Good-Byes and New Transitions

When I began my career in July 2007 as the Rains County Family & Community Health Agent, I embraced Texas A&M AgriLife Extension’s vision of “Help Texans better their lives.” Being a life-long resident of Rains County and a member of the Rains 4-H Club throughout my school career, this position was the perfect fit for me. It allowed me the opportunity to use the educational resources of AgriLife and help strengthen my community in providing health and wellness education. Along with being the FCH Extension Agent, I would also share responsibilities as one of the 4-H Agents in the county, which as a former member and a current 4-H parent was exciting. I would be able to help grow a program that was so instrumental in my life growing up.

Over the years I have met countless people through my programming and worked with hundreds of youth, both in our club and through my various program activities at Rains ISD that have all impacted and enriched my life. Oftentimes, I would learn just as much from them as they would from me. The best part of doing this job in a small community is when a child you worked with in the school drags their parent over to you in the grocery store saying, “Mom, this is the nutrition lady.” or “She is the one that taught me that the salt and pepper shaker have to move around the table together.” Those are the times you realize how much you love your job and the people you teach.

 The Family & Community Health program in Rains County has been supported by so many individuals and businesses that have helped provide collaboration, support, and resources that enabled me to provide quality programs to my clientele. A special thank you to the Rains County Judge and Commissioners Court, Emory Development Corporation, City of Emory, Rains ISD, Good Samaritans, NETO Senior Citizens Center, Rains County Fair Association and Leadership Advisory Board, and Emory Baptist Church for your support through the use of facilities and other types of resources. They have always been instrumental in helping me launch and sustain programs in the county.

 In this job, I have taken so much pride in the work that Stephen Gowin and I have been blessed to do with our 4-H Club members, their parents, and our volunteers. This has also been possible through the tireless efforts of our Texas Extension Educators Association members who graciously volunteer their time and talents to lead projects with our youth. It has been such an honor to work with these young people and watch them grow and flourish in the 4-H program and use their leadership skills to go on to be responsible, respectful, and engaged citizens. I look forward to seeing them someday come back as volunteers to the program and continue to pass on the 4-H family tradition.

 On October 1, 2019 I will assume the position of the District IV Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development. My new duties will include overseeing multidisciplinary youth development programming in health, science, technology, agriculture, and civic engagement among others in the 22 counties in our district. The best part is that I will still be able to work with the Rains County 4-H program in this position providing support to the agents, members, and parent volunteers.

 I look forward to continuing to support Rains County through other civic groups such as Lake Country Neighbors, my role as the Rains County Fair Pageant Director, and other volunteer areas to promote the Texas 4-H program and its youth development endeavors. Again, thank you Rains County for your support, encouragement, and friendship over the past 12 years!