



Community Partnerships

Coalitions benefit youth and communities

Community coalitions that involve youth support positive youth development. Many research studies show that students with supportive families and communities are better at avoiding activities that could threaten their education and their future.

Extension's Response

University of Wisconsin-Extension 4-H Youth Development staff members have collaborated with 150 community partners to address youth issues.

Outcomes

Thirty-four Outagamie County elementary school youth who attended weekly gardening lessons harvested 200 pounds of fresh produce to donate to the Salvation Army. Community partners included Master Gardeners, UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development, Wisconsin Nutrition Education program, Boys and Girls Club, Urban Garden Club, Salvation Army and the Appleton Arboretum.

Almost 250 Sauk County youth worked with six community organizations to conduct eleven environmental stewardship projects. The youth spent 736 hours on the projects and reported they helped the environment and learned new skills as part of YEPS (Youth Environmental Projects of Sauk County).

Oneida County's Family Fishing Day drew 125 youth and adults for hands-on learning, life skill development, and fun in the outdoors. UW-Extension and Oneida County 4-H partnered with 10 community groups to sponsor the program.

Alice's Garden, a sustainable youth garden in Milwaukee, gives youth from five local schools a chance to learn about gardening and to build academic skills in science, math and reading. Twenty-two community agencies work with a VISTA volunteer, a UW-Extension horticulture educator and the 4-H Youth Development program to sustain Alice's Garden.

CHUMS (Community Heroes Uplifting Mentors and Students) matched 22 youth and adult mentors with fourth through eighth grade students in an English as a Learned Language (ELL) program. UW-Extension, the New Holstein Schools and CESA District Seven worked together to train the mentors. This program will expand to rural schools in neighboring counties next year.

For more information: Deb Ivey, 608-935-0391, debra.ivey@ces.uwex.edu;
René Mehlberg, 920-232-1970, rene.mehlberg@ces.uwex.edu

April 2006+