

## New Jersey



Catherine Rupner - 4-H Program Associate, Retired

### 4-H Efforts:

Initiated the Monmouth County 4-H Alumni Association for former 4-H'ers and leaders. Wrote and received two New Jersey 4-H Development Fund grants for a Science Camp and a Volunteer Retreat. Served as Teen Council advisor and arranged for three out of state teen exchanges involving a total of 160 youth and 110 adults. She served on the South Jersey Teen Conference Planning Committee for teen conferences reaching approximately 600 teens and 105 adults.

### 4-H Honors:

Received the RCE Program of Excellence Award for her 4-H work.

Hometown: Freehold, New Jersey

Nominated by: Rutgers Cooperative  
Extension of Monmouth County

Year Inducted: 2002

“We in 4-H know that we have made an impact when we see the youth who have grown through our program then share their knowledge with other youth. Seeing the leadership demonstrated by the youth themselves has been the most satisfying aspect of my 4-H work. Training teens to train others is a vital part of the 4-H program.”

After beginning a career in public education, Catherine decided to apply her teaching interest to Extension work. During her 27 years of dedicated service to the Monmouth County 4-H program, Catherine has had a variety of responsibilities. She trained many volunteers to conduct 4-H clubs and provided training to Family and Consumer Sciences clubs and advisory groups. Catherine wrote and received grants for a Science Camp and a Volunteer Retreat, and she involved adult and teen volunteers in the design and implementation of both. From the science camp, youth demonstrated increased enthusiasm for science and teen counselors strengthened their leadership skills.

Catherine has actively promoted life skills development in youth, particularly teen leadership. As Teen Council advisor, she facilitated many educational experiences for teens, such as out of state teen exchanges involving 160 youth and 110 adults. She served on the South Jersey Teen Conference Planning Committee for teen conferences reaching 600 teens and 105 adults. Catherine initiated the Monmouth County 4-H Alumni Association so former 4-H'ers and leaders could stay involved with 4-H. She served as advisor to the Livestock Advisory Council. She has assisted in coordination of the annual Monmouth County fair and served on many 4-H Department committees including Leadership and Professional Development and Volunteer Management.



Cathy and 4-H Kids  
at Science Camp.



Cathy and 4-H Kids at Centennial Camp Out Activities.



Theodore "Ted" Blum - Somerset County 4-H Agent  
Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University

4-H Efforts: In 1959 - 1978, Blum increased enrollment in Somerset County 4-H from 500 to 2500 members in 100 clubs and annual camp enrollment to 300. Under Blum's supervision, construction of Somerset County 4-H Center was completed - the largest 4-H Center in NJ. He initiated the Somerset County 4-H Prep Program for 6-8 year olds.

4-H Honors: Distinguished Service Citation, NAE4-HA; Citizen of the Year, Greater Somerset County Chamber of Commerce; Distinguished Service Award, Epsilon Sigma Phi, NJ Chapter; Good Citizen Award, WBRW Radio, Bridgewater; Spirit of the Camp Award, 4-H campers and counselors.

Hometown: Bronx, New York

Nominated by: Somerset Co. 4-H

Year Inducted: 2002

"My job as a 4-H Agent is to provide as many opportunities as possible for young people to develop character and confidence."

Ted Blum was born in the Bronx, NY, March 8, 1927, grew up in New York City and served in the US Naval Reserve. He enrolled in the first class of men to attend Hunter College and then transferred to Rutgers. He earned a BS in Agriculture and a Masters in Education. Ted began his 4-H career as agent in Cape May County, NJ, and then transferred to Somerset County where he was 4-H agent for 29 years. He resides in Hillsborough, NJ, with his wife Helene. They have two children and three grandchildren. Ted is an avid gardener and travels extensively.

During his tenure, the Somerset County Fair grew into the largest free fair in NJ, organized totally by 4-H Volunteers. Then and now, it drew 60,000 visitors and recognized the work of hundreds of 4-H youth. In 1961, 4-H'ers agreed to put their fair premiums in a 4-H Center fund. Under Blum's supervision, the 20,000 square foot Somerset County 4-H Center was completed. It is the largest 4-H Center in NJ and owned and operated by 4-H Volunteers. In 1972, he created a recognition program for ten Outstanding 4-H Members annually, replacing the Fair Queen Contest. In 1969, he wrote curriculum and initiated the 4-H Prep Program for ages 6-8, which became a model for the state program.



Ted's hard at work at the Somerset Co. fair.



Ted Blum in his office ready for another day.