

University of WI-Extension

Community Resource Development

Fariba Pendleton, Educator

Email: fariba.pendleton@ces.uwex.edu

Family Living Program

Linda Bruce, Educator

Email: linda.bruce@ces.uwex.edu

Community Youth Development

Joan Wimme, Educator

Email: joan.wimme@ces.uwex.edu

4-H Youth Development

Sarah Wilcox, Educator

Email: sarah.wilcox@ces.uwex.edu

WI Nutrition Education Program

Grace Gee, Coordinator

Email: grace.gee@ces.uwex.edu

Toni Britton, Educator

Email: toni.britton@ces.uwex.edu

Virginia Leith, Program Assistant

Email: virginia.leith@ces.uwex.edu

Agriculture & Horticulture

Tom Syverud, Educator

Email: tom.syverud@ces.uwex.edu

Administrative Staff

Rena Driscoll, Program Assistant

Email: rena.driscoll@ces.uwex.edu

Renée Middleton, Program Assistant

Email: renee.middleton@ces.uwex.edu

Douglas County UW-Extension Office

1313 Belknap Street, Room 107

Superior, WI 54880-2781

Telephone: (715) 395-1363 711 for WI Relay

Fax: (715) 395-1399

Website: <http://douglas.uwex.edu>

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November 2008 Edition

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Fariba Pendleton

Growth Management Day

The Leadership Superior/Douglas County Growth Management seminar was organized by Pendleton and implemented on September 16, 2008. Thirty participants (mostly current and potential community leaders) took part in sessions ranging from forest management & development, St. Louis River Estuary initiative, and comprehensive planning to downtown Superior Business Improvement District, Murphy Oil Refinery, and the Enbridge pipeline expansion & environmental issues.



Participants learned:

- How to examine community development and the challenges it presents to the maintenance of a high quality environment.
- The need for community leaders to strike a balance between economic development and the environmental assets that contribute to the overall quality of life in Superior and Douglas County, and
- An appreciation of recent situations where local community development and environmental preservation were in conflict.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Wilcox



4-H Members Gain Life Skills

Each fall 4-H members are encouraged to summarize their accomplishments via a report and interview process with the 4-H Board of Directors. Here are a few quotes from this year's participants:

"My 4-H leadership experiences have taught me important life skills such as listening, patience, and the ability to compromise."

"4-H Showcase Singers has taught me that if you work hard at something, chances are it will turn out well. I have gained confidence in myself and learned the meaning of hard work."

"At school I got the confidence to join Student Council because of my leadership roles in 4-H. I have further developed many life skills such as talking to groups of people, note taking, and decision making."

"4-H has helped me feel more confident speaking in front of large groups and working with adults and youth. I've learned to listen to everyone, not just a select group of people, and be organized. I've had to write agendas, present new ideas and challenge old ones."

"4-H has been a gradual stabilizer for getting rid of stage fright. It's helped me in public speaking and performing with my guitar."

"In school I give excellent presentations to classes because of being a leader in my 4-H clubs."

"4-H has taught me to come out of my shell and take charge and not be afraid to do things in front of people. It's shown me if I want to accomplish something I have to go out there and just do it!"

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Joan Wimme

This past summer I worked with staff from the Superior Public Library to offer a financial education class to 6-8th graders. The class, "Rolling Out Your Dough" is designed to teach basic financial concepts and the option of starting a long-term money club. During Money Smart Week in October, we started a second class with 3-6th graders at the Salvation Army/Superior Housing Authority Afterschool program. The class has 14 participants and data collected from 12 pre-tests indicates that:

- ❖ 50% of youth indicated they had some or no understanding of how much money they would need growing up.
- ❖ 59% indicated they had some or no understanding of personal needs.
- ❖ 66% said they had some or no idea of where money comes from.
- ❖ 59% indicated they understood impulsive buying "a lot".
- ❖ 83% indicated they had "a little" or "no" understanding of what a budget was.
- ❖ 66% indicated they had "a little" or "no" understanding of setting goals.

Some topics they wanted to learn about were "How to make more money." "How can I save money?" "How much money is there in the world?" "I would like to learn about how I can make money on my own without having it given to me for holidays or birthdays." "How can I get money?" The results of the pre-test help determine future class topics and provides somewhat of a baseline for the entire program. Youth researched various organizations to determine who they wanted to share their money with. A very close vote resulted in youth donating \$66 to CASDA.

FAMILY LIVING PROGRAM

Linda Bruce

Understanding Poverty Workshops

During 2008, Bruce led or assisted with four Understanding Poverty workshops. The most recent was held at UW-Superior for college students attending UWS or WITC. This was done at the request of a UWS professor trying to increase poverty awareness among students with differing educational goals. Over eighty participants with an additional twenty volunteers worked to make the day a great success.

This was the first time Bruce conducted this type of workshop for college students. While these events are typically eye-opening for any participant, it was interesting to note the many differences in attitudes, expectations, and goals found with this age group. (Most were traditional, younger college students.)

As a result of the workshop:

- ❖ 98% of participants reported having a very good understanding of the emotional stresses and frustrations created by having limited resources (up from only 35% before the workshop)
- ❖ 98% of participants reported having a very good understanding of the financial pressures faced by low income families in meeting basic needs (also up from 35%)



"As a social worker, I hope to remember this simulation as I work with clients so I realize how stressed they are."

"This opportunity is priceless. It provides a great opportunity to put yourself in another's shoes."

As a result of the success of this event, similar workshops will now be held at UWS twice each school year, and will be open to all college students.

EXTENSION & INTERNATIONAL LIAISON AGENT

Tom Syverud

Master Gardener Annual Report

This is the time of year that all Master Gardeners report their annual volunteer hours. They need to volunteer at least 24 hours and attend 10 hours of continuing educational programs to maintain their certification. Most Douglas County master gardeners are also members of the local Lake Superior MG Association. Since 1996, I have taught 14 Douglas County MG classes for 259 students. MGs have made significant contributions to projects in Superior, such as the gardens at Fairlawn Museum and the Solid Rock gardens, Paint the Town and other community educational programs. Unfortunately this is the last year for Paint the Town. In 2008, 49 MGs maintained their certification. They contributed a total of 2389 hours of volunteer time in the areas of youth education programs (73), community education programs (208), and horticulture support services (2109). Eighteen more individuals, who completed one of the two 2008 classes, have another six to 12 months to complete their initial volunteer requirements. In addition to the above, the MGs also attended 971 hours of continuing education.

This is the Catlin Greens gardens. I will speak to their group again this year at the SHA Fall Harvest Dinner. Topics to cover include soil testing and pest control.



WI NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Grace Gee and Toni Britton

Douglas County Nutrition Program Coordinator, Grace Gee and Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Tom Syverud, have been working together since 2006 to increase gardening in public spaces using community partners to expand and support gardening activities. A school garden was started in the summer of 2006 with the goal to provide opportunities for children to care for and taste garden vegetables. A goal since then has been to expand beyond the school garden to a community garden(s) that would help deal with food security and supply fresh produce to places that serve food insecure audiences.



The number of community partners involved in community gardening in Douglas County increased

in 2007/2008 with efforts of Tom Syverud and Grace Gee. Master Gardener volunteer participation was initiated, employees and residents of the Solid Rock Safe Haven shelter, the NWCSA food pantry, and the Human Development Center Brighter Futures youth program all collaborated to increase community garden efforts and garden produce to food insecure residents in Douglas County. The Brighter Futures youth showed a 14% increase in the variety of vegetables that would "win a place on their plates for dinner" after cooking and tasting garden produce they helped grow in the school garden.