



P.O. Box 365 Plainview, MN 55964
507-534-0188
www.mnffaafoundation.org

**NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Kristine Schechinger

Email: shec060@umn.edu

Minnesota FFA Foundation Provides Valuable Experiences Through Donors

ST. PAUL, MINN. – While the end of the year is coming to a close, the time for giving is still wide-open. The Minnesota FFA Foundation will be capping off the year with a campaign with hopes of acquiring more partnerships. This campaign, “Someone invested in you, will you invest in someone?” hopes to gain further support for the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

“It is our hope to get people to remember that they had opportunities to be involved in FFA at the region, state and national level because of the investment of others,” said Val Aarsvold, Executive Director of the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

Natasha Mortenson, a longtime supporter of FFA, has seen the impact of the Minnesota FFA Foundation. The Foundation provides growing opportunities for students to gain the hands-on experience they may not find in other organizations.

“I see value in supporting FFA because without the investment in youth and leadership in agriculture, we will find ourselves in a place where we don’t have people to take over,” Mortenson said.

Supporters of Minnesota FFA have been generous to provide resources to help further agriculture programs. These resources have been vital in advancing the opportunities for members in FFA. Students who are members of FFA can gain valuable skills, regardless of whether they pursue a future in agriculture. The experiences they will have in this organization will help build a foundation for what they can accomplish in the future.

“I feel it’s important to realize that not all FFA members are going to go into agriculture. They are going to go into different avenues but the experiences they had in agriculture education and FFA are going to carry with them,” Mortenson said. “These are the stories we also need to tell.”

The theme “Someone invested in you, will you invest in someone?” can bring an array of emotions to those who hear it because many do not realize the support they had while in FFA. When students are going through the program, they look forward to the next upcoming event or activity without realizing that someone else made it possible for them to participate.

“I remember the people who were around when I was in FFA, and I remember how much I looked up to them. Looking back now at all of the moving parts, people and companies that provide money for these things to happen – you never think of that when you are in the organization,” Mortenson said. “When I hear this theme, it’s all about paying it forward.”

The sponsors who donate to this campaign allow for the growth of many FFA members. The Foundation can use these resources for scholarships, reduced registration for camps/conferences and state convention awards. Being a supporter of Minnesota FFA creates meaningful opportunities for students to grow and learn in agricultural education.

“If someone believed in me enough to invest, then I want to return that favor and invest in others,” Mortenson said.

Founded in 1953, the Minnesota FFA Foundation secures partnerships and financial resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in agricultural education. To see the impact that the Minnesota FFA Foundation has had on its members, visit: mnffaoundation.org.