

Manitowoc County UW-Extension Family Living Programs

www.manitowoc.uwex.edu

Facts that Drive Local UW-Extension Programs

Nationally, when Baby Boomers start turning 65 in 2011, 10,000 people will turn 65 everyday and that will continue for the next 20 years.

Manitowoc County families face exceptional challenges including

- Surviving economically
- Raising and educating children in a complex world
- Supporting aging family members

A single working adult with one preschool-aged child and one school-aged child needs \$13.42 per hour to cover basic costs such as housing, food, childcare, health care, transportation, and taxes – without public or private assistance.

Manitowoc County Families are Diverse by Structure

6.7% are single parents

22% are dual parent families

328 grandparents are raising grandchildren

57 foster parents care for up to 60 children

65 children are in Kinship Care

UW-Extension extends the knowledge and resources of the University of Wisconsin to people where they live and work. Our classrooms are wherever our residents need us to teach, facilitate, or participate. Programs are based on assessed needs and local trends. The Manitowoc County UW-Extension Educators are 40% county and 60% state funded.

Partners

*"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together."*

African Proverb

Current family living program local partners include:

CESA 7 Head Start/Early Head Start
Family Connections, Inc.
Lakeshore Community Action Programs
Lakeshore Family Resources
Manitowoc, Kiel, Two Rivers and Valders School Systems
Manitowoc County Family Court Commissioner
City of Manitowoc and Two Rivers Police Departments
Northeast WI Area Health Education Center
Pantry Managers and their Board Members
Silver Lake College
United Way of Manitowoc County
UW-Manitowoc

A Sample of Community Volunteer Hours for Family Living Program Outreach, 2007-09

1500	"Reading Buddies" literacy project
960	"Boomerang Character Education Program"
1936	Home and Community Education member outreach
192	Parenting Newsletter monthly mailing prep
350	"Diversity Circle" and "Home Alone" facilitators
4,938	Total hours

\$84,982 Estimated contributed time

"Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour"

http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

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Professional Development Programs and Forums

“Understanding Poverty” and “Poverty Simulations”

Participants gain an understanding about the culture of poverty.

“Real Colors: Maximizing Your Potential”

Participants learn about their leadership preferences and strengths, and those of others with whom they work. This work provides a practical guide to creating a healthy work environment.

Multicultural Consortium

The Multicultural Consortium of Manitowoc County provides a forum for networking with people interested in increasing their awareness of culturally-related trends, needs, and programs. Through advocacy and shared leadership, the Consortium works to make a positive difference in the lives of residents in Manitowoc County.

FEED Manitowoc County Food, Education, and Empowerment with Dignity

“FEED Manitowoc County” cooperatively unifies the work of Manitowoc County food pantry managers and their board members in their efforts to actively and respectfully address the needs of residents experiencing economic hardship.”

- “**Better Kid Care**” programs provide pertinent and affordable education for childcare providers.
- “**Boomerang Character Education**” programs engage high school students in facilitating a monthly class on being a person of good character with 4th grade students.
- “**Co-parenting: Focus on the Children**” programs are mandated by the Manitowoc County Family Court Commissioner once paternity is established. Classes focus on the challenges and opportunities of co-parenting.
- “**Diversity Circles**” are opened to all county residents. A facilitated discussion on the changing racial demographic engages participants.
- “**Employed Caregiver Outreach**” helps company administrators identify employed adult caregivers. Employees are then connected to educational resources and local services to meet those needs.
- **Food Safety and Food Preservation** programs and publications are provided.
- “**Home Alone Workshops**” help parents and their children prepared for self-care.
- **Home and Community Education Association** members learn leadership roles, perform community outreach, and plan educational sessions.
- “**Parenting the First Year**” and “**Parenting the Second and Third Years**” age-specific newsletters are sent to parents of children born in Manitowoc County.
- “**Raising a Thinking Child**” is an evidence-based program provided for parents of 4-7 year olds and is designed to help parents teach their children how to problem solve to reduce physical aggression and anger.
- “**Reading Buddies**” Since its inception, county residents have read to more than 2,000 CESA 7 youth. This literacy outreach assists children in gaining an appreciation for reading and increases school readiness.
- “**Rent Smart**” is designed to provide practical education to help people looking for rental housing to acquire and keep decent housing.
- “**Strengthening Families 10-14**” is a seven week evidence-based program designed to reduce the likelihood for substance abuse and other problems associated with the teen years.
- “**WI Nutrition Education Program**” is a federally-funded program. Limited-income families and individuals learn how to address their food security, nutrition, and food safety needs.