



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.

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

In the spring of 2023, Carol was contacted by two of the Alternative Education teachers at Hartford Union High School who were interested in the Extension Rent Smart course for graduating seniors in their program. After discussing the components and beneficial outcomes with the teacher, Rent Smart was scheduled for 6 one-hour classes on Wednesdays in October and November. Rent Smart focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. It challenges participants to know and understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant, as well as the rights and responsibilities of their landlord. Emphasis is on forming a strong partnership between the tenant and landlord. Rent Smart starts participants on the right path for success.

Of the 21 student participants, twelve post-course evaluation surveys were completed. Ninety one percent indicated that knowledge gained from the Rent Smart course might or will help them obtain appropriate rental housing in the future. One hundred percent of the participants indicated that this course might or will help them keep their rental housing in the future. Students shared the following most important new ideas they learned from the course including: "How to keep a long, healthy relationships with my landlord." and "How to compare places and rental agreements". Students received a certificate of completion which can be provided to a potential landlord to show effort in learning and being prepared to be a responsible tenant.

- 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.
- Planning for early learning professional development, with Registry credit, for child care providers. The goal of the conference is to help early childhood professionals understand and address challenging child behaviors so they can better communicate with the parents and support the children in their care.



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

- An in-person dairy management program for online-schooled youth and parents, where participants learned about calving and dairy calf management, biosecurity and health best management practices, dairy nutrition, and milk production. This effort is designed to engage individuals about the food produced in our state, bringing awareness to non-farm families regarding business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A dairy production and management newsletter in collaboration with Eastern Wisconsin Dairy Herd Improvement Cooperative for farmers, managers, employees, and agribusiness professionals, where subscribers learned about herbicide resistance screening, phosphorus stratification in soil health systems, corn-alfalfa interseeding, pre-weaned calf transportation, impact of copper sulfate footbaths on manure, soil and forage copper concentrations, and hypocalcemia best management practices. This effort was designed to provide a timely and reliable source of dairy management news and updates to help farms improve farm business viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.
- A Midwest Farm Weekly television interview for WRFV Channel 5 audience where individuals learned best management practices for calves to mitigate cold stress, thus improving productivity and animal health to improve farm business viability and food safety through animal welfare and wellbeing.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- A dairy production newsletter for farmers, managers, employees and agribusiness professionals that provides the reader an introduction to the Wisconsin Ag Climate outlook resource, the Wisconsin Waterhemp Herbicide resistance screening project and the opportunity to participate in the Phosphorus Stratification project. This newsletter provides timely updates on Extension recommendations, events and industry news.
- Planning for a Regional Ag Day program for farmers, agronomists, nutritionists and other agriculture professionals in collaboration with the Cedar Creek Farmers in Washington county. The goal is to provide timely livestock, dairy and crop production and marketing updates to producers so they can make informed animal and crop management decisions in 2024.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WASHINGTON COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2023 REPORT

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

- Planning fall 2023 calendar events which teach leadership skills to youth officers and general club leaders (adults) in order to effectively run club meetings, educational activities and social activities after fall enrollment.
- Monthly radio interview on WIBD Radio (West Bend WI) that highlights a 4-H Youth and/or adult volunteer focusing on skills and confidence gained through participation in 4-H Clubs, projects and/or travel experiences
- 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.
- Collaborative summer camp planning and training sessions for adult volunteers and high school camp counselors to engage in team-building activities learned about the essential learning elements, and develop camp activities in order to be prepared to hold our June 2022 4-H Summer Camp successfully.
- Monthly club visits to different 4-H clubs/projects that strengthen the relationship between 4-H Educator and Club/Project volunteers and youth in order to sustain and grow Wash. Co. 4-H clubs/projects within the mission, policies and guidelines of Wisconsin 4-H.

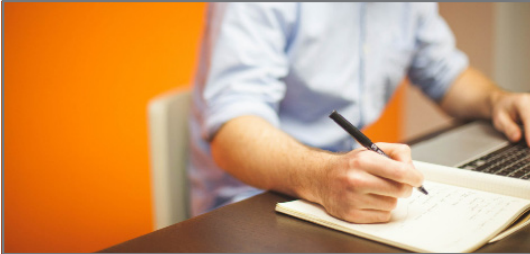
Community Youth Development

Kelly Dione, Community Youth Development Educator

- A Kindness Day Retreat for 4th-grade students in collaboration with Washington County Elementary School Counselors. The effort will engage youth in Social Emotional Learning strategies that they will use throughout the year with 'kindness' being a central theme at schools.
- 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.



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

Since 2014, Paul and Human Development and Relationships Educator Carol Bralich have facilitated Real Colors workshops in response to organizations and local governments expressing a need for staff development in effective communication and team building. These goals align with the outcomes for Real Colors, which is an interactive three-hour workshop that teaches skills to understand human behavior and improve communication with others.

This past year, Carol and Paul taught four workshops for 63 Washington County employees. All participants completed end of session evaluations. From attending the workshop, 92% increased their ability to recognize their strengths and 95% increased their ability to recognize the strengths of others. Additionally, 81% increased their ability to build rapport quickly with others, 95% increased their ability to understand how others process information, and 89% increased their ability to modify their communication to connect with others. Overall, participants evaluated Carol and Paul's facilitation of the workshop as a 4.8 on a 5-point Likert Scale (1=poor and 5=excellent). One participant commented they would use workshop information "in my relationships to better understand how to communicate efficiently, and work to everyone's strengths." Another participant commented that they will "think about how I approach conversations with other people. Recognize when I may need another person to help accomplish a task." Commenting on the workshop overall, one participant stated, "I really liked learning about myself and how others think."



ADDED VALUE

The Evolution of the “Home Economist”

Carol Bralich, Human Development & Relationship Educator

The role of the Home Economist has evolved forward from its original public image of only being concerned with cooking, sewing and farm ledgers. The modern Home Economist, Human Development and Relationships Educator, is concerned with everything that affects the family. Carol’s area of focus and expertise includes financial capability programming, professional development for childcare professionals and programs for end-of-life planning in partnership with local, family-serving agencies.

As a result of these newly established family-centered needs in Washington County the following are some initiatives that have been implemented under Extension’s Human Development and Relationships program:

- **Planning AHEAD** is 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
- **Money Matters** is 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 Work ‘N Wheels program participants in maintaining timely payments so they have transportation to access employment and improve their credit score.
- The **Washington County Spring Childcare Conference** is a Registry approved four hour professional development program for early childhood professionals where they learned to understand and address challenging behaviors of children.
- **Encouraging Financial Conversations** is a series of sessions for social workers, home visitors and community agency staff where they learn about financial competency skills. The goal of this effort is to build their knowledge and confidence when engaging clients in financial conversations.

Local Priorities are Extension’s Priority

Paul Roback, Community Development Educator

Although the Extension Washington County office is connected to UW-Madison, our programming is based on the needs identified by the communities that we serve. Each year, it’s actually local communities and organizations that contact Paul’s for assistance. As a result, programs are designed with local input and delivered to meet these locally identified needs. The following are examples of Paul satisfying local requests and needs in 2023.



Continued

Request: The County Executive’s office requested that Paul’s facilitate a meeting with chief elected officials from across Washington County.

Response: Paul facilitated a planning session for chief elected officials of Washington County, where participants identified opportunities to best share services and existing revenues to maintain and improve strong public services.

Request: Washington County’s Policy Director asked Paul to facilitate for the County Board’s Samaritan Ad-Hoc Committee.

Response: Paul facilitated a series of County Board Ad Hoc Committee meetings whose members researched, discussed, and made a policy recommendation on Washington County’s future role in providing long-term care (nursing home) services.

Request: The Kewaskum Library Board’s President and Executive Director reached out to Paul to assist with board discussion regarding future library facilities.

Response: Paul facilitated a process where participants brainstormed the needs for a future library and identified strengths and limitations of proposed library locations. The discussion allowed participants to identify a preferred option for a new library location in the community.

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Regional Dairy Educator

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Carol Bralich
Human Development & Relationships Educator

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Karen Girard
Megan Zimmerman
Support Staff

Cassi Worster
Area Marketing Specialist