

## **Meeting the Needs of Today's Diverse Families**

### **Teamwork Strengthens Families**

University of Wisconsin-Extension programs in Family Living help families thrive in a rapidly changing world. Backed by University of Wisconsin research, Family Living colleagues work collaboratively with other community organizations and agencies to provide education and leadership promoting family strengths.

### **An Eye to the Future**

Family Living programs are carefully designed to support specific outcomes for families:

- Grow partnerships and policies that build family strengths, to reinforce families.
- Increase financial literacy and improve family economic security.
- Maximize the use of resources for life-long well-being.
- Improve the quality of food, food safety and health.
- Enhance intergenerational relationships.

Family Living programs provide education to help people ...

- Become more effective parents and caregivers.
- Make healthy choices about diet, activity and food safety.
- Manage family finances and housing resources.
- Maintain independence and economic security for older adults.
- Evaluate access to and quality of health care in their communities.
- Make better choices about low-cost, nutritious foods and other family resources.

### **Stronger Families, Better Communities**

Family Living programs offer a variety of educational opportunities that are designed to strengthen both families and communities and enhance their uniqueness and diversity.

- ◆ Extension works with community organizations to promote food security and access to a safe, nutritious food supply.
- ◆ Extension helps communities prepare children for improved learning in school by improving parenting skills, child care and nutrition.
- ◆ Extension helps people make local assessments of health care options based on access, cost and quality of care.
- ◆ Extension -- in cooperation with lenders, real estate professionals, and others -- offers people the money management and home maintenance skills they need when they buy their first home.
- ◆ Extension provides research and knowledge to state and local government officials and community leaders, to help them design public policies that support families.

## **What Families Gain**

Family Living colleagues work with families to help them solve problems and improve the quality of daily life in ways that are important to them. This education meets family needs throughout the life span, from improving prenatal nutrition and parenting skills to planning an estate and caring for an aging parent. Programs target the unique local needs of each community. Family Living colleagues provide education and research, while partnering with communities to build strong families.

## **What People Say About Family Living Programs**

“I wish you could keep sending Extension’s *Parenting the First Year* newsletter until my child is 18!”

- Parent and child care provider

“The Milwaukee County family impact seminar was a good ‘big picture’ overview that helped foster an understanding of the plight of individual juveniles. I think UW-Extension is a very important resource, and I was pleased to have the expertise of Extension professionals and others whom they brought to the seminar.”

- Milwaukee County Supervisor

“The lessons that Extension taught contain valuable real-life information. They help clients become self-sufficient.”

- County provider for Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development program

## **About Cooperative Extension in Wisconsin**

Cooperative Extension is a division of University of Wisconsin-Extension, which is part of the University of Wisconsin System. Cooperative Extension programs help people throughout the state acquire knowledge and skills to ...

- Help their children grow and learn.
- Improve their local governments and neighborhoods.
- Enhance the quality of their families’ lives.
- Use natural resources responsibly.
- Solve problems in their businesses.

Extension people work in partnership with people in county, state and federal governments; community organizations; businesses; and industry. With faculty in every county and on UW-campuses, Cooperative Extension gives Wisconsin citizens quick and convenient access to University research and knowledge.

Family Living is one of four Cooperative Extension programs. The others are Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, and Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development.