

Racine County UW Cooperative Extension



Impact Report 2013



4-H Youth Development: Building Tomorrow's Leaders



Racine County UW-Extension's 4-H Youth Development program, gives young people a chance to gain self-confidence, learn new skills, and contribute to their communities. Many 4-H programs are available: club settings, after school programs, 4-H camp, and other educational programs. 4-H programs always center

around three areas: leadership, citizenship and life skills. Racine County has a very strong network of community clubs. 4-H community clubs consist of youth in kindergarten through one year beyond high school graduation coming together to learn. Each club is unique and selects which of the forty 4-H projects to participate in.



4-H Shooting Sports Program Improvement

The membership within the 4-H Shooting Sports project is high in Racine County. The archery project alone has approximately 200 members participating in three different sites. In 2013, because of its growing popularity, UW-Extension 4-H staff worked with archery project leaders to provide more structure and standardization among the different clubs to encourage collaboration. These improvements in the organizational procedures will ready the clubs for future growth and expansion in this project area.



4-H Summer Fun Clubs Established at COP Houses

One of our greatest achievements in 2013 was our cross-programmatic approach to youth programming in high-risk neighborhoods being served by COP (Community Oriented Policing) Houses. Tracy Strother, 4-H Youth Development Educator took the lead and brought in Nutrition Educator, Aimee Martinez and Horticulture Educator, Patti Nagai to help develop complimentary programming. Efforts were focused on the Meade and Villa Street COP Houses respectively. Each house had access to raised garden beds and appropriate meeting space for youth activities, which best served the goal of cross-programmatic education. Together they commandeered the "4-H Summer Fun Club" which was held Monday-Thursday afternoons, from 1-4 p.m., for six weeks, June-August. The program was very successful and preliminary plans for 2014 include modification to the program to serve four COP House sites.



Youth in Governance: Making Youth Voices Heard



The development of youth leadership is critical to building civic capacity and long-term community sustainability. When youth develop useful skills and build self-confidence, we establish capable, effective leaders for the next generation.

Data from a 2010 Search Institute study, “Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth – Racine County Schools,” documented that only 20 percent of youth living in Racine County perceive that their community values youth; and only 24 percent believe that youth are given useful roles in the community. These results were among the lowest of all the assets measured and were lower than similar assets measured at a national level.

In direct response to these results, the Racine County Board of Supervisors partnered with UW-Extension to create the Racine County Youth In Governance program. In June of 2013 with the introduction and passage of Resolution No 2013-41, the Executive Committee officially established the Racine County Youth In Governance program. This program promises to bring a youth voice to community issues while developing confident, independent, and motivated youth leaders.

4-H Tech Wizards

Starting in 2013, Racine County 4-H Tech Wizards partnered with Starbuck Middle School’s Engineering Club to build a strong afterschool program and expand STEM opportunities to youth throughout the community. They began by competing in the FIRST Lego League competition where teams designed, built, programmed and tested autonomous robots to perform a series of tasks during two-and-a-half minute matches. The Racine County 4-H Tech Wizard teams—the Knatural Knights and Super Storm Spartans—received the Inspiration Award and the Young Adult Mentor Award. In addition to the FIRST Lego League, Racine County 4-H Tech Wizards:



- Participated in the National Fluid Power Association Challenge at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, December 2013 earning the “Portfolio Champions” award
- Had 84 youth and adults participate in Exploring Engineering Day at UW-Madison, Fall 2013, as quoted in the Racine Journal Times
- Toured Pioneer Products and Nelson Brothers & Strom Company (both are contract production and custom engineering machine shops)
- Participated in Discovery World Camp, making backpacks and cantilevers

Family Living: Helping Families Thrive



Family Living programs respond to local needs through education and partnerships that support stability and the well-being of Racine County families.

Improve Access to Child Support & Family Court Information

In 2013, Bev Baker, Family Living Educator and Department Head for the Racine County UW-Extension office, determined that both professionals and volunteers wanted to learn more about the Child Support system because of the stress it causes and potential impact on infant mortality prevention efforts. Subsequently, she worked with the Racine County Child Support Enforcement Director to create a “Child Support and Family Court FAQ” and convened a team including Child Support Enforcement, the Family Court Commissioner, Racine County Human Services and Workforce Development, and the Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency to answer questions and address common misperceptions of how Child Support works. These sessions and the resource materials developed as a result of this project are being heralded as important first steps towards encouraging the public to proactively connect and access child support and family court information.

Research and Resources Shared on Children with Incarcerated Parents

UW-Extension Family Living also hosted the “Racine County Conference on Children with Incarcerated Parents” which featured the preliminary findings of research being conducted at the Racine County Jail in a partnership between UW-Madison, the Racine County Sheriff’s Department and Racine County UW-Extension. The research is funded by a National Institutes of Health grant and is already shedding light on a subject of paramount importance to the well-being of many U.S. children. In addition, a new section in the Racine County Family Resource Directory was created that focuses on resources for children with incarcerated parents.

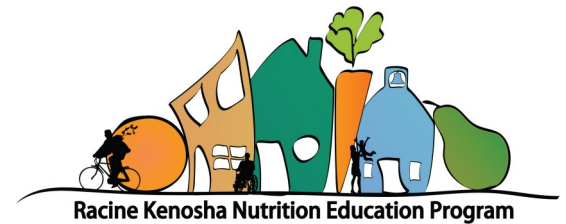
Strengthening Families Program Collaborates to Reach Hispanic Families

A new collaborative delivery model for the Strengthening Families program was developed in 2013. UW-Extension partnered with John XXIII Educational Center and Focus on Community to reach Latino families with middle school students. Together, these organizations were able to help facilitate the program which alone would have exceeded the capacity of one or the other organization. The program and collaboration was a great success and points to a bright future of programming offered across several organizations to satisfy Racine families needs.

Completion of 5-Year CYFAR Grant in Burlington

The Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) five-year grant (2008-2013) concluded in 2013. The grant funded outreach programming to Latino families in Burlington. In addition to providing Strengthening Families in Spanish, bilingual UW-Extension Family Living Project Coordinators provided a variety of programs such as “Raising a Thinking Child,” “Hopes and Dreams” and organized an afterschool Multicultural Arts Club. Most significantly, UW-Extension provided a framework for rich discussion among community partners to address the families self-identified need for improving their English literacy. A literacy providers group, HOLA (Hispanic Outreach for Literacy Achievement) was formed and will be among the lasting legacies of the CYFAR grant funds in our community.

Racine/Kenosha Nutrition Education Program



The Racine Kenosha Nutrition Education Program (RKNEP) is a program of the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP). WNEP is a major educational program within the UW-Extension-Cooperative Extension Family Living Program area that supports families by offering direct education to low-income individuals and families. UW-Extension provided nutrition education to the parents of school children, seniors, adults with disabilities, veterans and the homeless. Our target audiences and partnerships include:



School Age Children

In 2013, Nutrition Educator, Denise Clark successfully piloted Cornell University's new curriculum, *Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness* at Mitchell School. It is a fun, interactive curriculum on healthy eating and activity for 8-12 year olds. The curriculum targets 4th graders in the hopes of establishing healthy life behaviors early in life.

Parents and Caregivers of Young Children

Another 2013 success was the development of an 8-week Eating Smart Being Active series that was offered to Next Generation Now parents, community childcare providers and teachers. Next Generation Now is a State- Certified Young Star Childcare Center, whose parents qualify for free nutrition classes.

Pregnant and New Mothers

We also brought nutrition education into RUSD's PEPS (Program for Early Parenting Support). PEPS is offered to pregnant or new high school teenaged mothers for one semester during pregnancy or right after having a child. Racine County has a teenage birth rate at 43 per 1,000 females (15-19) which is significantly higher than the state average of 29 and nationwide birth rate of 21. Nutrition education included the benefits of breastfeeding for the mothers as well as their infants and toddlers.

Adults with Disabilities

To provide nutrition education and programming to a notably underserved audience, Nutrition Educator, Cindi Armstrong partnered with RADD (Recreational Activities for persons with Developmental Disabilities). Through a hands-on, interactive curriculum that re-enforced concepts through repetition and practice, participants learned how to prepare nutritious foods and understand basic food safety principles.

Horticulture & Urban Agriculture: Gardening for Sustenance, Health and Profit



Racine County UW-Extension's Horticulture programs provide research and educational support for our community

through public classes, Master Gardener Volunteer training, soil testing services, diagnostic advice, radio shows, newspaper articles and community projects. A horticulture "help line" is staffed by specially trained Master Gardener Volunteers to help homeowners with their yard and garden needs. We provide outreach services at the farmer's market and other community events where information about invasive species identification is widely disseminated. Additionally, two community gardens were run by UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers growing thousands of pounds of produce for Racine County's neediest.



The Teaching Garden focuses on sustainable gardening

The Teaching Garden at the Racine County Food Bank grew 3,500 pounds of fresh produce in 2013 and numerous classes and demonstrations focusing on sustainable gardening practices were held throughout the growing season. A total of 65 adults and 119 youth volunteered at The Teaching Garden in 2013. The Teaching Garden is open to the public six days a week and is actively promoted through newspaper articles, websites and Facebook™.



The Garden of Giving grows for the food bank

The Garden of Giving is located at Lakeside Curative Services, and Master Gardener Volunteers there grew over 7,000 pounds of produce for distribution through the food bank.



Promoting rain gardens and native plant landscapes

We also partnered with Root-Pike Watershed Initiative to host a landscape contractor's workshop where landscape professionals learned about the importance of rain gardens and designing beautiful and functional native plant landscapes that will protect our waters and wildlife.

Agriculture: Helping Farm Families Prosper

The Racine County UW-Extension agriculture program offers educational programming to a variety of audiences. Farmers and rural landowners in Racine County receive access to local and state resources that include soil labs, diagnostic advice, a variety of specialists and much more.

Youth Training in Quality Assurance & Tractor Safety

In 2013, we continued to offer youth training in quality assurance and tractor safety. It is required by the state of Wisconsin that any youth under the age of 16 that is driving farming implements on roads be certified and participate in a Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification Program.



Rural Landowner Conference

We also proudly hosted the Rural Landowner Conference which is a long-standing annual event connecting many partner organizations—Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and local Land Conservation Departments—to offer workshops focusing on conservation, entrepreneurship and general farming topics. In conjunction with this conference, we hosted a farm-waste recycling event, collecting tons of hazardous materials.



Farm Fresh Atlas of Southwestern Wisconsin improved

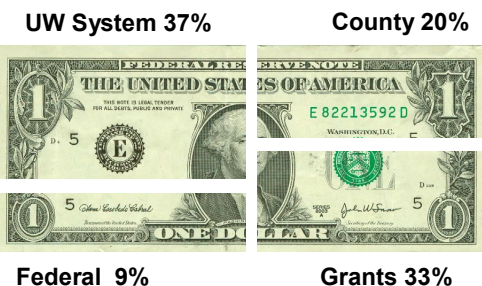
Efforts were also taken in 2013 to technologically improve the financial process of the Farm Fresh Atlas of Southwestern Wisconsin. Now, applicants can complete their application online and be taken directly to a “point and pay” site to complete their transactions. Making the system easier helps farmers access this important market channel.

Farm Succession Workshop offered for first time

New in 2013 was the Farm Succession Workshop. According to the Applied Population Laboratory, UW-Madison and the Census of Agriculture, the percentage of farm operators who are 65 and older in Racine County is 26%. Data from Iowa State University suggest that only one in five farms are passed to the next generation, not surprising since 73% of all farmers have not identified a successor. To address this emerging issue in agriculture, Agriculture Educators in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties developed a workshop targeting multiple members and generations of the same farm families to begin the discussions necessary for transfer of the farm business to the next generation; the successful retirement of the current generation, and; for the fair and equitable distribution of farm estates to heirs in a way to minimize tax burden to all parties.

About UW-Extension

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin and engaging them in transforming lives and communities. The Racine County UW-Extension office is one of 72 county offices statewide, staffed by professional educators. We develop high impact educational programs and bring resources of the University to the local level.

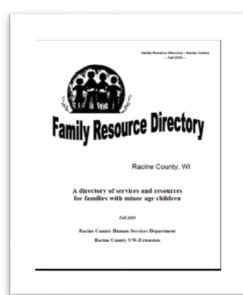


Core funding for Racine County UW-Extension programming comes from three partners: (1) the University of Wisconsin-Extension; (2) the United States Department of Agriculture, and; (3) the Racine County government. Additional program support and funding comes from grants and revenue generated through programming. In 2013 the Racine County tax levy of \$229,708 leveraged an immediate return of \$176,052 in State and Federal funds for educators' salaries. In total, this investment brought direct funding valued at over \$438,375 to the Racine County UW-Extension educational efforts.

Racine County UW-Extension Publications



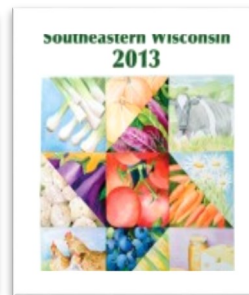
2013/2014 Kenosha Racine Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Guide is a recently updated guide to recycling in our community.



Family Resource Directory is a valuable resource for those working with families in Racine County.



Ties to the Land is a quarterly newsletter to farmers and landowners in Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee counties.



The Farm Fresh Atlas™ of Southeastern Wisconsin is a local food guide for the Milwaukee metropolitan area and surrounding counties.



The Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association is a quarterly newsletter distributed to Master Gardener Volunteers and available to the public.

Racine County University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
 209 North Main Street, Burlington, WI 53105
 Phone: 262-767-2929; 800-522-6240 | Fax: 262-767-2949
 711 (Wisconsin Relay)
<http://racine.uwex.edu>



UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, if you need material in another format please contact the Racine County UW-Cooperative Extension Office.