

University of WI-Extension

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**Extending the knowledge,
research, and resources of the
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where they live and work.**

July 2008 Edition

**Extension Education & Recycling
Committee – Douglas County**

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Kay Johnson, Vice Chair
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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Wilcox



4-H Clubs Gain Financial Accountability

Seventeen 4-H leaders and several youth attended a financial workshop organized and taught by Wilcox in May. The workshop taught best practices for handling 4-H money, reviewed fund raising policies, and provided tools to help youth treasurers keep safe and responsible financial records.

Evaluation results showed that attendees increased their understanding of all financial topics at the training. The highest increases in learning were:

- New federal laws require 4-H groups raising less than \$25,000 to file a 990-N e-postcard annually.
- Money raised should be spent in the same year.
- Best practices for managing 4-H money and fund raising.
- Resources available to help youth treasurers keep financial records for a 4-H club.

Wilcox created a "4-H Treasurer Resource Packet" that was shared with all workshop participants. Some packet contents include receipts, deposit slips, invoices, and a sample budget and treasurer's report with brief descriptions of when to use each item.

Best practices for handling 4-H money include obtaining an EIN, promptly depositing money in a bank account, having two signatures on checks, writing receipts for monies received, having members approve a budget and vote on expenditures, recording decisions in minutes, and understanding that 4-H funds are publicly accountable.

New policies require all 4-H groups to submit a Fund Raising or Solicitation Request Form to the 4-H Board before seeking funds from the community so that the money raised goes toward an approved goal with a definite plan.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Fariba Pendleton

The Douglas County strategic planning process is being facilitated by Fariba Pendleton and is led by a steering committee. Many individuals including but not limited to citizens, community partners, employees, department managers, and the county board provided valuable input throughout the process. Outcomes thus far include the development of a vision, core values, strategies, and action plans. The following strategic goals have been developed:

1. Attract and retain capable and responsive staff and board members that provide vision and leadership necessary to effectively communicate and respond to the changing needs of Douglas County citizens.
2. Develop and maintain an organizational structure that enhances operational efficiency, customer service, and effectiveness in addressing the needs of Douglas County.
3. Actively pursue partnerships with key public and private stakeholders at local, state, and federal levels to ensure cost effective delivery of mandated and non-mandated services.
4. Create and maintain a positive infrastructure and resource base while balancing environmental stewardship with growth to enhance the quality of life in Douglas County.

As a result, Douglas County now has an opportunity to increase effectiveness and efficiency; improve understanding through better learning; make better decisions; enhance organizational capabilities; improve communication and public relations; and increase public support.

**From vision
TO ACTION**

WI NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM *Grace Gee and Toni Britton*

The Nutrition Education Program partnered with Solon Spring's Home-based Head Start to provide nutrition education to their families. Toni Britton, nutrition educator, provided four sessions on their socialization days. The sessions covered increasing fruit and vegetable intake, healthy snacks, planning family meals and feeding picky eaters.



Nine families took part in the sessions. Evaluations on vegetable and fruit intake and healthy snacks were administered by the Head Start home visitor at the completion of all the lessons. Eight out of eight families (100%) indicated they eat more vegetables after the vegetable lesson. Seven out of eight families (88%) indicated they eat more fruit after the fruit lesson. One mother commented, "The best part of the meetings was my child trying new foods". After the snacking lesson, seven out of nine families (78%) indicated choosing healthy snacks often. Prior to the program, only five out of nine (56%) provided healthy snacks often. Another parent commented, "Getting kids involved with eating healthy foods was great". Many parents commented the best part of the sessions was the easy recipes and they'd make them again. Overall, the sessions were successful in helping families incorporate more healthful food choices into their daily meals.

FAMILY LIVING PROGRAM *Linda Bruce*

On May 13, 2007, sixty five participants and volunteers spent the day at WITC's Conference Center increasing their understanding of what it is like to live in poverty. During the morning participants were assigned individual family roles with limited resources in a poverty simulation, and had to determine whether or not they could make ends meet for one month. This was followed with a soup kitchen style lunch and a panel of speakers



from poverty backgrounds who were willing to share their personal experiences with the audience. The rest of the day focused on poverty statistics, resources, and other Douglas County information. Bruce coordinated the event, led all activities, and was the main presenter.

While 39% of participants reported having a very good understanding of the difficult choices people with low resources need to make each month before the simulation, nearly all (98%) reported having a good understanding after the simulation. Comments included "This activity was excellent – you don't just hear it, you feel it"; "Even though I knew it was a simulation it felt so real"; and "This should be a mandatory training". One individual shared "Understanding the frustrations/struggles and desperation of poverty will make me better able to express kindness and give help without having a condescending attitude behind their back".

Two new groups have requested that Bruce conduct poverty simulations in the near future.

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT *Joan Wimpe*

Superior, A Community for Youth is a youth & adult partnership that works toward making Superior a better place for all youth to live. During the past year, the committee completed a Spartan Pride Grant Project designed to

1. Foster pride in our local Superior High School and its students.
2. Encourage youth to engage in community affairs.



Upon completion of the project, 18 members of the partnership completed an evaluation of the project. Some of the findings include:

- 17 members indicated the project made a difference in the lives of youth in Superior.
- 18 members indicated the project made a difference in their lives.
- 18 members indicated they felt a sense of partnership between youth and adults
- When asked to identify what they learned as a result of participation, responses included: How to have pride in my school, responsibility, work, leadership, team work, try your best, work hard, everyone has different ideas, but you have to work together, challenging to coordinate with everyone, communication, and how to use resources.

EXTENSION & INTERNATIONAL LIAISON AGENT *Tom Syverud*

The Solid Rock Safe Haven produce garden is a reality. These gardens grew from a conversion between the Director Millie Roundsville and Grace Gee, WNEP about the school gardens at Northern Lights. Solid Rock had been thinking of gardens for a number of years. Last fall, we met to discuss and plan the steps needed to getting a garden established at Solid Rock.

Soil tests were taken, four by eight raised beds were built, Missinne's Greenhouse filled the beds with soil, and peat moss was added. Over the winter, tree and small fruit plants and seeds were ordered and volunteers from the spring 2008 Master Gardener class were recruited. This spring more beds were built, a perimeter fence was erected, and rain barrels were added. Apple and cherry trees and raspberries were also planted. Although wanted, blueberries could not be planted due to low pH.

With help from Solid Rock and Master Gardener volunteers, the 20 raised beds were planted to cabbage, broccoli, beans, lettuce, spinach, beets tomatoes, peppers, squash, and herbs. All the produce grown in the gardens will be used in Solid Rock's meal program or the NWCSA food pantry. This garden location will be good to hold community educational meetings as well. In fact, on June 23, I held a demonstration on installing a bucket drip irrigation system. In August, the garden will also host the UW Extension's Community Partner Advisory Group for a discussion about Extension's work with community groups.