



We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities. Serving Washington County since 1918, Extension educators take pride in delivering programs which apply the research, knowledge, and resources of the University of Wisconsin to meet the issues and needs of Washington County.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and after-school programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

Positive Youth Development

Ron Jakubisin, 4-H Program Educator

- An event for families in Washington County where attendees learned about 4-H community clubs/projects, meet the 4-H Educator and current 4-H youth & adult members, and receive information on how to join or start a 4-H club. The goal of this effort is to grow 4-H in Washington County.
- Ongoing guidance to Washington County 4-H Leaders Association Board of Directors to increase efficiency in conducting Board Meetings through Board development exercises and reviewing by-laws for recommended changes to streamline understanding and implementation.
- A series of meetings with Germantown's Youth Futures Youth Committee where students learn leadership skills in order to design, plan and deliver prevention activities to their middle and high school peers.

Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

- A series of interviews using a community needs assessment tool where a collection of data from one-on-one meetings with local youth serving organizations and youth focus groups will be conducted, data organized, and analyzed.
- Developing a needs assessment where a collection of data from one on one meetings with local youth serving organizations and youth focus groups will be conducted, data organized, and analyzed. This effort is designed as the foundation of the programming needs of the communities.



AGRICULTURE



If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species.

Dairy

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Educator

- A fresh cow management and wellbeing factsheet for dairy owners/operators, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals where they learned what is ketosis and the risks, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and impact associated with the metabolic disorder to improve farm business viability and food safety through animal welfare and wellbeing.
- A live radio interview for the agriculture and general radio audiences, where listeners learned five on-farm safety focus areas in conjunction with National Farm Safety and Health Week. This effort is designed to bring awareness of farm equipment and rural roadway safety, farmer health and wellness, confined spaces, and mental health best management practices to improve farm business viability and food safety.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A dairy production newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals that provides the reader direction on utilizing the Extension sponsored Farmer to Farmer listing to source or sell feed and included a discussion related to harvesting corn silage at the appropriate moisture and processing score to ensure proper fermentation and maximize feed value. This newsletter provides timely updates on Extension recommendations and industry news.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their full potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Paul Roback, Community Development Educator

Incorporated as a nonprofit in 2022, the mission of Just Us of Washington County is to “provide support and guidance to Black, Indigenous, People of Color populations, as well as, LGBTQ+ individuals and families. We seek to help navigate and supply guidance for everyday experiences and challenges faced within Washington County, Wisconsin.” After reading about this organization in the local newspaper, Paul reached out to determine if there were any organizational development resources the organization could benefit from.

As a result of this contact, Paul met with the board leadership who identified developing a vision statement and identifying goals would be beneficial. To achieve these objectives, Paul first engaged the organization’s membership with an online survey to solicit feedback on the development of a vision statement. Then, Paul facilitated two strategic planning sessions attended by three out of four board members. The planning process included creating a vision statement, identifying and prioritizing goals, and developing actions steps to ensure their success.

From evaluation (N=3), 100% of participants agreed that developing a vision statement assisted them in understanding the general direction for our organization’s future, the process of identifying and prioritizing goals increased their ability to identify issues and set priorities, and discussing action plans increased their ability to identify next steps for future implementation. Participants evaluated Paul’s facilitation as a 5.0 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented “thank you for all of your help. It’s really helped us narrow our focus.”



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



*The Extension Institute of **Human Development & Relationships** provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.*

Carol Bralich, Human Development & Relationship Educator

- A Money Smart Wisconsin meeting for financial institutions, community agencies, and libraries, convened to plan financial activities and events for the 2024 financial awareness campaign. The goal is to improve the financial capability of community members.
- A 7-session course that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.
- A series of e-mail communications for community partners where they learn about parenting, relationships, family caregiving, finances and well-being so that they can share the latest resources with their clients. The purpose of this effort is to improve parenting skills, support their family caregiving role and improve their financial skills and their personal well-being.
- An online self-study program, where participants learned about spending plans, credit, and paying bills on time. This effort is designed to improve the success of participants in maintaining timely payments so they have transportation to access employment and improve their credit score.

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

Liz Gartman
Regional Crops Educator

Ron Jakubisin
4-H Program Educator

Kelly Dione
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