



RACINE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Bringing Knowledge and Resources to Racine County



UW-Extension's mission is to provide access to University of Wisconsin resources and opportunities for lifelong learning across the state. The Racine County UW-Extension staff members and volunteers bring the knowledge and resources to where you need them most — where you live and work.

Extension initiatives focus on local issues and community needs. By maximizing limited resources, the UW-Extension staff initiates partnerships to develop low cost, high impact educational programs and make University resources accessible to meet those needs at the local level.

UW-Extension programs help people grow and succeed at all stages of life. And, as Racine County's population becomes more diverse, UW-Extension is working to serve residents from all walks of life. These efforts create a welcoming environment for new neighbors and businesses in order to keep Racine County economically competitive.



Educational Programs

Agriculture/Natural Resources and Horticulture

Family Living and Nutrition

4-H Youth Development

UW-Extension draws upon evidence-based research to address emerging social issues. Racine County UW-Extension educators are trained to recognize every-day local issues and rapidly changing needs in the community.

In 2006, the Racine County UW-Extension staff made 31,049 contacts with residents, sharing information that affects families, children, communities, workplaces, and homes.

This report highlights some of the new and major accomplishments in 2006.

Watch for New Initiatives in 2007

- Predatory lending and foreclosure prevention
- Public participation within the comprehensive land use planning process
- Juvenile Delinquency Prevention pilot
- Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) youth and family projects

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-Extension Office.

Master Gardener Volunteer Projects in Racine County

- Botany in the Classroom—RUSD
- Garden of Eatin’
- Gardens of DeKoven
- Graham Public Library
- Green Works Horticulture Therapy
- Mt. Carmel Nursing Home
- North Park Elementary School Nature Center
- Pioneer Cabin Vintage Garden
- Prairie School Plot and Giving Garden
- Racine County Visitor and Convention Bureau
- Racine Public Library
- Racine Zoological Gardens
- Ridgewood Care Center
- Shoop Park Gardens
- Southern Oaks School for Girls
- Sturtevant Beautification
- Town of Norway “No Mow Areas”
- Youthful Friends

Horticulture Programs

Racine County UW-Extension’s Horticulture programs provide research and educational support for the rapidly expanding horticulture industry in Racine County. Commercial businesses turn to UW-Extension to help diagnose insect, disease and environmental plant problems.

The interest in and need for reliable horticultural information by southeast Wisconsin homeowners is also growing. The UW-Extension

offices are known for their ability to distribute science-based university information about landscaping, plant diseases and insects. In addition, proper cultural information specific to our midwestern region is available. Funding from a USDA Urban Horticulture Extension Grant continues to support plant health diagnostic clinics in Racine County. The diagnostic clinics’ goals are to instruct residents on good horticulture practices and to provide solutions to a variety of gardening problems.

The UW-Extension Horticulture office is also responsible for training and supporting the Master Gardener Volunteer program. Racine has a very strong program with 150 certified Master Gardener volunteers. In 2006 the Master Gardeners provided 8060 hours of volunteer service. This volunteer effort is worth \$168,982 based on the number of hours contributed to the community multiplied by the estimated dollar value of volunteer time (Source: Independent Sector).

Green Works Grows Jobs

Patti Nagai, Racine County’s UW-Extension Horticulture Educator, wrote a grant proposal for the pilot program, Green Works, to teach adults with disabilities horticultural job skills, and received \$18,274 from the USDA. This funding covered training for volunteers, provided materials for the greenhouse, and funded transportation costs for participants to come to the training. An additional \$15,558 was received from Racine County Human Services to help cover educator and staff time for Green Works.

Master Gardeners volunteers were trained to be job coaches for adults with disabilities in a 32 hour program in the spring and another 18 hour program in the fall of 2006. Terri Friedrich of Innovative Support Services conducted these trainings, and continued on-site training with Master Gardener volunteers and participants throughout the greenhouse training programs and subsequent employment.



Horticulture Educator, Patti Nagai teaching Green Works participant valuable green industry vocational skills

Participants with cognitive disabilities were trained by Nagai in the spring of 2006 at three different green industry sites and a private greenhouse. Employer contacts and job development by Friedrich resulted in participants in the spring training program being placed in local greenhouses; Milaeger’s Garden Center, Tom’s Plants and Flowers, and two K-Mart stores .

Another partner joined the program in the fall of 2006. Southern Wisconsin Center volunteered their unused greenhouse for the training program. As a result of their generosity, a second skills training was held in November and December. Employment for these workers has already been secured and the Green Works participants will start in early spring.

Agriculture Programs

UW-Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resource programs provide local decision-makers and landowners with the knowledge, tools and skills to make wise choices about the use of their land resources. There are three areas of focus in Racine County:

Rural Land Management

- Workshops and conferences
- "Ties to the Land" - newsletter to farmers and landowners in Racine and Kenosha Counties

- Bi-State Horse workshops (collaboration between University of Wisconsin and Illinois Cooperative Extension Systems)

Direct Marketing

- SWFFN (Southeast Wisconsin Farm and Food Network) project connects chefs and farmers
- Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeast Wisconsin
- Direct Marketing workshops

Youth Programming

- Tractor Safety

- Pork Quality Assurance Training



Youth learning safe tractor operation

"Annie's Project" Designed for Farm Women

The number of Wisconsin women identified as the principal farm operator has increased by 27% from 1997 to 2002. In addition, there are 33,100 Wisconsin women identified as additional operators in farming operations. Farm women who are either the principal operator or a farming partner need access to the same information and education as their male counterparts.

Traditional education programs were not reaching this target audience. Many farm women work off the farm; therefore, traditional programs on weekdays and with short notice do not allow for women to take off work to attend trainings.

Racine County's Agriculture Educator, Rose Skora collaborated with other specialists to offer programs

specifically designed for farm women.

The result was "Annie's Project" a nationwide curriculum adapted for Wisconsin which brings farm women together to learn risk management strategies and to network and learn from each other.

In 2006, "Annie's Project" workshops were held in

Burlington over a four-week period. The target audience was women with a passion and involvement in an agricultural business.

This new program educated farm women on financial management, developing management skills, marketing skills and also provided an avenue for them to network and share similar life experiences.

Funding Extension Efforts

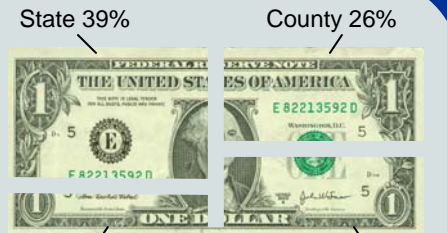
As one of 72 Cooperative Extension offices statewide, Racine County UW-Extension's core funding comes from three partners: the University of Wisconsin - Extension, the County of Racine, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Grants, volunteer time and expertise, local partner organizations, and program fees adds local programs.

The counties of Wisconsin contribute 26% of the funds for the statewide

Cooperative Extension program, which brings shared funding from state (39%) and federal (25%) partners.

In 2006, the Racine County tax levy of \$253,081 leveraged an immediate return of \$155,940 in state and federal funds for educators' salaries and fringe benefits, along with access to over 200 University specialists, and project support.

In addition to the core investment, educators obtained direct funding valued at over \$671,744 for local programs. Of this total, the Racine Kenosha Nutrition Education Program brought in \$435,708 in federal funds, and an in-kind match of \$127,548 from local partner organizations.



This shared investment improves the quality of life for Racine County residents. As a growing community, Racine County will realize the long-term return from this investment for generations to come.

Nutrition Education Program Partners

- City of Racine - Health Department Parks and Recreation, and Community Policing
- Chatham House Transitional Living
- Crossroads Transitional Living
- Racine County Human Services Department
- Burlington Area School District
- First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Program
- Veteran's Assistance Program
- Southern Oaks Girls School
- LOVE, Inc.
- Transitional Living Center, Inc.
- HALO
- Racine Area Food Bank
- Professional Services Group
- Racine Unified School District

Family Living Programs

Extension educators connect family and community needs with research-based education in the following three areas.

Family Nutrition

UW-Extension's Racine Kenosha Nutrition Education programs foster healthy children and families by helping people learn how to plan nutritious snacks and meals; purchase, prepare and serve safe food; and, stretch their food dollars.

Family Economics

Family financial literacy is a critical element of thriving families. Children and families learn how to use tools that will help them financially and about community resources available to them, such as the Money Conference and Household Food Security Project.

Families & Communities

Strong families serve as the foundation for healthy



Chancellor David Wilson visits with Patti Albrecht at Hugs 'N Kids to learn how she improved her communication with families after a "Connecting with Families" workshop.

community life. Programs focus on strengthening family relationships, child development and the community institutions that promote family well-being through:

- Parent and family workshops and newsletters
- Early Care and Education Training Project
- Burlington ABC Project—Apple Seeds
- Touchpoints Project-Early childhood social emotional development
- Family Resource Directory and Quick List for Families

Nutrition Referral Program Links Families with Nutrition Educators

The Nutrition Education Referral program helps Racine County families learn about healthy eating. The key to the success of the nutrition referral program is its flexibility. Each family's situation can be assessed, and goals can be personalized for the participants.

The program gets referrals from a variety of professionals that work with

families, including dentists. Dr. Nicolet DeRose of DeRose Children's Dental identified an obese, six-year-old girl that could benefit from the program and referred the family to UW-Extension.

After the referral was received, Fabiola Diaz, Nutrition Educator, met with the girl and her Spanish-speaking mother. Together, they agreed on a plan of action which began with a

six-session, age-appropriate, nutrition class.

During the sessions, the mom learned about being a role model for her daughter and ways she could help her live healthier. The six-year-old learned about eating nutritiously and being more active. She had great success, in that her weight dropped from 116 to 108 pounds in the course of the program.

Family Smart/Kid Friendly Educates Parents

The demand for quality parenting education is at an all time high. To meet this demand, Racine County UW-Extension staff working as part of Family Smart/Kid Friendly Partnership provided more than twice as many programs and nearly three times the service projected for 2006.

At the conclusion of 2006, the Racine County UW-Extension staff had held 16 programs which attracted 386 participants: 228 adults, 5 teens, and 153 children. Barbara Stoffel-Emde, Parenting Resource Facilitator, doubled multi-session expectations, providing four sessions of "Systematic Training for Effective Parenting" workshops at four locations throughout Racine. Each session consisted of six weeks of parenting education classes. Parents learned about parenting styles, child

development, discipline techniques and communication skills. Parents scored an average of 27% on the pre-test; and 86% on the post-test. Stoffel-Emde also provided eight, single-session programs, two more than expected.

All sites were chosen for their proximity to a bus stop to address transportation issues. 54% of participants were eligible for TANF benefits; and, 53% of participants were of ethnically diverse backgrounds. 46% of the participating adults were single parents. One multi-session workshop included free child care.

Tina Ginner, Early Care and Education Training Coordinator provided two multi-session parent and child interactive educational



Family Smart/Kid Friendly workshop participants learning about parenting styles, child development, discipline techniques and communication skills.

opportunities at the City of Racine Public Library. Stoffel-Emde and Ginner were also helped by the addition of a summer VISTA worker for eight weeks. The VISTA worker held a four-week mother and child educational

opportunity at HALO and a four-week children's activity program at Martin Luther King Community Center. All programming was designed to reach a wide variety of backgrounds.

Friendship Club House & UW-Extension

Racine Friendship Club is a day program for participants dealing with mental health issues. Some members also face various health problems; such as, diabetes, high blood pressure and elevated blood cholesterol levels. Participants have limited incomes derived mostly from Social Security Disability. Members may eat a healthy lunch at the clubhouse for a nominal donation.

Racine/Kenosha Nutrition Education Program staff teach bi-weekly classes through a cost-share agreement. In 2006, Friendship House received seed money from NAMI (National Alliance of Mentally Ill) conference and grants from CBGD

(Community Block Grant Development) to establish a garden in an area behind the building. The produce from the garden was harvested to eat for the lunches served.

In cooperation with the Racine/Kenosha Nutrition program educators, Ester Rorig and Jae Lindemann, developed a curriculum to complement the crops grown in the garden. Members were taught the value of eating and growing vegetables, how to prepare them, and how to preserve the foods properly.

At the end of the season, members were surveyed and they all agreed that working in the garden increased their



Racine Friendship Club members learned how to grow and cook their own fresh produce.

physical activity and saved money on groceries. The club estimated they saved \$3.00 to

\$5.00 per person per month on produce.

Community Clubs

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

After School Programs

- Fratt Elementary
- Knapp Elementary
- Janes Elementary
- Mitchell Elementary
- Wadewitz Elementary

Experiential Learning Strengthens 4-H Youth Development Experience

The Racine County UW-Extension's 4-H Youth Development program provides young people a chance to learn new skills, gain self-confidence and contribute to their communities. By creating real-world experiences, the youth develop leadership and citizenship skills.

Racine County has a strong network of 4-H volunteers who work in club settings, after school programs, 4-H camp, and other educational initiatives. 4-H programs always center around three important concepts: leadership, citizenship and life skills.

Leadership

Through 4-H, youth acquire skills to become effective leaders. They learn how to stand up in front of an audience and make a speech or presentation and how to conduct a meeting. In 2006, sixteen older youth were chosen to serve as Racine County's 4-H Ambassadors. These youth represent and promote the 4-H programs while serving as positive role models. In return, these ambassadors are given an opportunity to refine already developed leadership skills. The 4-H junior leaders create policy, do problem solving and develop leadership for their clubs, the county, and the community at large.



Program Highlights

- Over 740 families involved
- Racine County 4-H Youth membership reaches 1,056
- 310 youth participate at five 4-H AfterSchool sites
- 332 adult volunteers and 137 youth leaders
- 6th largest 4-H program in the State of Wisconsin

Citizenship

In 4-H, citizenship is the opportunity to learn how we can make our world better. Youth learn they can change their world. Many learn to be civic minded by making presentations to the county board. Many of these youth will become the leaders of tomorrow.

Life Skills

We have many youth from Racine County that have chosen their vocation based on their 4-H experience. Educational experiences that help young people develop life and job skills such as communication, decision-making, and problem solving.

Americorps*VISTAs and 4-H Youth

Racine County UW-Extension's Americorps*VISTA volunteers set a goal in 2006 to work with and encourage urban 4-H members to participate at the Racine County Fair in Union Grove. In June, the summer VISTAs started working with the urban 4-H

club members at their meetings. With some help from the Racine County 4-H Ambassadors, the youth were able to finish a photography project and a clay project. This opportunity created connections between youth in county community clubs and the summer urban 4-H

program. On "Children's Day," this group of youth and parents performed on the 4-H Showcase Stage in the youth building. These youth had a fun fair experience and immediately began setting goals for the next year.