



From the May 2016 *Clover Lines*

## Emerald Star Project Completed

By Nicole Bellmore, Loma Vista 4-H

In Ventura County there are approximately 6,000 homeless children from ages up to five. My Emerald Star project I just completed focused on this. Working with Step Up Ventura, a new organization working to prevent the cycle of homelessness and to help homeless children, volunteer 4-H'ers and I made bags for homeless children. Also, thanks to the many generous people's contributions, effort, and time. We only used donated fabric and materials to make the bags, and many 4-H'ers volunteered their time to sew bags for the project. These tote bags can carry books, and other things, back and forth from school. Many of the children benefitting from this project don't have backpacks. Having a reusable bag allows children to carry books with them to share and enjoy with parents. I also held a toy drive so the bags could have a toy inside. Thank you to everyone who donated. Your contributions are much appreciated.

From the January 2016 *Clover Lines*

## Emerald Star Project

by Nicole Bellmore, Loma Vista 4-H

As part of my emerald star project this year I will be making small backpacks/bags for preschool children being served by the Step Up Ventura preschool scheduled to open this Spring. Step Up Ventura is an organization with an aim of "a community where all children have a chance to form healthy relationships and have access to early childhood education that supports realizing their potential". There are over 6,000 homeless children aged zero to five in Ventura County alone. There will be two sessions at Fabric Town in Ventura where I will show 4-H members how to make the bags. These bags can go from school to home with the kids to carry their books and supplies. I will have all the materials, but please bring your sewing machines and basic sewing supplies (scissors and pins). The dates for the sewing sessions are January 25 and February 22. Both sessions begin at 6:15 pm and must end by 7:45 pm as the store closes at 8 pm. Fabric Town is located at 2686 East Main Street in Ventura. Please RSVP if plan to attend by emailing [nicole.bellmore@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.bellmore@gmail.com) Also, if you do not want to sew the bags, but wish to donate preschool aged toys and supplies I will be collecting those in spring. Thanks.