

## My 4-H Story 2020-2021

By Nathanael I

This was my third year as a member of the Active Citizenship Club. It was the second year I volunteered for the role of club historian and reporter. The role of club historian and reporter entails taking photos and writing the quarterly report for *4-H Headlines*. I took part in all the service projects as well as attended all meetings that were held. Our meetings were on Zoom until our June 2021 meeting which took place in person at a local park.

This year our club completed six service projects, most of them from home. For these projects our club sought funds from the Leaders Council, other clubs, and family and friends of 4-H members. Our first service project in November was purchasing and delivering 45 gift cards to the Mount Holly Police Officers as a thank you for their service. Also in November we wrote holiday messages to Airmen, shopped, packed, and sent 15 holiday boxes to deployed Airmen. In January 2021, we wrote inspirational notes and decorated lunch bags for Seeds of Hope in Camden New Jersey; the notes and bags went to packed lunches for homeless people in Camden. In January and May, our club members shopped for, assembled, and delivered eight birthday boxes to Generations Family Success Center in Mount Holly New Jersey. The birthday boxes will be distributed to families who don't have enough money to have a birthday party for their children. In conjunction with the Somerset County Youth Advisory Committee, our club collected donations for Visions and Pathways in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Using some of the monetary donations from Burlington County Leaders Council, in June our club bought and delivered requested items to the Crossroads Program in Willingboro, New Jersey. The supplies will be given to homeless youth in Burlington County. In June, we shopped for hygiene items and wrote inspirational notes to donate to Visions and Pathways. When we met in June, we organized the hygiene items for Visions and Pathways. Finally in early August, we delivered the 225 hygiene items to Visions and Pathways in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

My favorite service project this year was shopping for the Crossroads and Visions and Pathways organizations. I liked picking out games for the kids at Crossroads and I enjoyed organizing the hygiene items because I like making things orderly.

This year I also presented a live Zoom county-level public presentation. For my presentation I repaired a scale model train which I enjoyed. I scored an excellent rating. In order to prepare, I practiced by restoring another model locomotive.

This year I put my head into trying a live demonstration public presentation. I put my heart to attentively listening to other people during 4-H meetings. I used my hands to participate with the service projects that helped over 100 people with my club members. I focused on my health by practicing safety while I practiced and presented my public presentation.

Although this was another isolated year due to Covid restrictions, I am happy that I was able to help so many people through our service projects, report about those projects through the *Headlines*, and finally meet in person with my club. I hope that next year we will be able to meet in person and that this virus will be gone.