

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

DIVISION OF EXTENSION KENOSHA COUNTY

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ANNUAL REPORT | 2019



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
KENOSHA COUNTY



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AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

Kenosha County Sustainability Twilight Tour

Extension collaborated with the Kenosha County Parks, a farm-to-table restaurant, and a farming family to showcase sustainability in practice. The evening consisted of a tour of Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park where restoration projects are underway, followed by a tour of an adjacent private farm that showcased the ecological benefits of rotational grazing and net-zero energy home design.



Farm Fresh Atlas™

The Farm Fresh Atlas™ of Southeastern Wisconsin is a free local food guide coordinated in part by Extension. In 2019, 25,000 copies were distributed in Southeastern Wisconsin to help consumers access healthy, local food produced by our area's farmers.

Farmer and Rural Landowner Programs

Extension co-hosted educational events on topics including farm succession, Farm Bill programs relating to crops and dairy, hemp, on-farm conservation and produce safety regulations. These programs reached over 300 residents.

Youth Safety Tractor Program

Local area youth participated in the annual tractor safety program, certifying them to operate tractors on public roads and safely work on local farm.



Invasive Species Education

Collaborating with the Kenosha County Highway Department, Extension coordinated demonstration plots to determine effective controls for common teasel, a problematic invasive plant along roadsides. Extension hosted a workshop drawing representatives of local municipalities to share the most cost effective management strategies for this plant. Research at these plots in Kenosha County is ongoing.

Spring Into Gardening

The 13th Annual Spring into Gardening conference in 2019 hosted 12 different garden session from basic lawn care to growing best tomatoes and a key note topic on "Garden Trends" by Melinda Meyers. Nearly 74% of participants strongly agree that the overall conference was very informative.

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Training volunteers to help educate the public about gardening and natural resources and develop community-based outreach programs.



Plant Health Advising

Master Gardener program volunteers and Extension educators developed a new system to better serve consumers with plant health diagnostics/advising offices in Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties. Volunteers were able to answer inquiries during the growing season using a common hotline number, email address, and website.

Extension educators and researchers help solve challenges that producers, homeowners, and industry professionals face whether on the farm or in the garden.

64

Attendees at the Twilight Tour

25,000

Copies of the Farm Fresh Atlas were distributed

25

Area youth participated in Youth Tractor Safety

46

Local stakeholders participated in the invasive species education workshop

215

Spring into Gardening Attendees

\$57,351

Value of community service hours reported by master gardener volunteers

2,390

Volunteer hours reported

939

Continuing education hours reported by Master Gardeners

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kenosha County Food Bank and Food Pantry Network

After nearly 5 years of efforts in convening public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic partners, Extension and community partners established a business plan with sufficient support to launch an independent non-profit agency in 2019. To learn more about this network, visit www.kenoshacountyfoodbank.org.



Uptown Brass Village Neighborhood Association

Community Development Extension Educator forged partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including community volunteers and UW-Parkside undergraduates, to complete a comprehensive housing analysis. Results of the study are being used to inform the community about City of Kenosha housing code enforcement policies.

Workforce Development Among Under/Unemployed

Extension hosted the second annual Re-entry Employer Expo held in September in Racine County. Regional employers networked with 25+ re-entry employment agency representatives. This event was organized in collaboration with Kenosha and Racine County District Attorneys, the U.S. Attorney's Office and a diverse set of agency representatives.

Additionally, Extension organized on-site employer visits and tours with company executives and re-entry agency representatives to orient participants to current day industry. These relationship-building experiences between employers-agencies helped identify common pitfalls and opportunities for successfully hiring/retaining re-entrants.

Lastly, Extension created an educational video, "Bridging Divides: Expanding re-entry employment success," featuring employers and agencies that shared best practices in hiring individuals with barriers to employment.



Find video at <https://bit.ly/2nxJvkz>

Kenosha Creative Economy Strategic Plan

Extension developed community-based learning opportunities for a cohort of UW-Parkside undergraduates to advance objectives in the Strategic Plan. Students gained professional experience working with local non-profit organizations while those same organizations benefited from the efforts of the students. For more information on this initiative, go to <https://kenosharising.com>.

Sustainable Kenosha County

The Sustainability Team met quarterly to communicate sustainability activities across county divisions to develop and distribute newsletters to all Kenosha County employees educating on local events, personal sustainability, food safety and environmental resources. Additionally, Extension updated a regional recycle guide to connect county residents with expanded options for waste disposal and material recovery.



U.S. 2020 Census

Extension, along with other community organizations, are part of the Kenosha County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee to inform local municipalities and the public on the importance of Census efforts to ensure the county receives appropriate population-based federal funding.

Fostering leadership and community engagement by educating elected officials and the next generation of local leaders.

19

Community organizations engaged in the establishment of the Kenosha County Food Bank

63

Re-entrants connected to agency contacts at correctional resource fairs at the Kenosha Correctional Center

25+

Re-entry employment agency representatives staffed the Re-Entry Employer Expo

36

Agency contacts made by re-entrants to access community resources

7

Prison re-entry resource fairs coordinated at the Kenosha Correctional Center

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Kenosha 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. The Kenosha County 4-H overnight camp experience for 3rd through 8th grade had many new sessions offered this year including invasive plants, invasive water species, and wilderness survival.



Youth in Governance

Youth in Governance is a youth leadership program in which youth serve on Kenosha County Board Committees and the Joint Services Board.

Youth as Resources

A grant-giving program that funds youth-designed, youth-led community service projects in partnership with United Way of Kenosha County. In 2019, Youth As Resources and the United Way partnered with the Kenosha Public Library to solicit bilingual story time at laundromats as an additional resource to the laundromat literacy initiatives.

Babysitters Training

American Red Cross Babysitting class was offered twice in 2019. The youth learned about feeding, changing, choking and rescue breathing.



Kenosha County Career Pathways

Extension created Kenosha County Career Pathways as a way for youth to explore Kenosha County government careers through observing and learning from professionals within county divisions/departments.

Brass Community School Scholars

Promotes early apprenticeship, college, and career awareness. The program provides elementary and middle school students with a post-high school foundation through an introduction to apprenticeships, colleges, and career exploration opportunities.

Lincoln Middle School Bucky's Classroom

Bucky's Classroom is an outreach program connecting UW-Madison to local schools in the state. The program is committed to promoting the value of higher education among K-8 students.



Bucky's Classroom provides teachers, students, and educational leaders with UW-Madison classroom resources and an opportunity to engage with university students. Students are able to build a better understanding of college, learn about UW-Madison, and discover the importance of establishing a strong foundation for their future rooted in education.

Supporting positive youth development using research-based youth enrichment programs to prepare youth for success in Wisconsin and beyond.

580

Total 4-H members in 2019

110

4-H adult volunteers

78

4-H youth volunteers

133

Youth in Governance nominations

34

Youth in Governance applicants

25

Youth in Governance interviews

14

Youth appointed to Youth in Governance

11

Youth as Resources grant awarded

\$4,860

Awarded to youth-led service projects

FOODWISE NUTRITION EDUCATION

Kenosha/Racine FoodWise

An interactive nutrition, cooking, and food safety education program available in English and Spanish for learners of all ages who have low and limited incomes. We partner with 96 community organizations and businesses to reach this population which has disparately higher rates of negative health outcomes related to diet.



Parent Feedback Survey Strengthens Evaluation and Support Nutrition Education

FoodWise added parent surveys to our evaluation toolkit in 2019 to measure the quality of youth programming based on parent observations. 253 parents responded to the survey, commenting that their children seemed more concerned about eating within food groups than usual and some noted that their child checked labels for fiber, sugar, and fats.



New Audiences for Nutrition Education and Cooking - Teens and Adults Living with Mental Illness

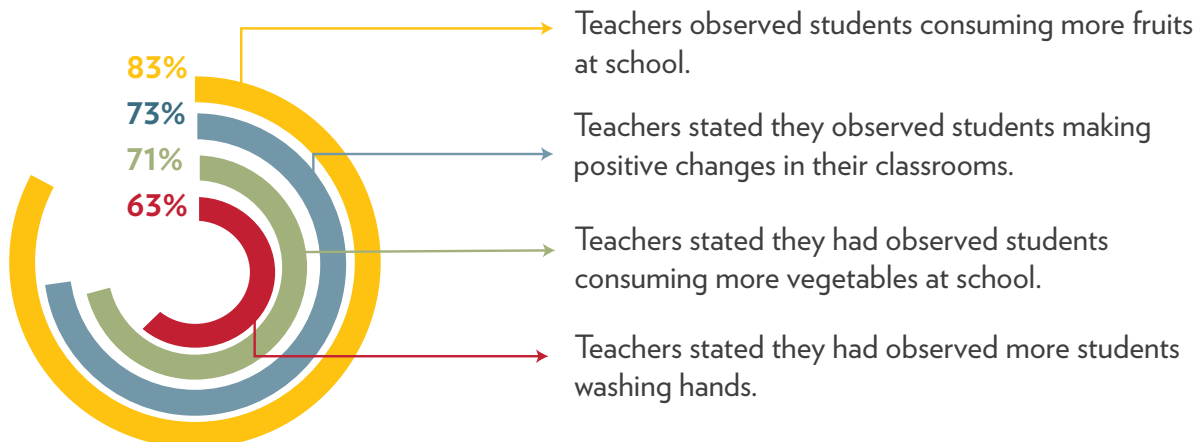
FoodWise reached two new audiences in 2019, adding evidence-based curricula for teens and adults living with mental illness to increase their nutrition knowledge, and improve their cooking and food budgeting skills. In collaboration with Kenosha County's Department of Human Service's "Families First" program, which provides wrap-around support to families with mental health challenges, FoodWise completed three series of education (18 lessons) with a total of 17 youth. All participants showed improved dietary quality and 70% made the recipes at home with their families.



Monthly classes with NAMI's Bridges Community Center to teach adults similar skills were added with great success. After receiving the lessons, participants were more willing to eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and they demonstrated improved food safety practices.

Early Childhood Students Display Positive Health Behavior Changes

After a series of four lessons of nutrition education in their classrooms, early childhood teachers from 18 locations confirmed the value of the lessons:



FoodWise seeks to empower Wisconsin residents with limited incomes to make healthy choices to achieve healthy lives and reduce health disparities

21,961

Direct educational contacts

7,284

Learners

96

Community partners that serve low and limited income individuals and families

The program really got our members thinking about the foods they put into their bodies and the importance of choosing the right ones.... teaching us how to be smarter about what we eat but still enjoy our meal.

- NAMI Peer Mentors

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Rent Smart

Rent Smart focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. Rent Smart is designed to help those individuals who have little to no rental experience and those who have had difficulty obtaining rental housing.



Money \$mart in Head Start

Money \$mart in Head Start is a financial education program offered to families invited to participate through Head Start. In 2019, eight monthly financial skill themed newsletters were distributed to Kenosha Unified School District Head Start families, in addition to in-person workshops.

Budgeting Education

Extension Kenosha County Health and Well-Being Educator provided budgeting education with United Way of Kenosha County to 54 attendees at an event coordinated by the UMOS, a non-profit advocacy organization, providing programs and services which improve the employment, educational, health and housing opportunities of under-served populations.



15th Annual Racine/Kenosha Money Conference

Extension educator facilitated a breakout session at the 15th Annual Racine/Kenosha Money Conference for older youth participants. In addition to this session, educators staffed an informational booth and offered resources on Extension for participants.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Program designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis.



Taking Care of You

“Taking Care of You” programs were held for those in the helping profession in Kenosha County where the stress reduction and mindfulness curriculum was facilitated to assist those working with vulnerable populations.

Abuse Prevention Training

Extension educator co-facilitated sexual abuse prevention training with Kenosha County Prevention Services Network for 19 participants. Training was offered as part of a nationally recognized program, “Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children,” during Kenosha County’s Turn the Town Blue Child Abuse Prevention campaign.

Promoting fiscally responsible communities by teaching mindfulness and financial awareness into every day use.

67

Rent Smart participants from the Shalom Center

300+

Head Start families received monthly newsletters on financial security

54

People attended budgeting workshop hosted by UMOS

29

Adults trained in youth mental health first aid

69

Participants in the “Taking Care of You” program

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