



**Marion County  
Board of County Commissioners**

Office of Public Information

601 SE 25th Ave.  
Ocala, FL 34471  
Phone: 352-438-2300  
Fax: 352-438-2309

Contact: Elaine DeIorio, Public Information Specialist

Office: 352-438-2314 ▪ Cell: 352-857-1434 ▪ Email: [elaine.deiorio@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:elaine.deiorio@marioncountyfl.org)

## **4-H HOLIDAY COOKIE CONTEST COOKS UP \$500 FOR INTERFAITH**

Immediate Release

**MARION COUNTY, Fla.** (Dec. 2, 2011) – Fifty-seven Marion County 4-H members measured, stirred, rolled and baked dozens of ingredients into nearly 2,700 cookies this week. After selecting a few for judging at the annual 4-H holiday cookie contest, they packaged and sold the rest, stirring up \$500 to sweeten the holidays for children in need by donating the money to the Interfaith Emergency Services' Food 4 Kids program. The program provides backpacks of food to needy students each weekend that school is in session. A portion of the winning participants will also be volunteering to stuff the backpacks in the near future.

“This contest helps the youth practice baking, polish their presentation skills and receive feedback from a judging panel,” said Rachel Fautsch, 4-H Extension Agent I at UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service. “But, more importantly, they’re using those abilities to raise money to help less fortunate kids their own age in the community.”

For a list of the winning entries and more information on Marion County 4-H programs, visit [www.marioncountyfl.org/extensionsservice.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/extensionsservice.htm) and click 4-H/Youth.

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