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History

UW Extension's 4-H Afterschool initiative is dedicated to increasing the quality of After-school programs in Kenosha County. We have fostered partnerships with local youth organizations both in the city of Kenosha as well as the rural county communities. Our primary partnership has been with the Kenosha Unified School Districts (KUSD) 21st Century Learning Centers (CLC) although UW Extension has provided resources to the Salem school district after-school programs.

Jackie Dioszegi, a former AmeriCorps Volunteer In Service to America (VISTA) developed a relationship between Kenosha County's UW Extension and the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha (BGCK), who staff the twelve 21st CLC sites in the city of Kenosha. Working with Youth and Family Educator, John de Montmollin, Dioszegi coordinated a weekly 4-H Afterschool program at two CLC sites in the city of Kenosha. Andrea Grant spent a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA working with de Montmollin at UW Extension from November 2005 thru 2006.

In October 2005 de Montmollin invited Kari Stapleman, the Area Director of the BGCK and three CLC staff to the "Creating Extraordinary 4-H Afterschool Learning Experiences!" workshop. Their positive experience at the workshop left an impression on Stapleman and it wasn't long before she contacted our office to arrange a similar training for the BGCK/CLC staff. The training was a great success. Julie Housaman the CLC Project Director e-mailed my supervisor the following day stating, "Andrea was excellent. She stepped into the leadership role naturally, interacted with the staff throughout the training and asked thought provoking guiding questions to draw more information from them. We are very interested in future training opportunities..." We have continued to provide support with workshops on such topics as, 4-H Afterschool curriculum, discipline, 4-H science activities, as well as 4-H Afterschool project kits.

The 4-H Afterschool project kits are shared among the twelve CLC sites. Each kit includes lesson plans and all the materials to complete each activity. We are able to bring UW Extension resources including 4-H Afterschool curriculum to all the 12 of the schools in Kenosha who have 21st Century Community Learning Centers run by the BGCK through training and project kits. Grant received an email from one of the CLC site directors who stated "I really appreciate the time and effort you're putting into these trainings for all of the staff. The activities you have for the kids are great. They're easy to prepare and fun for

the staff which makes them even better. I just wanted to say thank you for all of the great ideas.”

Current Partnership Status

Andrea Grant completed her year of service as an AmeriCorps *VISTA in November of 2006 although she has continued working with Kenosha County UWEX to support the city of Kenosha's CLC programs. Her most recent contributions include the creation of an information binder for the school office of each CLC site which will help bridge the school's day program with after school activities. The binder serves as a convenience for the secretaries to ensure accessibility to accurate information which consists of vital information for inquiring families, teachers, potential employees or volunteers. She also designed an up dated CLC brochure which will be available in at each of the after school sites as well as the BGCK centers. In addition she has provided on site support to the staff during regular visits. She is currently working on a success story which documents the CLC chess program. Program evaluations and photographs were collected at the Chess Tournament held on May 4th. This success story will be shared with families and participating schools.

Goals, Objectives, and Resources

Kenosha County UW Extension in partnership with KUSD and BGCK plan to increase local awareness and support for the city of Kenosha's CLC programs. We are committed to providing the public with information that expresses the importance of after school programs for Kenosha's children, families and communities. We will specifically address goals to enhance strong management and organization as well as partnerships with youth, families, schools and communities.

We would like to focus our efforts on a “Lights on Afterschool” open house event. In preparation for this event we will focus our efforts on developing a relationship with the Kenosha Unified School District's Board of Education as well as other community stakeholders. We will invite the Education Board members to arrive early to their September meeting. We will set up booths with a display for each CLC site including photographs and stories highlighting their programs strengths and needs. Youth and adults from each site will be selected to attend the event to represent their specific program. We would like to create a comfortable atmosphere for CLC representatives and the Education Board members to have an informal personal exchange. During this interaction we personally invite each Board member to attend our CLC open house at a school of their choice. A portion of the money provided in this grant will be used to offer food and beverages at this event. In addition we will follow up by seeking the mayor of Kenosha, John M. Antaramian's public recognition of Kenosha's CLC programs by signing an executive proclamation to bring public awareness to local “Lights on Afterschool” events on October 18th 2007. Finally, each CLC site will

host an open house for families, teachers, and community members. Students will give tours and talk about their daily activities.

Timetable

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLC staff training include: How be an after school advocate. • Each site will identify two staff leaders as active after school advocates throughout the 2007-2008 school year.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each CLC site will collect photographs and stories of there daily activities leading up to the September school board meeting. • The advocates will be responsible for organizing their sites display, selecting youth advocates and attending the September event for the Education Board. • Each site will make an Open House invitation. • Press release to Kenosha News for the Mayor’s proclamation. • Mayor signs executive proclamation.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite families and teachers to Open House • CLC Open House

We are seeking funds for food, display supplies, 12 disposable cameras, and photo processing.