit project by teaching them about rabbits and how to show them. She has also guided members in their cake decorating and food projects as well as assisting them in many of the other project areas as well. She has participated in Consumer Choices and Creative Cooks contests as well as demonstration and speech competitions. She has held the office of club president as well as many of the other club offices. She has also volunteered many hours at the Arapahoe County Fair and in 2011 received the Outstanding Fair Volunteer award. Her community service projects include the Ronald McDonald House, Rake-Up Colorado, the Keensburg Wild Animal Sanctuary, Aurora Animal Shelter and the Cat Care Society. She completed nearly ten years as a competitive gymnast and was a member of her school's 2013 and 2014 5A State Champion Gymnastics team. She was also a varsity diver and track runner during her Junior and Senior years. She says the highlight of her 4-H involvement was receiving the Danforth Award in 2015 and having the opportunity to read the book "I Dare You!" by William H. Danforth. She says this book has inspired her to try to be the best that she can be and to always try to reach her potential. Good luck to you in your chosen field Emily!

**Lydia Van Kirk** is graduating with a 3.94 grade average and will be attending Houghton College in New York. She wants to pursue a career in the equestrian world training and working with horses. She would someday like to own and run her own horse stable. Another personal goal is to stay debt free so she is planning ahead, saving and attending free horse classes and clinics. Besides the horse project, she has also completed the dog, baking, horseless horse and pet projects. She is proud of her 4-H project dog "Winston" for receiving reserve champion in the Rally competition at county fair. As a member of the Bit of Class 4-H club she has competed in the county speech and demonstration contests and served as her club's historian and treasurer. Lydia was homeschooled, so did not have an opportunity to participate in school activities, so she became a volunteer in many areas. She has been a regular volunteer at the praying

Hands Ranch therapeutic riding center and the Edwards Foundation which is a rescue mission for large animals. She has also volunteered with the Max Fund, Zumas Rescue Ranch, Happy Dog Ranch, Rowan House, Family's First, Volunteers of America and is presently also involved with a horse rescue and training center east of Parker. She attends church regularly. Lydia states that the most worthwhile 4-H accomplishment and experience was working with Fashion, her 4-H project horse for two years. Fashion had a bad experience when she was being broken and could not be tied up and would rear whenever someone tried to saddle and bridle her. Lydia worked with the horse with help from the horse project leaders and was finally able to bridle the horse. The first time she tried to bridle the horse it took nearly an hour, but she can now bridle and saddle the horse in less than 15 minutes. The horse now follows her around just like a dog. Lydia says that this was a big accomplishment not only for her but the horse as well. Congratulations and we wish you the best in your chosen career.