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. In 2014 we had 9,041 nutritional education contacts with Racine community members and 5,638 educational contacts in our other program areas for a grand total of 14,679 educational contacts in Racine County.

UW System 38%
County 21%
Federal 10%
Grants 30%

Core funding for Racine County UW-Extension programming comes from three partners: (1) the University of Wisconsin-Extension; (2) the Racine County government, and; (3) the United States Department of Agriculture. Additional program support and funding comes from grants and revenue generated through programming. In 2014, the Racine County tax levy of $233,307, leveraged an additional funding of $579,646 to the Racine County UW-Extension educational efforts.

Our collaborations and partnerships with other UW institutions, businesses, community organizations and governmental agencies allow our dollars to have even greater impact.

Dan Taivalkoski, Executive Director of the Racine County Food Bank had this to say about us:

“Because of UW-Extension and the Master Gardener Volunteers, we are able to offer our clients fresh, nutritious, produce and teach them how to grow their own. Through the Nutrition Education Program, clients learn to make healthy recipes and better choices at the grocery store for their meager food budget.”

Dr. Julie Poehlmann-Tyan, Professor & Chair, Human Development & Family Studies, School of Human Ecology at UW-Madison shared her thoughts on the value of our collaboration.

“The partnership between UW-Madison, UW-Extension, and local jails has been critical to the success of our research and intervention focusing on young children with incarcerated parents. Working together, we can better understand the needs of these vulnerable children and work to help them and their families cope during a difficult time.”

In 2014, the Racine County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with UW-Extension, launched the Youth in Governance program. The purpose of the program is to empower youth by giving them a voice in their government while developing confident, independent, and motivated youth leaders. After a county-wide, competitive, nomination process seeking qualified youth, ten high school students were selected and sworn into service in a ceremony similar to elected officials. As a committee member on one of five County Board standing committees, their role was to learn about the issues, ask questions and vote alongside the county board supervisors. Each youth was also assigned a mentor (county board supervisor) who helped them navigate their new role.

Racine County’s Youth in Governance Gives Youth Voice

Youth representatives were orientated to serving on a committee, which included a day-long tour of county facilities and department functions. Youth in Governance is special because it was designed to be mutually beneficial, with county officials having access to youth perspectives on issues, and youth having an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to their community. The development of youth leadership is critical to building civic capacity and long term community sustainability.

Youth Representatives: (Left-Right) Allysson Becker, Meredith Freidheim, Mary Graebner, Josh Graf, Hayden Henderson, Kristi Parsons, Christian Ryan, Emma Stock, Chardony Wingfield and Ryan Busey (not pictured).

2014 UW-Extension Classified Staff Award of Excellence was awarded to Rebecca Garcia for her outstanding work as the Office Operations Associate with the UW-Extension Racine Kenosha Nutrition Education Program
**Nutrition**

**City of Racine Police Department**, in partnership with UW-Extension’s Educational Program Sites, has highlighted some of our programs and accomplishments but each star on this map represents an equally important UW-Extension program or resource site. Please visit our website to learn more about us and to consider ways UW-Extension can add value to your life.

Website: [http://racine.uwex.edu](http://racine.uwex.edu)

**129 Racine County Master Gardener Volunteers contributed 6,955 volunteer hours to 22 projects.** Master Gardener Volunteers serving as Plant Health Advisors answered thousands of homeowner horticulture questions. Collectively, these volunteer efforts are valued at no less than $160,451.

**Networking Breakfasts in Waterford and Racine brought together human services providers, schools and nonprofits to learn about community resources to better serve families throughout Racine County.** The Family Resource Directory was updated and distributed.

**Tractor Safety—16 youth were certified for operation of tractors on public roads following a week-long tractor and equipment safety course.** In support of farmstead safety, CNH provided the use of tractors and donated employee time.

**Spring Farmer’s Summit** Farmers in Racine County and local food entrepreneurs from Southeastern Wisconsin discovered local financing opportunities and learned how to sell to restaurants, connect with customers and expand their product offerings at the summit.

**Touchpoints Project workshops reached 555 Early Care and Education providers and parents and caregivers of young children.** Touchpoints training focuses on the emotional and behavioral development of young children, using effective communication tools and acquiring knowledge of community resources.

**The Child Support & Family Court Work Group focused on reducing stress by increasing knowledge and dispelling myths regarding child support and family court.** The outreach program reached professionals, parents and child care providers.

**The 4-H Tech Wizard Robotics program brought Staruck Middle School youth together with adult mentors to engage in college and career readiness with a focus on (STEM) science, technology, engineering, and math.** Working together in a team learning environment, the youth also operated Lego NXT robots, participated in competitions and took a field trip to the University of Wisconsin’s School of Engineering in Madison.

**427 Racine County 4-H community club adult and teen volunteers delivered quality education to 1,095 youth.** Youth leadership workshops at summer camps reached a variety of ages of 4-H campers and also included an outdoor leadership camp for foster care children.

**Nutrition Educators worked with community partners to reach 3100 diverse, low and limited resource learners with nutrition, food safety, and food resource management education.**

**In partnership with the City of Racine Police Department, programming involved youth development, horticulture and nutrition education at the Racine Community Oriented Policing (COP) House’s 4-H Summer Fun Club.**

**10th Annual Racine Money Conference** Low-cost financial education for low to moderate income families in Racine. 90% of the participants felt that the conference was valuable and 96% were likely to apply what they learned or take action as a result.

**Approximately 6,000 pounds of produce valued at $10,986 was grown and donated to the Racine County Food Bank.** Community members learned how to grow their own vegetables through classes which also promoted better health and encouraged self-sufficiency.

** UW-Extension program or volunteer project sites. Visit website for project details: [http://racine.uwex.edu](http://racine.uwex.edu)**