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Dear County 4-H Agent:

You can gain statewide or national recognition for your 4-H participants who demonstrate outstanding volunteer community service by joining in the 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a prestigious, independent awards program that recognizes young people in grades 5-12 on the basis of their volunteer activities. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Last year, 132 county 4-H programs selected honorees in this prestigious youth recognition program, and 89 4-H members received state-level awards. Seventeen 4-H participants were among the 102 State Honorees for 2009, and 20 were among 234 Distinguished Finalists. This recognition is extremely beneficial to individual 4-H participants who have performed exemplary acts of service in their communities and to 4-H as a whole.

Enclosed is an implementation packet with complete instructions for nominating 4-H members in your county. 4-H participants can apply online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or www.principals.org/prudential. Applications must be completed, printed out, signed, and submitted to you by **November 2, 2009**. Then, your county 4-H program can select one middle level Local Honoree for every 1,000 members (or portion thereof) in grades 5-8 and one high school Local Honoree for every 1,000 members in grades 9-12.

Once you have selected your Local Honorees, you must certify their applications online by **November 9, 2009**. A state-level judging committee will pick the top youth volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia, who will receive silver medallions, \$1,000 awards, and a fabulous trip to Washington, D.C., for national recognition events.

In Washington, a national selection committee (on which I serve) will name America's top 10 youth volunteers for 2010. They win additional \$5,000 awards, gold medallions, crystal trophies, and \$5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for charitable nonprofit organizations of their choice.

If you have any questions or need a paper version of the application form, please call toll-free 877-525-8491. Additional information is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

I have attended the national recognition events for The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, and I have seen first-hand the power of this program to reward and inspire young people. By participating, we can applaud the terrific work of individual 4-H participants and highlight the emphasis that the 4-H community of young people across America places on community involvement. I hope your county will participate.

Sincerely,

Donald T. Floyd, Jr.

Enclosures