



EMPOWERING YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, WORKING AND LEARNING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARING ADULTS



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, AND TEACHING SAFE AND PROPER GARDENING PRACTICES FOR A BEAUTIFUL AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

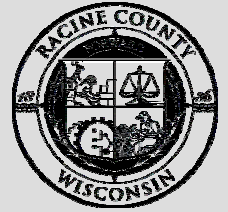


CREATING STRONG, HEALTHY FAMILIES THAT SERVE AS THE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE

UW Extension

Cooperative Extension

RACINE COUNTY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



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Community focus

In 2008, University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension educators and staff continued to work in partnership with Racine County, providing responsive, research-based educational programs to enhance the quality of life for county residents. Some of the major on-going collaborative projects with County departments include:

- ⇒ *Human Services*, providing nutrition education for recipients of food stamps and other public assistance programs, as well as the ACE (Alternatives to Incarceration Education) Program and youth in foster care
- ⇒ *Human Services*, facilitating conferences such as children's mental health and juvenile delinquency prevention, compiling the family resource directory and quick list, and coordinating the networking breakfast for the W2 Children's Services Networks
- ⇒ *Workforce Development*, facilitating jobseeker focus groups, locating community image studies, and serving on the Advancing Family Assets steering committee and assisting the United Way of Racine County in developing financial literacy resources.
- ⇒ *Public Works*, developing a rain garden at Fischer Park, providing diagnostics on shrub and tree health for county workers. Master Gardener volunteers work on projects at Ridgewood Care Center, Racine County Visitors Center, Ives Grove Office Complex, Racine Zoo, Racine Public Library and parks
- ⇒ *Land Conservation*, providing Farmland Preservation education programs and annual rural landowner conference, and contributing to the Racine County Land, Water, Resource Management Plan
- ⇒ *Planning and Development*, developing the Racine County's multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, focusing on education and participation
- ⇒ *Treasurer*, providing foreclosure prevention education
- ⇒ *Sheriff's Department*, researching and developing the Out of School Time study with United Way to analyze trends and needs in afterschool programming throughout Racine County.



FUNDING EXTENSION EFFORTS

UW System 41%

County 24%



Program Revenue 8%

Federal 27%

The shared investment between the University of Wisconsin System, the Federal Government and the County of Racine has established an infrastructure which brings university educators into contact with county residents where they live and work. This collaboration also leverages volunteers, grants, expertise from university specialists and additional funding for local initiatives. In addition to the core investment, **educators obtained direct funding valued at \$475,437 for local programs.** Of this amount, the Racine/Kenosha Nutrition Education Program attracted \$291,674 in additional federal funds due to local partners providing in-kind match. Additional grants and donations totaled \$183,763.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Tracy Strother

4-H Youth Development
Educator

Linda Lueder

4-H Youth Development
Program Assistant

Maria Alvarez

Youth and Family Community
Coordinator

Lucina Dura

AmeriCorps*VISTA

3,280 Educational Contacts



CLUBS

- All4One 4-H
Franksville
- Burlington Back 40
Burlington
- Caldwell Busy Bees
Mukwonago
- Clever Clovers
Racine
- Clover View
Waterford
- Country View
Waterford
- Crazy4Clovers
Yorkville
- Kan-Do
Kansasville
- Norway 4-H
Wind Lake
- Racine Restless Riders,
Racine
- Raymond 4-H
Raymond
- Raymond Trail Blazers
Franksville
- Rising Stars
Union Grove
- Sturtevant 4-H
Sturtevant
- Sunnyside 4-H
Kansasville
- Tucker 4-H
Racine
- Yorkville 4-H
Yorkville

4-H Adventure Camp

In 2008, Racine, Kenosha and Jefferson County Educators worked together to create a new summer program, Adventure Camp, designed for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders; the camp provided youth with the opportunities to work as a team to set up their tents, cook food over a campfire, and communicate during a high ropes rock climbing experience.

Adventure Camp had such a strong response from youth that it reached its maximum capacity of 35 campers and four chaperones. The program included camping for four days and three nights, starting at Upham Woods and ending at Devil's Lake.

Adventure Camp had a positive impact on all participants. As the youth were on the high ropes rock wall, they went from saying, "I can't," to, "I will try," and even to, "I did it!" One hundred percent of youth rated their outpost experience as excellent; one camper commented, "I thought it was very fun, and I would not change a thing."

Adventure Camp is one of the few opportunities offered in Racine County



exclusively for middle school youth. They had a chance to learn with peers going through the same stages of life, and this gave them a sense of belonging and ownership of the program.

Because of the wildlife presence, the campers quickly learned that they did need to pick up after themselves, or they were going to have friendly raccoon visitors. They also learned the importance of respecting nature, so that it will be around for years to come.

In addition to Adventure Camp, 4-H offers Day Camp (Kindergarten-3rd grade) and Base Camp (grades 3-5) every summer.

4-H dedicated to preparing youth in science, technology



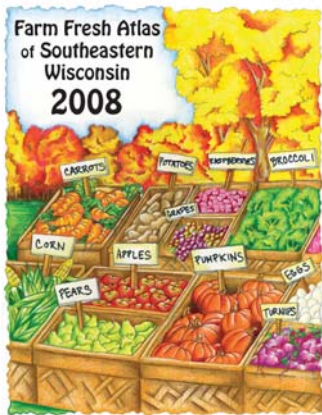
Racine County 4-H members Amanda and Sarah Bohl met with David Wilson, Chancellor of UW Colleges and UW-Extension, and James Rahn, President of the Kern Family Foundation, at a press conference to share the success of the academies and to announce the new 4-H Gateway Academy sites for 2009 in Burlington and Racine.

A national 4-H initiative is dedicated to preparing 1 million new young people to excel in science, engineering, and technology by 2013. As part of that challenge, Racine County UW-Extension secured grant funds to offer a 4-H Gateway Academy Engineering Camp to introduce students to Project Lead the Way curriculum. With the support of the Kern Family Foundation, local school districts, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation, there will be 22 such 4-H Gateway Academy opportunities across the state in 2009.

Racine County 4-H Youth Development Educator, Tracy Strother, worked with Mitchell Middle School technology instructor Keith Kohlmann to host a 4-H Gateway Academy June 23-27, 2008. There were 20 middle school students from across the county who explored careers and opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math. Participants built rockets and solar cars, and learned about alternative energy.

A highlight of the week was a field trip to Vulcan Quarries in Racine. Evaluations of youth and parents indicated this was a positive experience, and two parents specifically commented how they had learned from their child's involvement.

Supporting farmers, businesses and consumers in Racine County and Southeastern Wisconsin



Connecting consumers with producers has been the goal of the Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeast Wisconsin for the past four years. This publication is a collaboration between the UW-Extension offices of Racine, Kenosha,

and Walworth Counties, Slow Food Wisconsin Southeast, Town & Country Resource Conservation & Development, and the Milwaukee Community Supported Agriculture Initiative. UW-Parkside faculty and students are also a key part of the Atlas partnership.

The Farm Fresh Atlas allows consumers to search for a particular product or farm, as well as

a general location in which to search for farms. It gives producers the means of reaching a large number of consumers. The Atlas also informs consumers about local foods, how to shop at a farmers market, where the farmers markets are located within Southeast Wisconsin, and how to support sustainable agriculture. Farms and businesses listed in the Atlas must be family or cooperatively owned; operate in a way that protects and sustains the region's land and water resources; provide safe and fair working conditions for employees; and produce, use or sell Wisconsin farm products.

In 2008, 90,000 copies of the Farm Fresh Atlas were printed and distributed throughout the Southeast Wisconsin region. Eight Racine County farms, along with all of the county's farmers markets, were listed in the Atlas.

Rose Skora
Agriculture Educator

Carol Reed
Agriculture Assistant

505 Educational Contacts

"The Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin is the best thing available to introduce consumers to the area's farmers' markets and farms. Without the atlas, we would be lost.... My sales in Wisconsin have increased 1,000 times in the two years that I have used the atlas to advertise my product."

RON LESTER
LESTER'S BISON FARM

HORTICULTURE

Expanding gardening infrastructure to improve food security

Hunger is a growing problem in Racine County. The latest research shows almost one-in-ten households is food insecure, meaning they have uncertain or limited access to food. Food pantries, which were set up to provide emergency needs, do not have the supply to keep up with demand. Recognizing the increased need for fresh produce, Horticulture Educator Patti Nagai worked with Master Gardener volunteers, the Racine County Food Bank and other community organizations to address these needs.

Two new urban community gardens were designed and constructed in partnership with the Racine County Food Bank. These serve to provide fresh produce, but also to educate food insecure populations about how to grow fruits and vegetables for themselves. The first garden, the Garden of Giving, is located on the grounds of Lakeside Curative Services, a nonprofit vocational rehabilitation service organization for people with disabilities. Educational programming will target individuals with developmental disabilities and community

volunteer groups. About 5,000 pounds of organically grown vegetables were donated to the County Food Bank the first season.

The second garden, the Teaching Garden, is located at the Racine County Food Bank, and is being designed as an inner city intergenerational demonstration garden. Emphasis will be placed on teaching food bank visitors and residents of HALO, the homeless shelter, how to grow fruits and vegetables. In full production, the Teaching Garden is expected to produce more than 6,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables annually.

Educational programming that specifically targets food insecurity in our community is what makes these two programs unique. It's a way of not only trying to meet the growing demands of a hungry populace, but also to lower the demands of an already overburdened system by teaching individual community members how to grow their own food.

Patti Nagai
Horticulture Educator

Meryl Strichartz
Horticulture Assistant

4,851 Educational Contacts

"...the Garden of Giving helped to provide over 1,200 additional meals to those less fortunate in our community. With the addition of more garden area, we are expecting this year's harvest to be significantly greater."

DAN TAIVALKOSKI
DIRECTOR,
RACINE COUNTY FOOD BANK



FAMILY LIVING

Bev Baker

Family Living Educator and
Department Head

Barbara Stoffel-Emde

Family & Community Educator

Tina Ginner

Early Care & Education
Training Coordinator

Maria Alvarez

Youth and Family Community
Coordinator

Nelly Martinez

Bilingual Family Projects
Facilitator

2,310 Educational Contacts

"Es un super curso y
espero que no dejen de
hacerlo. Es muy
especial para mi.
Felicidad por este
curso."

(This is a super course
and I hope that you
don't stop doing it.
It was very special to
me. Congratulations for
this class.)

PARTICIPANT
RAISING A THINKING CHILD



apple seeds

Reaching new audiences with parenting series

Raising a Thinking Child is a parenting program designed to help parents and children learn techniques to solve problems and resolve daily conflicts. The skills children learn through this program can prevent and reduce early behaviors that predict later problems such as violence, abuse, and depression.

In 2008, Barbara Stoffel-Emde, Family and Community Educator, and Nelly Martinez, Bilingual Family Projects Facilitator, worked together to co-facilitate the Raising a Thinking Child program for Spanish-speaking families in the City of Racine. Racine Head Start was selected to host the eight-week program, due to its inner city location and easy accessibility by public transit.

Through partnerships and grants, participating families received a free program workbook; they were also able to check out assorted, bi-lingual learning games, which provide experiences to help children be ready for school. Program instruction was provided in English and simultaneously interpreted into Spanish, with class discussion led by the Spanish-speaking facilitator.

Building family-community connections in Burlington

Apple Seeds: Early Childhood Community Network

The Apple Seeds Advisory Board formed in 2008 after years of community research and planning. Apple Seeds' vision is that every child will be healthy and ready for success in school and life. Parents serve as the center of the board, along with representatives from early care and education, business, health care, Burlington Public Library, Burlington Area School District, Love, Inc., and Racine County UW-Extension.

The purpose of Apple Seeds is to link all young children and their families to the resources needed to succeed in school. Sometimes it is a communication issue where a more effective link needs to be made; other times, the resource does not exist and the Board works with community resources in other areas to serve the Burlington area. Apple Seeds serves as a catalyst for learning – for children, parents/caregivers, and the community.



In 2008—the program's first bilingual year—four families completed the program. All parents scored 100 percent on the quiz at the last session. Evaluations also indicated that children had substantially improved in several skill areas, including: sensitivity to their own and others' feelings, ability to think of multiple ways to solve a problem, anticipation of consequences of their actions on themselves and others, awareness of good times and not good times to act, and better ability to cope with frustrations.

Creciendo Juntos—Growing Together

In partnership with 4-H Youth Development and state specialists, UW-Extension in Racine and Waushara counties received a five-year USDA Children, Youth and Families at Risk grant to build UW-Extension's Latino/Hispanic outreach capacity.

Maria Alvarez joined the UW-Extension team working from the Karcher Middle School thanks to the partnership with the Burlington Area School District and many local partners. She coordinates a Multicultural Arts Club and other out-of-school activities, and is developing family programs while building communication with schools and the community.



Increasing social capital of family-serving organizations

Lack of community resource knowledge continues to be a challenge in Racine County due to the complexity and frequently changing environment of community organizations. Building relationships among service providers is essential in the process of connecting families to resources.

Family Living Educator, Bev Baker, coordinates annual updates of the Racine County Quick List and Family Resource Directory, which creates an avenue for connecting new organizations, staff, and collaborations.

In 2008, two Networking Breakfasts had a combined attendance of 121 service provider professionals (55 in western Racine County; 66 in eastern Racine County), with evaluations indicating a considerable increase in knowledge of community resources.

This year, after the breakfasts, a more focused topic continued. In Burlington, the topic was Latino Outreach with sixteen individuals participating in a discussion to expand outreach to Latino youth and families.

In Racine, the topic was Working with Financially Stressed Families. Many resources were shared, and valuable input was obtained for the Racine County Workforce Development

Board strategy on Advancing Family Assets: Financial Stability and Family Success.



NUTRITION EDUCATION

Promoting healthy living habits

The UW-Extension Racine/Kenosha Nutrition Education Program is a two-county collaborative effort coordinated out of Next Generation Now Child Care Center in Racine. They reach participants through a variety of programs.

One program focused on increasing physical activity of youth. Nutrition educators taught 79 student participants of summer programs at four community centers throughout the City of Racine.

The summer program exposed students to children's sporting activities from around the world. During each session the

participants tried new physical activities, such as soccer, bocce ball, relay races, and jumping rope games.

The educators asked participants at the beginning of the sessions how many engaged in daily physical activity and found that less than 25% of the students participated in adequate physical activity. At the completion of the series, the same question was asked and 73% stated that they had begun to include some physical activity into their daily routine, and 27% had increased their amount of physical activity.

Tonya Evans

Nutrition Education Administrator

Ja'Tawn G. Pinson

Teacher Coordinator

Nutrition Educators

Cynthia Armstrong

Valerie Arnold

Rocio Bailey

Fabiola Diaz

Delace Ruth Dyson

Jae Lindemann

Paula Schmidt

Program Assistants

Rebecca Garcia

Lorna Prather



The UW System Board of Regents selected the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program as the recipient of the 2008 Academic Staff Regents Award for Program Excellence.

This is the highest recognition bestowed on members of the UW System Academic Staff.

**In 2008,
nutrition educators
reached
11,909
educational contacts
in Racine County.**

CONSUMER & HOUSING EDUCATION

Addressing the foreclosure crisis through education

The number one economic crisis facing the country in 2008 has been the fall-out from the surge in unsound subprime lending activity. Consumers have been faced with the inability to make escalating mortgage payments due to adjustable rate mortgage resets, and many were steered into unscrupulous mortgage products. Indicators of the magnitude of this crisis include the failings of many Fortune 500 companies from financial, insurance, brokerage and auto sectors, all reeling from the enormous losses from uncollectible loans and the failings of securities backed by these loans.

As the Consumer and Housing Education Coordinator in Milwaukee and Racine counties, Suzanne Dennik has engaged partnerships in both counties and throughout the state and national levels to assist in providing resources, education and strategies for implementation to address this crisis. Foreclosure rates within Milwaukee County, Racine County and the State of Wisconsin are at an all-time high, with record filings still taking place.

The UW-Cooperative Extension together with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) held the second and third in a series of three statewide foreclosure conferences in 2008. Over 300 participants representing banking, finance, real estate, legal, academia, government and nonprofit industry attended these conferences to obtain current research, and learn about government intervention efforts and best practices from throughout the country for responding to foreclosures in Wisconsin. In December 2008, Suzanne Dennik was invited and presented at the Housing Justice Network Conference in December 2008 to more than 100 attorneys from throughout the country engaged in housing advocacy.

Additionally, the City Milwaukee Foreclosure Partnership Initiative launched in September, with Suzanne Dennik serving as the project manager coordinating three task forces to develop recommendations and implement strategies within the areas of Foreclosure Prevention, Intervention and Stabilization. Lessons learned from the Initiative were shared with the Racine Mayor and the Department of City Development. A conference on Rental and Home Ownership Challenges in the Current Economy is being planned in Racine on May 14, 2009. More details are available at <http://racine.uwex.edu/flp>.

Suzanne Dennik

Consumer & Housing Education Coordinator

**In 2008,
over 20 classes,
conferences,
consumer foreclosure
intervention events were
held in Southeastern
Wisconsin with
presentations reaching
over 1,000
participants.**



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Planning cooperatively for Racine County's future

In 2008, Kristen Lie, Community Planning Educator, continued to work with the Racine County Planning & Development Department, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and the Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) to provide educational materials, including quarterly newsletters, summary fact sheets for plan chapters, reports on planning events, and community presentations, upon request.

All materials generated for the comprehensive plan and planning meetings are made available on the Racine County Smart Growth website (<http://racine.uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html>); this resource is intended to keep people and committee members up to date on all aspects of the plan's progress, while also linking them to state planning information, technical resources related to the plan, and upcoming planning workshops and events.

One public participation effort this year included the creation a housing work group to

address countywide housing issues. The group consisted of representatives from the MJAC and a range of interest groups, including: builders, realtors, nonprofit organizations, Housing Authority of Racine County, and Legal Action of Wisconsin. Members convened four times to discuss housing concerns and opportunities in the County, and to review, revise and finally endorse a preliminary draft of the housing element.

The comprehensive planning team also took advantage of information and input opportunities, such as providing a display at the Southeastern Wisconsin Rural Landowners Workshop and Expo, presenting an update to the Racine Board of Realtors, and again staffing an information table at the Racine County Fair.

In accordance with the three-year timeline provided by the grant received from the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Racine County's multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan is expected to be completed in the summer of

Kristen Lie

Community Planning Educator

"Kristen plays a key partnership role in the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort. Through her work, we are making sure that the residents and other stakeholders are kept up to date with the plan's progress and have opportunities to provide their thoughts on the future of Racine County."

**JULIE ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF RACINE COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

