



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Paul Roback**  
262-335-4480

Paul collaborated with representative from the United Way, Volunteer Center, and UW-Washington County to conduct the **Nonprofits and the Economy Research Project**, which surveyed the county's nonprofit sector to measure nonprofit fiscal health. The survey was based on similar surveys conducted in 2012 and 2015. A key finding from the 2015 survey was that demand for services in the nonprofit sector continued to increase while nonprofit fiscal health had decreased from 2012. Although demand for services still increased in the 2017 survey, there are indications that some aspects of nonprofit fiscal health are improving. Nonprofits reported that total revenue is up from the previous year and 62% have greater than six months cash reserves (compared to 39% in 2015). Despite this improvement, funding remains a primary concern for nonprofits. Almost three-quarters (74%) of respondents listed funding as a pressing issue and 80% reported that they were financially healthy, but feel vulnerable in future. Survey findings were posted on-line, shared with local media, and will be used to design future educational programs for nonprofit organizations.



University of Wisconsin-Extension

## Program Highlights February 2018



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

- Thu., Feb., 8th **Cultivating your Farm's Future: Estate Planning**, The Camelot in Lomira, 12:00-3:30 pm
- Thu., Feb., 15th **Cultivating your Farm's Future: Retirement Planning**, The Camelot in Lomira, 12:00-3:30 pm
- Wed., Feb., 25th **Pesticide Applicator Training**, Port Washington 9:00 am-3:00 pm
- Tue., Feb., 27th **Cattle Feeders Workshop**, Chissy's, Waldo, 5:30-8:30 pm
- Tue., Feb., 6th **Master Gardener Level 1 Training**, begins at Public Agency Center, Tues through May 1st
- March **Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety**, first class at PAC, Saturdays, 9:00am-3:00pm
- Sun., Mar., 4th **4-H Horse and Pony Project Tack Sale**, Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
- Wed., Mar., 14th **Building a Spending Plan**, PAC Room 1023, 6:30-8:00 pm

### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

(UW-Extension Oversight Committee)

- John Bulawa-Chair
- Daniel Goetz-Vice Chair
- Michael Miller-Secretary
- Michael Parsons
- Jeffrey Schleif
- Area Extension Director
- Cindy Sarkady

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## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING



### AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

*Steph Plaster*  
262-335-4477

**Supporting Farmers During Challenging Times:** Stephanie collaborated with two extension colleagues to create a program aimed at helping agribusiness professionals and agency staff feel more comfortable and confident when working with farmers in distress. During these tough financial and emotional times, farmers and everyone they do business with feel the effects of stress radiating through their work and home lives. Over eighty government agency staff, lenders, consultants, financial advisors, attorneys, feed mill operators, nutritionists, and farmers who collectively work with hundreds of farms across the area were in attendance. As a result of attending the program, participants indicated they better understand the decision-making process for farmers experiencing stress (4.2 on a 5-point Likert Scale), are more confident in their abilities to support farmers during challenging times (4.1), and are better prepared to initiate important conversations with a farmer in distress (4.15).



### 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*Amy Mangan-Fischer*  
262-335-4478

**Working Together—Youth and Adult Partnerships:** Adults and youth working together, learning from each other and making decisions together is central to 4-H. The Washington County 4-H Leaders Association Board of Directors consists of 8 youth and 8 adults from across the county. The youth vice president runs the meetings with the support of the adult president.

On Friday, January 26th the Leaders Association Board of Directors met for the annual retreat. The retreat was co-designed by Kayla Fialkowski, the current youth vice president, Cassie Olson the current adult president, and Amy Mangan-Fischer, 4-H Youth Development Educator. The content of the retreat was based on data from a self-assessment that the members of the board had completed. Through a variety of games and activities, participants learned more about each other, discussed common concerns, and shared ideas.

Board members also met in groups to revisit the board's three goals for the year. Each group worked on an action plan for their specific goal. The action plans will help guide the board throughout the year.



### FAMILY LIVING EDUCATION

*Carol Bralich*  
262-335-4479

**Managing Your Financial Future:** The coordinator at the Workforce Development Center in West Bend contacted Carol to design and facilitate a financial literacy component for the Center's clients in 2016. This was in response to a statewide initiative to offer local financial literacy education options for clients. During 2017, quarterly UW-Extension financial programs were offered at the Center. Examples of topics include "Dealing with a Drop in Income", "Financial Harmony" and "Check Your FREE Credit Report." The goal is to offer a variety of financial program topics and resources to address concerns clients experience as they search for employment.

From a post session assessment in July, all 4 participants planned to track their spending for a week or more. In October, all three participants stated they learned the importance of checking their credit reports several times per year and planned to check their free credit report. For sessions in April, July, and October a total of 13 clients participated in the sessions. In addition, session materials were forwarded to several clients who were unable to attend in person.



### NUTRITION EDUCATION (FoodWise/SNAP-Ed)

*Renee Vertin*  
262-335-4841

After Renee contributed to an Action Team meeting (Well Washington County coalition), she and a Family Living Program Assistant finalized a pilot version of a tracking sheet. The form was shared with four Food Service Directors within county school districts. These Community Partners will report impact resulting from their schools' participation in the WWC Harvest of the Month Initiative.

Renee also participated in the quarterly **Full Shelf Pantry** meeting. An educational program was furnished to English Language Learners at 2 sites of **Casa Guadalupe Education Center**. Left photo: Hartford group reads food package labels to compare nutritional content and ingredients, and learns about food wants versus food needs. Right: Renee served samples of a healthy, kid-approved dish that can be easily replicated at home.

