

Application for Northeast District Funding for Innovative Programs

March 2004

Manitowoc County UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator

Project Title: Reclaiming Southfield: Sowing the Seeds of Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity

Project Contacts: Kevin Palmer, Manitowoc County UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator

Collaborators:

- Southfield Townhouses Neighborhood Network Learning Center and Silver Lake College
- Manitowoc County UW-Extension 4-H Ambassadors
- Manitowoc County UW-Extension Master Gardeners
- Manitowoc County UW-Extension Family Living Educator

Situation Statement:

Southfield Townhouses is a low-income housing area in the city of Manitowoc where approximately 150-200 at risk youth reside. The Southfield Townhouses Neighborhood Network Learning Center was developed to provide youth and their families an opportunity to access the Internet. The Learning Center has expanded programming well beyond Internet access. The center serves as many as 900 residents monthly, and it provides after school tutoring, summer programs, YMCA programs, and a new 4-H club, Southfield Supersports. The Manitowoc County Strategic Plan, Work Group 3, identified positive opportunities for youth and families at risk as a priority. Engaging youth at the center in a gardening project will help meet the requirements of Work Group 3.

Project Goals and Expected Outcomes:

1. Utilize the Circle of Courage model of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity to develop a youth gardening program at Southfield Townhouses.
2. Reclaim an abandoned playground site at the Townhouses and transform it into a youth garden. Creating the garden at this site will also serve to beautify the Townhouse property.
3. The Manitowoc County 4-H Ambassadors will serve as peer mentors and role models to help establish the youth garden.
4. The Manitowoc County Master Gardeners will lend their expertise to the gardening project, and they will also serve as mentors and role models.
5. The produce harvested from the garden will be prepared and eaten by the participants as part of nutrition education provided by the Manitowoc County Family Living Educator.

6. Youth participants will learn skills associated with the Circle of Courage: Belonging to a group with a common interest - gardening; Mastery of gardening skills and life skills such as planning and organizing, communication, decision-making, and teamwork; having responsibility for the garden and working Independently to maintain the garden, and sharing the fruit of their labor with others as a Generous human being.
7. The 4-H Ambassadors will have an opportunity to work with other youth in the capacity of peer mentors, and the Master Gardeners will have an opportunity to work with youth as part of their program.

Project Timeline:

April 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the help of the Learning Center, recruit youth for the youth garden project. • Work with youth, 4-H Ambassadors, Master Gardeners and other volunteers to reclaim playground site for garden.
May - August 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Master Gardeners and 4-H Ambassadors and conduct weekly gardening programs that involve the planning, planting, and maintenance of the garden. • Work with the Family Living Educator and harvest vegetables and conduct weekly nutrition programs.
August 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Youth and collaborators and have a "Harvest Festival" for the residents of the Southfield Townhouses.

Evaluation Plan:

Both quantitative and qualitative evaluation will be conducted with:

- Youth Garden Participants
- 4-H Ambassadors
- Master Gardeners

Evaluations for collecting this data include focus group evaluation and pre-post tests.

Detailed Budget

Topsoil for playground site	\$975
Gardening tools: shovels, rakes, hoes, hoses, sprinklers, etc.	\$200
Junior Master Gardener curriculum and associated resources	\$125
Garden seeds (donated)	\$0
Total	\$1300

Applied and Received Resource Funds Before?

Yes. Kevin and Faye Malek received \$625 in 2004 for "Boomerang!" Character Education Program.