

# EXTENSION

## 2021

# ANNUAL

# REPORT

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Division of Extension  
Kenosha County

### **Kenosha County Center**

19600 75th Street, Suite #2  
Bristol, WI 53104

(262) 857-1945

[uwextension@kenoshacounty.org](mailto:uwextension@kenoshacounty.org)

[kenosha.extension.wisc.edu](http://kenosha.extension.wisc.edu)

@kenoshacountyuwex



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



# HORTICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Providing research-based information to gardeners, Green Industry professionals, and commercial fruits and vegetable growers.

## MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

This legacy program trained and equipped volunteers to outreach to the public and teach topics relating to gardening and natural resources conservation. This work occurs at nonprofit host sites.

## PLANT HEALTH ADVISING PROGRAM

In partnership with trained Master Gardener volunteers, this program responded to 800+ consumer inquiries. A post feedback survey (N=350) shows that more than 90% (n=55) of the respondents rated the service as "Excellent" or "Good" and 81% adopted the changes with 70% success rate to improve growing conditions of landscapes.

## LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SHORT COURSE

A four-week online short course program was held for Green Industry professionals in Kenosha County sharing practical horticulture information. This conference increased their knowledge and profitability while providing continuing education credits for those needing to maintain certification as arborists and landscape architecture professionals.

## SPRING INTO GARDENING WORKSHOP

A four-week virtual workshop was organized, targeting community members, to teach a broad array of gardening skills to enhance sustainable landscapes and improve gardening yields.

## GARDENING WITH MERCY HOUSING RESIDENTS

Mercy Housing in Kenosha provides housing to low income senior citizens, and people with special needs. Extension trained more than 10 residents in raised bed gardening which led to the development of two beds. Because of this programming, nearly 100 pounds of crops were harvested.

Kenosha County Center Prairie and Arboretum



## COMMUNITY IMPACTS

1,173

Continuing education hours by Master Gardeners

1,018

Volunteer hours reported

280

Landscape Short Course participants

75%

Spring into Gardening attendees felt that the overall quality of this year's program was "Excellent"



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership among business owners, community volunteers, elected officials and nonprofits.

## CHILDCARE BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS COURSE

Affordable, quality childcare options have not “kept pace” with consumer demand. Community Development Educator hosted the 6-week, bilingual (Spanish/English) Childcare Business Foundations Course that served as a critical educational response.

A diverse group of aspiring entrepreneurs participated closely with interpreters and trainers to coordinate programming, facilitating discussions and conducting evaluation of skills and knowledge gained.

24 participants attended the program and demonstrated more confidence in managing their business, supporting families while generating increased revenues through more advanced accounting practices.

## IMPROVING EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS WITH KENOSHA COUNTY FOOD BANK

Leadership development and shared decision-making of nonprofit leaders has shown that, together, Extension and service providers can enhance food security and emergency food distribution systems across Kenosha County.

Extension convened and supported Kenosha County Food Bank's launch and coordinated its pandemic response. Because of Extension's involvement, KCFB's Board of Directors and its pantry network increased collaboration and resource-sharing capacity. Extension hosted ongoing meetings, assisted organizations with successful grant-writing, and initiated diverse partnerships across the region.

## SKILL BUILDING, TEAM-BUILDING AND FACILITATION

Extension facilitated Real Colors Temperament and Personality Training throughout 2021. Evaluation data demonstrated the value of the training as over 90% of respondents reported having gained the skills relating to identifying their own personality strengths, the strengths of their team members, and effective communication skills to improve diverse professional and personal relationships.

“Courageous Connections Through Relational Networking,” a research-based skill-building program developed by Extension, is used as a follow-up to Real Colors. This workshop gave 60+ community members a practical tools to better understand and develop professional relationships across perceived divides.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# 24 300

Childcare Business Foundations course entrepreneurs

Real Colors Temperament and Relational Networking working professionals



### Color Characteristics

Source: p 18, Real Colors® Booklet

	Blue	Gold	Green	Orange
Esteemed for	Being a good listener	Being dependable	Discovering new insights	Being fun; taking risks
Stressed by	Feeling artificial	Lack of order	Feeling inadequate	Restrictions
Seek for	Love and acceptance	Security	Insight and knowledge	Freedom
Specialty is	People	Accomplishments / results	Research and conceptualizations	Entrepreneurship
Validated by	Acceptance of others	Being appreciated	Affirming their wisdom	Achieving visible results



Exploring OUR Real Colors®



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Supporting positive youth development using research-based youth enrichment programs to prepare youth for success.

## YOUTH IN GOVERNANCE

The 2020-21 Youth In Governance cohort was comprised of 14 youth representatives and two alternate representatives. They were recognized by the County Board Chair for their service on each of the Kenosha County Board Committees. Despite spending the majority of the term online, these youth made many meaningful contributions to the work of the Kenosha County Board, including taking the initiative to provide youth voice to the Racial Equity Workgroup.

In May, 2021, 16 youth were appointed as the 2021-22 Youth In Governance Representatives to the Kenosha County Board. In addition to their service on County Board Committees, they embarked on a project to increase awareness of Kenosha County Government and resources.

## 4-H YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS

Kenosha County 4-H remains a legacy program for Extension, and the largest youth development and volunteer mentoring program in the United States.

In the 2021-2022 term, a total of 152 adult volunteers and 485 youth participated across all of Kenosha County through 1 of its 11 countywide clubs. Projects include a range of topics such as photography, Legos, dog training, shooting sports, animal husbandry, rocketry, foods, clothing/sewing, just to name a few.

These youth and adults often then have their projects displayed at the Kenosha County Fair.

## YOUTH AS RESOURCES

All grant funds for Youth As Resources projects come from United Way of Kenosha County contributions. Each year one of the grant recipients is selected based on their leadership, citizenship, and community service to receive the Leonard and Patricia Johnson Award. In 2021, this award went to Katelyn Hannah for the "Mental Health Awareness in the COVID-19 Pandemic".

For the 2020-2021 program year, the Youth As Resources Board, made up of 9 high school aged youth and three adults, funded 11 service projects for a total disbursement of \$5,460.00 in grant funds. In May, 2021, the 2020-21 the Youth As Resources Board was recognized for their service and the 2021-22 Board was sworn in, with two returning Youth Board members and seven new Youth Board members. From September-December, 2021, Youth As Resources funded four service projects for a total disbursement of \$1,210.00 in grant funds.

2021-2022 Youth in Governance Participants



2021 Winter Project, Youth as Resources

# \$5,460

Total funded amount of service projects by Youth as Resources, 2020-2021 program year



# FOODWISE NUTRITION EDUCATION



**FOOD  
WISE**  
Healthy choices, healthy lives.

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Empowering Wisconsin residents with limited incomes to make healthy choices to reduce health disparities.

## 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.

FoodWise is Federally Funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Although in 2021 the pandemic presented some challenges with providing program in-person the FoodWise team was able to navigate through the workplace challenges with resilience, building new opportunities for students, adults, and communities to learn about nutrition education through a virtual lens.

In 2021, 17,985 educational contacts were made in two counties reaching 1,773 non-duplicated persons at locations such as Kenosha Achievement Center, Kenosha Unified School District, Kenosha YMCA, and Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency/WIC.

Participants learn to make healthy food choices, to manage their food dollars, and handle their food safely. We also work with community partners to increase healthy food access and physical activity opportunities where our participants live, learn, work, shop, and play.

Much of the cost to provide FoodWise educational programming is paid with the \$388,486.18 in federal funds that FoodWise is bringing into Kenosha County during this current year. FoodWise federal dollars pay the salaries, fringe benefits and direct teaching expenses for FoodWise colleagues in the county office.

Other program facts to note:

- 80 % of children and youth showed improvement in one or more knowledge or behavior related to handling food safely, i.e., washing your hands before preparing foods.
- Nutrition Educators encouraged families to prepare more meals at home.
- The FoodWise program assists families with finding healthy and nutritious recipes.
- Nutrition Educators promote food resources to help parents introduce fruits and vegetables in schools and home environments during snack and mealtime.
- The FoodWise program also provided tips and tools to help families rethink their drinks., i.e., reducing sugary beverages and drinking more water or milk.
- The educators also assist to empower seniors to stay active and fit with the Strong Bodies program.

Photo: Williams Heard/Strong Bodies participant



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# 17,985

Educational contacts made in two counties at partner agencies



Adult participants surveyed showed improvement in one or more food resource management practices, i.e., comparing prices before buying.

# 48

Partners were engaged in 2021

# HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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

## JUSTICE INVOLVED FAMILIES

Extension partnered with Kenosha County Detention Center to conduct programs to support parents in maintaining relationships with their children and foster early literacy.

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

This program teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. Training was offered at no cost for participants due to grant funding from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

## FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Financial Education programming that addresses subject matters such as money management, credit reports, debt, budgeting, tenant education, and financial coaching was offered to local residents working with Prevention Services Network, Westosha Head Start, KUSD Head Start, The Sharing Center, participants of SE WI Veterans Home, incarcerated adults, and other local families.

## FAMILY COURT FAQ

The Health & Well-Being Educator helped coordinate and plan the Kenosha County Child Support and Family Court FAQ sessions. Experts from Kenosha County's child support department, Kenosha County family court, and local parenting programs were able to share information, updates, and answer questions for local client serving professionals.

## ENCOURAGING FINANCIAL CONVERSATION

A six-session program aimed at helping professionals, helps teach ways to speak to clientele about financial needs, resources, and skills. Two series were held for local professionals and statewide professional development for Balance of State Continuum of Care.

Mary Metten at the Kenosha Correctional Center



## QUICK FACTS



50


Mental Health First Aid Training Opportunities in the state of WI



58

Parents participated in a two-part workshop: Staying a Parent and Read and Connect.

# STAFF DIRECTORY

 (262) 857-1945

 [kenosha.extension.wisc.edu](http://kenosha.extension.wisc.edu)

 @kenoshacountyuwex



## Kenosha County Center

19600 75th Street, Suite #2  
Bristol, WI 53104

## FoodWise Office

1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404

### DIRECTOR & SUPPORT STAFF



HIRE IN PROGRESS  
(formerly Terri Ward)



April Webb  
Administration Assistant  
262-857-1945  
[april.webb@kenoshacounty.org](mailto:april.webb@kenoshacounty.org)

### AGRICULTURE



HIRE IN PROGRESS  
(formerly Leigh Presley)

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Amy Greil  
Community Development  
Educator  
262-857-1935  
[amy.greil@wisc.edu](mailto:amy.greil@wisc.edu)

### HORTICULTURE



Vijai Pandian  
Horticulture Outreach  
Specialist  
262-857-1933  
[vijaikumar.pandian@wisc.edu](mailto:vijaikumar.pandian@wisc.edu)

### POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Erica Ness  
Positive Youth  
Development Educator  
262-857-1934  
[erica.ness@wisc.edu](mailto:erica.ness@wisc.edu)

### 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



HIRE IN PROGRESS  
(formerly Alyssa Stearns)

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Mary Metten  
Health and Well-Being  
Educator  
262-857-1946  
[mary.metten@wisc.edu](mailto:mary.metten@wisc.edu)

### RACINE KENOSHA NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM



Atifa Robinson  
Nutrition Education  
Administrator  
262-635-6825  
[arobinson24@wisc.edu](mailto:arobinson24@wisc.edu)



Rebecca Ordaz  
Office Operations  
Associate  
262-635-6824  
[rebecca.ordaz@wisc.edu](mailto:rebecca.ordaz@wisc.edu)



Rebecca Alonso  
Bilingual Nutrition  
Educator  
262-635-6824  
[rebeca.alonso@wisc.edu](mailto:rebeca.alonso@wisc.edu)

### RACINE KENOSHA NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (CONT.)



Jill Frideres  
Nutrition Educator  
262-635-6824  
[jillian.frideres@wisc.edu](mailto:jillian.frideres@wisc.edu)



Nicole Leipski  
Teaching Coordinator and  
Nutrition Educator  
262-635-6824  
[nicole.leipski@wisc.edu](mailto:nicole.leipski@wisc.edu)



Alana Perez-Valliere  
Nutrition Educator  
262-635-6824  
[alana.perezvalliere@wisc.edu](mailto:alana.perezvalliere@wisc.edu)



Nesrine Ismaili  
Nutrition Educator  
262-635-6831  
[nesrine.hajdariismaili@wisc.edu](mailto:nesrine.hajdariismaili@wisc.edu)



Fabiola Diaz  
Bilingual Nutrition Educator  
262-635-6824  
[fabiola.diaznegrete@wisc.edu](mailto:fabiola.diaznegrete@wisc.edu)