

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Division of Extension Racine County

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Racine County Service Center

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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HORTICULTURE

Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Program

A four-week online short course program held for green industry professionals in the counties of Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Sheboygan and Dane to bring practical information about various horticultural topics to horticultural businesses. The goal of the conference is to increase participant's knowledge, profitability and provide continuing education.

Spring Into Gardening

A four-week virtual training workshop for gardeners on various landscape and gardening practices. Attendees trained and developed gardening skills with the goal to enhance sustainable landscape and gardening.

Plant Diagnostic Training

Master Gardener volunteers took part in the plant diagnostic training program in preparation to answer consumer inquiries remotely. As a result of the training program, 10 volunteers actively participated in weekly plant health advising service to customers.

Consumer Garden Inquires

In partnership with trained Master Gardener volunteers, the educator assisted in answering customer inquiries to more than 800 residents in Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine counties through email, text, phone calls and walk-ins.

280

Landscape short course program participants

800

Residents in Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee participated in the plant health advising program

150

Spring Into Gardening attendees

75%

Spring Into Gardening participants indicated that the quality of this year's program was "Excellent"

68%

Landscape short course attendees reported they could confidently make recommendations to clients



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & RELATIONSHIPS

Supporting the Child Care Sector

Extension provided 4 workshops to child care providers on the topics of equity and equality, trauma-informed care, and challenging behaviors. A total of 24 child care operators attended “Build it Strong: Child Care Business Foundations”, an 8-week course on business operations, in partnership with Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA).

Positive Solutions and Parent Education

Extension hosted 31 parenting workshops to help parents/caregivers build knowledge and skills about child development, early learning and literacy, emotion coaching, positive parenting techniques, and coping with parental stress reaching 393 parents. Two Positive Solutions workshop series (6-weeks each) help parents/caregivers foster children’s social emotional learning and strengthen families.

Resources for Justice Involved Families

Extension partnered with Racine County Jail and Youthful Offender Correctional Facility on programs to support 51 parents in maintaining relationships with their children and foster early literacy.

Financial Education Programs

Fifty-nine (59) professionals participated in “Encouraging Financial Conversations” to increase their knowledge and confidence when engaging clients in financial conversations. A total of 23 Veterans attended “Rent Smart” to help tenants have a successful rental experience.

Improving Health & Well-Being

“WeCOPE” was attended by 31 older adults and nonprofit professionals. “Taking Care of You” was adapted for 14 adult learners at Lakeside Curative Services.

Community Capacity Building

Extension partnered with community and government agencies to co-host: the Racine County Resource Network with 84 attendees from community-based organizations; a virtual Western Racine County Networking Event with 33 participants from family-serving agencies; and a Child Support and Family Court workshop reaching 36 caseworkers and professionals.

1,931

Total teaching contacts were made in 2021

820

Parents, caregivers, and children engaged at community events, libraries, and schools

435

Parents/caregivers received parenting education

492

Family Literacy Kits and Books distributed to justice-involved families



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth in Governance

Ten youth representing eight area high schools served on Racine County Board Committees. Board Supervisors mentored youth representatives during their one-year term of service, during which youth brought their viewpoint to community issues and concerns.

By the end of the term, the group complete two projects. They created and awarded a \$250 Youth in Governance Scholarship to a graduating senior in Racine County, and they created and posted social media messages that focused on mental health.

Career Readiness Workshops

Positive Youth Development Extension Educator created and delivered career readiness workshops for youth in grades 7-12 that focused on creating a resume and interview tips and tricks. Eighteen youth participated in these workshops.

Juntos Program

Extension staff provided a series of three remote educational sessions for Latinx families and partner organizations where experts explained how to attain college access and navigate college life as a Latinx student. Educators also planned a Juntos Middle School workshop.

Learning to Breathe

Extension educators conducted the series "Learning to Breathe," a six part research-based curriculum designed to help adolescents reduce stress, improve their attention, manage emotions, and gain greater control over their own thoughts and actions.

Racine County 4-H

4-H allows young people to share, grow, and learn together from various projects under the guidance of their families and other leaders. Extension offered various virtual learning sessions for current youth members, adult volunteers, and for the public to recruit members. 4-H trainings were conducted for:

- Day Camp Counselor
- Extension Volunteer in Preparation
- County-wide Officers Training
- County-wide Annual Leaders Training
- 4-H Board of Directors Orientation
- Supporting Youth Mental Health



1,119

Total educational contacts

1,046

Total 4-H members

745

4-H Youth Participants

301

4-H Adult Volunteers in 2021



NUTRITION EDUCATION

FoodWise Nutrition Education

The UW-Madison Division of Extension FoodWise is a program that provides evidence-based strategies designed to promote healthy eating for communities, and low-income families through nutrition education. It is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAPEd) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Engaging The Community to Improve Nutrition Outcomes

During the period of 2021, 17,985 educational contacts were made in two counties, reaching 1,773 non-duplicated persons at locations such as Acelero Headstart, COP House, Racine Unified School District Schools, and Racine County Food Banks. Participants learn to make healthy food choices, to manage their food dollars, and handle their food safely. FoodWise also worked collectively with community partners to increase healthy food access and physical activity opportunities where our participants live, learn, work, shop, and play.

The Benefits of Building Federal and County Partnerships

Much of the cost to provide FoodWise educational programming is paid with the \$388,486.18 in federal funds that FoodWise is bringing into Racine County during this current year. FoodWise federal dollars pay the salaries, fringe benefits, and direct teaching expenses for FoodWise colleagues in the county office. FoodWise relies upon its County partners to provide office space and related overhead costs, as well as basic operating costs and resources such as internet service, IT support and basic software, office telephones, shared supplies, and equipment in the Extension Office. These contributions from the County are essential to FoodWise's work and presence in the County Extension Offices.



Relationships built in 2021 by FoodWise



Students that received nutrition education



Youth improved in food handling knowledge and behavior



Educated adults improved food management practices



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RACINE KENOSHA NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (CONT.)



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