

Superior Teen, Others Lauded At Lancaster 4-H Banquet



Scholarships of \$1,000 each go to Mark Graybill and Jessica Schmidt.

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Behind every successful 4-H'er is a supportive family. And Superior 4-H'er Mark Graybill said that his 4-H career has been a family affair.

The prestigious annual 4-H award is given annually to a member whose cumulative all around participation in the program has helped him or her develop into an outstanding youth based on leadership and skills displayed.

Mark said of his parents, Dale and Joyce, and sisters, Sarah and Rebecca, "It's a family affair that enables us to work together and keep things flowing."

About 280 people attended the annual 4-H Recognition Night last week at Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland. Recognized were numerous 4-H members and adults for their achievements throughout the past year.

Mark, a freshman at Messiah College, has been active as a teen leader for the past four years in addition to participating in numerous clubs. He's been a delegate to the National 4-H convention, participated in regional 4-H leadership conferences, received a \$1,000 4-H scholarship, and a \$50 record scrapbook award.

"The 4-H motto is to make the best better. Although I am not the best, I have developed into a better person," Mark said of his 4-H involvement. He recalled being shy and refusing to try new things in his beginning years.

"4-H makes people go out of



Behind Superior 4-H'er Mark Graybill is a supportive family. With Mark, center, are parents Dale and Joyce, and sisters Sarah and Rebecca.

their comfort zone and do things they were afraid to try before," Mark said.

One thing he did was become a teen leader for a rocketry club. It started with five members and, four years later, has grown to 30 members.

"It's definitely been the most difficult thing I did in my entire 4-H years," Mark said of having his patience tested when every member needs help at the exact same moment.

"This award is not just the culmination of my 4-H years, but another highlight. I hope to stay involved in helping with projects," Mark said.

If he is like his mother, Mark will stay involved. A former 4-H'er, she became a volunteer leader when Mark joined 4-H. At the banquet, Joyce was honored for her 10 years of volunteer leader.

It was the 18th year the award has been presented to an outstanding 4-H'er. Kerry Boyd presented the award, which had been established in honor of his parents, Elmer L. and Pauline Boyd, who had been 4-H leaders.

Numerous individual and club awards were handed out for the year's achievements. Some of the most outstanding were scrapbook awards to Reid Fellenbaum, Lisa Hershey, and Kelsey Lenox, 1-3

years; Rebecca Graybill, Erik Nussbaum, and Kelly Pitman, 4-6 years; and Sarah Boyd, Mark Graybill, Sarah Graybill, and Janine Leaman, 7-10 years.

The award program was interspersed with talent presentations by 4-H members. These included Elizabeth Davis, Christine Keef-er, Kevin Hooper, Sarah Graybill, Margaret Thomas, and Kaeti Rosenberg.

Record scrapbook winners included Rebecca Graybill, Erik Nussbaum, Sarah Graybill, Mark Graybill, Sarah Boyd, Lisa Hershey, Reid Fellenbaum, and Kelsey Lenox.

Junior honor roll winners included Rebecca Graybill, Kelly Pitman, and Mandie Holloway. Senior honor roll winners were Sarah Graybill, Mary Zeng, and Rebecca Gordon.

Adult award recipients included readers recognized for outstanding service to the 4-H program. The most notable were 30-year award winners Kendy Allen, Rose Fellenbaum, and Nancy Good.

Jake Fisher received the Friend of 4-H Award for his 19 years of developing the 4-H fund-raising program.

Representing the state 4-H organization was Sallie Gregory, who awarded Becky Miller for her service on the 4-H leaders advisory council.



Enabling the 4-H program to be a success are Jake Fisher, named Friend of 4-H for his 19 years of developing the 4-H fund-raising program, and Becky Miller, for her service on the 4-H leaders advisory council.



Record scrapbook winners, from left, are Rebecca Graybill, Erik Nussbaum, Sarah Graybill, Mark Graybill, Sarah Boyd, Lisa Hershey, Reid Fellenbaum, and Kelsey Lenox.



Junior honor roll winners, from front, left, are Rebecca Graybill, Kelly Pitman, and Mandie Holloway. Senior honor roll winners, from back left, are Sarah Graybill, Mary Zeng, and Rebecca Gordon.



Recognized for leading 4-H clubs, from left, are Gary Dean, 20 years; Kendy Allen, 30 years; Joni Soost, 20 years; and Ben Brubaker, 20 years.