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Tennessee 4-H: Find Your Missing Piece

So many times, I've pondered, "What is my thing?" I have looked at myself and thought, "What do people see in me? Do they see a leader, an athlete, a farmer, an academic, a speaker, or a musician? What have I accomplished that people know me for?" After all, it seems as though many strong leaders, exceptional athletes, intelligent students, bountiful farmers, and talented musicians surround me. Everyone else has found their missing piece, so what is mine? Therefore, knowing the label everyone else falls under, which label am I known for? With 4-H, I have found my missing piece. I have discovered that as a member of this club, I don't have to pick just one piece. I can be a strong leader, a hardworking farmer, a good student, an inspiring speaker, and a meticulous musician.

4-H helps youth to participate in many different activities. People don't simply have one single thing that defines who they are. Quite often, I meet 4-H'ers who aren't simply part of 4-H. Some are leaders while others may be speakers or musicians. 4-H encourages its youth to be many things, not merely one. I love being surrounded by others who are made up of many unique pieces. Consider 4-H Honor Club. Promoting leadership and service, Honor Club challenges its members to be well-rounded citizens with the opportunity to use their various abilities for a variety of different things. For example, I have been able to be a leader through service projects in Honor Club.

Furthermore, 4-H not only helps youth find their missing piece, but it also helps them to grow it. Many people that I encounter at school have talents that they don't use and may not even realize they have. However, if they would simply realize their special ability, or find their missing piece, they could become something they've never dreamed of being. They would

become influential leaders, amazing speakers, talented athletes, nurturing farmers, highly successful students, and skillful musicians. Without 4-H, I doubt that I would have tried public speaking, but now that I am a public speaker, I keep working harder to get better at speech. Without 4-H, I doubt that I would have many chickens, but now that I have participated in Chick Chain, I operate an egg business and try to become a better poultry owner all the time.

To conclude, 4-H has helped me find my missing piece by driving me to do more, be more, and achieve more. I am certain that if everyone I know was a 4-H'er, they too would find a piece they never knew was missing. Because of 4-H, I and many other youth in Tennessee and all over the world have excavated abilities from deep within ourselves that we could have lived life never knowing existed. Because of 4-H, we have found our missing piece.