



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their full potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

- Kevin provided technical assistance for a local town seeking to put regulations in place for any future mid-scale solar energy systems that might be proposed in the town. Such systems are typically about 40 acres in size provide energy for about 1,000 homes. He worked with town officials to draft, review, and adopt ordinance language. Property owners in the town now have at least some level of protection from any negative impacts of future mid-scale solar energy systems.



- Since 2011, Kevin has conducted 14 voluntary well water testing events in Sheboygan County towns, including the most recent in the Town of Sheboygan. 153 of the Town's households picked up test kits on September 30th and returned them on October 3rd. Kevin then transported the samples to the lab at UW-Stevens Point the next morning. Many of the participants had either never had their water tested or couldn't remember the last time they had. Reaching this need was made possible in part by a subsidy from Sheboygan County that allowed most of the tests to be offered at a discount.

A total of 28 samples (18%) were found to contain coliform bacteria, which is a bit higher than the county-wide average of 14% since 2011. These well owners were offered the chance to retest, and were provided with troubleshooting options to try to correct the problem. No wells were shut down as a result of this testing program, since private well water quality is ultimately the responsibility of the owner.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and after-school programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Sanderson, Positive Youth Development Educator

Beginning in August, Lisa Sanderson began conducting a youth health and belonging survey at various area locations including Boys and Girls Club, South High School, Mead Library, Sunnyside Townhomes, and more. In partnership with Sheboygan Food Bank, the Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan County Department of Health, and Wisconsin Workforce Development, Lisa and partners have offered participating youth “swag bags” of shelf-stable meals and toiletries in exchange for survey participation. 107 youth have provided anonymous feedback so far with one more high school group to go. A large percentage of respondents are minoritized youth (approximately 45% so far). 35% of youth are reporting mental health issues as their top concern, while 25% report discrimination based on race and / or sexuality and gender expression. Lisa is exploring potential programming responses to this information with an Extension mentor who has successfully implemented a National Alliance on Mental Health “Raise Your Voice” youth programming.

In other efforts, Lisa continues to work with the members of Sheboygan United in bringing community resources to underserved Sheboygan residents. Sheboygan United members have organized a service-focused resource fair and supplies donation drive for the November 11 Community Cafe Lunch at St. Luke’s, which serves free meals to primarily homeless guests.

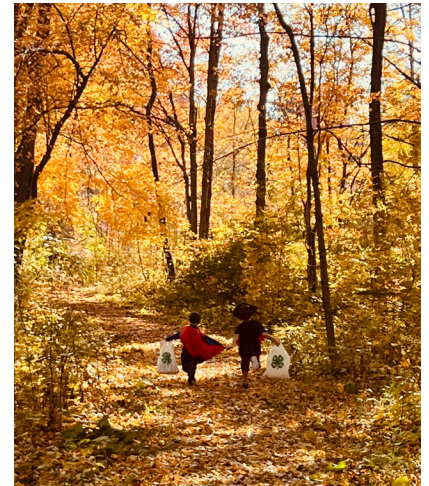


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4-H

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

- The National Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals hosted its annual conference in Madison, Wisconsin October 11-13, 2022 and I served as the co-chair of this conference representing Wisconsin and the Wisconsin chapter of our association. I have served as co-chair of this conference planning committee for 3 years and have led a group of 6 committee chairpersons to plan marketing and outreach, financial development, professional development, members services, and more. The conference hosted over 1,000 4-H and Youth development professionals at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center and included federal leaders such as Jennifer Sirangelo, CEO of the National 4-H Council, and Brent Elrod, Associate Director for Programs and Operations of USDA-NIFA.
- The Sheboygan County 4-H Program, including over 200 members and their families from 11 different clubs, hosted games, crafts, educational stations, skits, and a petting zoo for the general public to enjoy in a community-wide event. Admission consisted of one non-perishable food item that was donated to the Sheboygan County food bank. This event promoted our program, provided a pro-social, family-friendly event for younger youth, and created a sense of belonging for members and their families. The event included a hay ride, a pumpkin and scarecrow decorating contest, trick-or-treating, carnival-like games, skits, and more. 264 lbs of food were collected and donated and over 600 people participated in the event.





Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2022 REPORT

AGRICULTURE



If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species.

Dairy

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Agent

- Development and planning for in-person CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) Update Meeting series for WPDES (WI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitted farms, crop and dairy managers, agriculture engineers, crop consultants, agronomists, professional and on-farm nutrient applicators, government agency personnel, and other interested individuals in collaboration with WI DNR (Department of Natural Resources). The goal of this effort is to discuss and teach individuals to protect ground and surface water and dairy farm sustainability through dairy management and feeding efficiency; manure storing and handling; and nutrient management utilizing the latest research and regulatory updates.
- A popular press article written for *Wisconsin Agriculturist* readers, where they learned how to establish best management practices and identify a pre-weaned calf fit for transporting long distances. This effort is designed to show industry and university research-based best management practices to maintain and/or improve the growth, wellbeing, and welfare of a pre-weaned calf while being transported to an off-farm rearing facility.

Crops and Soils

Mike Ballweg, Regional Crops and Soils Agent

- An educational field day for farmers, industry agronomists and agency personnel where they learned about: Managing Rye Cover Crops and its impact on the Nitrogen Cycle, Benefits of Legume Cover Crops in Managing the Carbon to Nitrogen ratios, and Dissolved Phosphorus Losses and How to Limit it. The goal is to assist farmers and industry agronomists to explore alternative cover cropping strategies that include more legumes in cover crop systems as a way to grow on farm nitrogen resources, while providing for effective crop covers to protect soils and water quality. Extension faculty/staff presenting at the field day included: Mike Ballweg, Regional Crops and Soils Agent for Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington and Fond du Lac counties, Monica Schauer, UW Agroecology Research Assistant, and Laura Paletta, Extension Agricultural Water Quality Program. About 30 attended the field day.
- Extension Expands Water Quality Outreach Programming
Recognizing the growing need for innovation, research, and outreach to help solve the water quality challenges facing agriculture in the state, UW-Madison Extension has expanded its capacity by creating a new Water Quality program that will work on these issues with communities, farmers, and farm advisors to improve both groundwater and surface water quality across the state.

FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHY EATING, AND HEALTHY LIVING



FoodWise advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for families with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels. FoodWise reaches individuals and families through local community partners by providing nutrition classes in-person and virtually, indirect education (newsletters, etc.), and social media/marketing. FoodWise is an obesity prevention program that addresses policy, system and environmental changes through local and state public health efforts.

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator

The most recent census data indicates a significant growth in the Hmong population in Sheboygan County. To better understand how to respond to the needs of Hmong community members, FoodWise partnered with UW-Madison Population Health and the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA) to host community-wide focus groups. Each focus group was approximately 90 minutes long and led by a trained Hmong facilitator. The conversation focused on hearing from community members about access to nutritious and culturally appropriate foods, feeding their families, food budgeting and grocery shopping, and physical activity. Each participant received a \$50 gift card as an incentive for sharing their lived experiences. The next step of this project, which recently took place, was to interview community agencies that serve Hmong community members, such as the HMAA, public health, food banks/pantries, and social services. Local health coalitions, such as the Sheboygan County Activity and Nutrition Coalition (SCAN) will be important contributors, as well. The information learned will not only inform the local FoodWise program but will be taken into consideration when planning the Sheboygan County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

- Coordination of United HealthCare funding for families and individuals to have access to fresh fruits and vegetables and breastfeeding supplies. This effort is intended to address health disparities in the local community and to promote healthier eating among low-income families.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



The Extension Institute of **Human Development & Relationships** provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.

Jane Jensen, Human Development & Relationship Educator

Along with other Extension Educators, Jane co-facilitated the six-session Encouraging Financial Conversations (EFC) program. The course provides those in helping professions with tools and resources to coach their clients on financial problem solving, goal setting, spending plans, saving, building credit and managing debt, maximizing income, and protecting themselves from scams, fraud, and identity theft. The comprehensive program is designed specifically for social workers and other helping professionals.

Recent participants showed statistically significant improvements across several outcome areas. They felt more comfortable working with clients on financial matters; they were more prepared to bring up a financial topic with their clients, and they understood the role they can take in working with clients on financial concerns. They also reported spending more time working with clients on financial topics than they were before taking the course. The series also introduced participants to other financial security resources available from Extension.

- A 7-session course that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Mike Ballweg
Regional Crops and Soils Agent

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Lisa Sanderson
Positive Youth Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
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Kevin Struck
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