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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*(Please see image attached; Members of 4-H Teen Council and ABC 4-H Club pose with their pillows)*

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**Local 4-H Youth Clubs Make Patriotic Pillows for U.S. Veterans**

Community service plays an important role in being a member of 4-H. Throughout the year 4-H youth members participate in several different community service projects. In its second year, the Patriotic Pillow Project is a sewing project which makes beautiful star spangled pillow cases that resemble the American flag. After the materials are cut to size the pillow cases are sewn together, filled with a pillow, and are then distributed to United States War Veterans along with hand written thank you notes in recognition for serving our country. This project encourages community service activity and reinforces basic sewing skills. In 2008, eighty pillows were made and distributed by Ulster County 4-H youth members to all the patients at the Castle Point VA Hospital in Castle Point, NY.

On Thursday, April 9, 2009, members of Ulster County 4-H Teen Council and the ABC 4-H Club gathered at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County Education Center located at 10 Westbrook Lane in Kingston to cut and sew the pillow cases. The cases along with pillows will be presented to members of the New Paltz VFW at the Memorial Day Parade this May.

For more information about Ulster County 4-H Youth Development or to become an adult 4-H Club leader, contact Patti Zellmer at 845-340-3990.

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*