

# Wisconsin 4-H inducts Ozaukee County couple into Hall of Fame

MADISON — Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development announced last week the 2021 Hall of Fame Laureates including 12 volunteers, supporters and staff who have impacted Wisconsin 4-H. Plans for an induction ceremony for the 2021 and 2020 laureates are in progress and will be shared with the 4-H community soon.

“This year’s laureates have each accomplished so much and I feel sincere gratitude for their contributions to 4-H youth and many years of leadership in both volunteer and staff roles,” said Matt Calvert, Wisconsin 4-H program leader and director of the Institute for Positive Youth Development, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. “They have provided the sparks that ignited new interests, and supported the positive development of countless youth and volunteers. Please join me in celebrating each laureate’s generosity and pas-

sion for 4-H and their many contributions to their communities.”

The Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame was established to recognize 4-H volunteers, financial supporters, staff and pioneers who made major contributions to the 4-H movement at the local, state and national levels.

Two Ozaukee County residents, Robert and Mari Schmidt, have been recognized for their work as 4-H volunteers.

“Bob and Mari Schmidt epitomize teamwork and dedication to 4-H,” reads a press release. “Their involvement began as parents. This quickly led to Project Leadership, first in sheep, then poultry and finally the goat project. Bob served as Vice President on the 4-H Leaders Board. In 1990, they became Co-General Leaders and Mari started the club’s newsletter.”

The couple initiated the Adopt-a-Highway Program and partnered with the Pineview Wildlife Rehab

Center to educate the 4-H members and support the Rehab Programs.

They also provide leadership to the 4-H Livestock Association as county sheep leaders and barn superintendents. Mari solicits donations for 4-H Livestock Awards and they both assist with the auction. According to the 4-H organization, the couple was “instrumental” in starting the Small Animal Blue Ribbon Auction for poultry, rabbits and goats and turning it into a Scholarship Program. They received the Ozaukee 4-H Leadership Recognition Award.

Bob is a member of the Ozaukee County Fair Board. Both are active in their church and Optimist Club.

“They strive to know and encourage each project member,” adds the news release. “Together they’ve shared 66 years of leadership with the Ozaukee County 4-H youth!”