

Agriculture



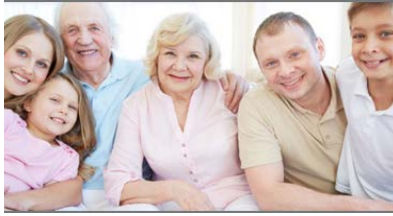
If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers 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 | ***Manuel Peña, Regional Dairy Educator***

A bilingual (English and Spanish) newsletter, **Bovi-noticias**, for Sheboygan dairy farms, their employees, and industry partners, where research-based information is shared in accessible language to explain the reasons behind key farm management practices and provide practical insights for daily work, to strengthen communication, support the implementation of best practices, and foster a healthy farm culture that ultimately builds an engaged workforce, improves animal herd and well-being, enhances safety, optimizes resource use, and supports farm profitability.

- The Wisconsin dairy industry continues to face challenges in animal health, productivity, and farm efficiency. While owners and managers often have strong foundational knowledge, frontline employees need practical, accessible information. Language barriers further limit understanding and adoption of best practices. To address this gap, Dairy and Farm Management Extension Educators developed Bovi-noticias, a bilingual (English and Spanish) e-newsletter for dairy farm employees, managers, and industry partners. The newsletter provides clear, research-based information on daily farm practices, explaining not only what to do but also why it matters. This approach supports deeper understanding, encourages consistent adoption of best practices, and serves as a tool for communication, discussion, and problem-solving between managers and employees. Through email, WhatsApp, printed materials at Extension events, and direct farm visits, Bovi-noticias is expected to initially reach approximately 350 individuals. Its impact will be evaluated after the first year through surveys assessing readership, knowledge gained, and reported behavior changes. These outcomes will help determine its contribution to improved management practices, workforce engagement, communication, animal well-being, workplace safety, resource use, and more sustainable and profitable dairy farm operations.

Community Development



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their fullest 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.

Kirtis Orendorff, Community Development Educator

2026 Community Needs Forum - Report and Findings

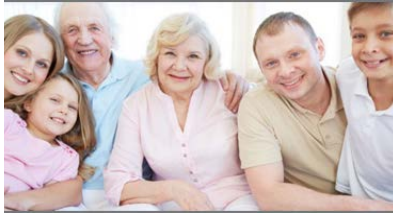
On June 17 and 18, 2026, Sheboygan County hosted a Community Needs Forum focusing on the Community Development and Positive Youth Development Institutes with participation from representatives across local community organizations. Attendees included local government officials and leaders of youth organizations, and [SS1] engaged in facilitated discussions around current goals, challenges, existing and needed resources, hard to reach audiences, and opportunities for collaboration. The purpose of this report is to highlight community-identified needs relevant to the Community Development Institute (CDI), and to demonstrate how programming from Sheboygan County Extension is addressing these gaps.

The following were identified as key areas of need that the Community Development Educator should focus on for Sheboygan County.

- Local government official training and programming
- Resources on zoning ordinances, updates, and state statute updates that affect local zoning ordinances
- Comprehensive planning resources
- Resources and strategies for running effective public hearings, engaging community members in local government decision-making, and inter-governmental communications.
- Support designing and facilitating community engagement opportunities.

As a result of those findings, Kirtis has already begun responding to the identified needs from these meetings. For example, many municipalities in Sheboygan County have their statutorily required comprehensive plan updates due within the next few years. Because these updates are required every 10 years, many officials have requested refreshers on what is legally required in a plan, what best practices are, etc. Much of their time spent on comprehensive plan updates is research on what is required in the comprehensive plan, where data sources are, and how to engage with the public. Kirtis compiled a single PDF document containing many different publicly available guides and resources related to comprehensive planning in Wisconsin. The intent of the document is to be a place to get a municipality's comprehensive plan started, and to be usable as both a digital or physical copy. The current version distributed has been described as an early build to be tested and looked over by relevant officials. The PDF file can easily be edited by the CDI educator as new materials are made available or requested by those using this guide.

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.

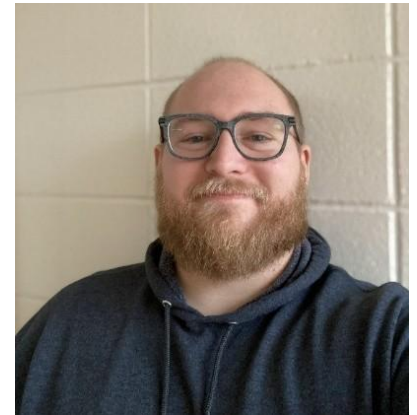
Jace Purdy, Human Development & Relationship Educator

We are pleased to introduce Jace Purdy, who joins us as the new Human Development and Relationship Extension Educator in Sheboygan County. Jace's career has been shaped by his deep passion for health and wellness, and a commitment to helping individuals and families thrive.

Jace is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, earning a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion and Wellness with a minor in Psychology. Over the last five years Jace's professional background continued to grow within the UW-Madison Division of Extension. Where he has taught learner centered lessons for diverse audiences, developed and sustained partnerships across three counties, and designed evidence based educational materials for settings ranging from food pantries and sober living facilities to public schools and community gardens—creating educational experiences that are accessible, engaging, and meaningful.

Jace is eager to bring his experience and passion to Sheboygan County, and we look forward to welcoming him to our UW Extension Sheboygan County team.

His first day at the Sheboygan County Extension office was Monday, July 27th.



Positive 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.

4-H | Sarah Feider, 4-H Program Educator

In collaboration with Lakeland University, Stem Day Camp was offered to youth ages 8-14, where youth created, designed, tested and implemented stem activities using Lego creations to learn and engage with all things engineering. (Sarah Feider)

- Lego is one of the largest projects in Sheboygan County 4-H and it is without a club leader. This Day Camp allowed all 4-Hers to engage in quality programming led by a University employee to promote learning and understanding of engineering techniques using Lego building. Collaborating with Paul, from Lakeland University, we worked together to build a lesson plan and implement a day focused around creations using Lego. Advertisements were created by myself and sent out to all 4-H youth that may be interested. 15 youth were in attendance for this one day program. Youth were excited to participate and engaged during the activities. Youth indicated that they were likely to participate in this type of program again, if offered.



An educational day camp for youth, where participants learned about 4-H while engaging in hands-on STEM, nutrition, recreation, and creative arts activities. Through this program, youth strengthened collaboration, leadership, and interpersonal skills while discovering opportunities for continued learning and involvement. (Sarah Feider)

- The SASD Recreational Department reached out to me to do programming for youth in the area of Cooper School. Students need things to do and learn during the summer months to keep them engaged and learning. To address the need for positive youth engagement opportunities during out-of-school time, I planned and facilitated an all-day youth camp that provided hands-on learning, social interaction, and skill-building experiences. Youth participated in a variety of activities, including LEGO challenges, team-building and connection activities, 4-H educational games, cooperative recreation, an obstacle course, watercolor painting, and a nutrition-focused cooking activity. Throughout the day, I engaged participants in experiences designed to build teamwork, communication, problem-solving, creativity, and confidence while introducing them to 4-H and opportunities for continued involvement in youth development programs. Evaluations were handed out at the closing of the program day. Youth described that making the Nutella Wraps were the highlight of the day. They loved doing the obstacle course and found that watercoloring was challenging.

Preparation and planning for youth staff in grades 8-12 who will be counselors, leaders and role models for basecamp in the summer of 2026. (Sarah Feider, Carlea Liermann, Katrina Pionek)

- Basecamp at Upham Woods is 4 days where youth run activities, plan events, and keep youth engaged at camp. Youth staff are given time to



work collaboratively to make decisions and prepare for this event. 4-H Educators prepared for five in person trainings and planning sessions leading up to camp. Included in the sessions is deciding camp themes, camper choice activities, campfires, and many other traditional programs that take part of camp. Also the 4-H educators go through policies, procedures, and emergency situations with the youth counselors and staff. This is an ongoing effort beginning in February and ending in July. Over the course of these five meetings, youth are gaining teamwork skills, building relationships, making decisions based on collaboration from the group as a whole.

Positive Youth Development | *Diana Hammer, Youth Development Educator*

Students reflect on what makes a community a nice place to live and give suggestions for the Town of Wilson's comprehensive plan. (Diana Hammer, Kirtis Orendorff, Sarah Feider)

The Town of Wilson asked Extension to help them engage more residents, especially young people, in their comprehensive planning process. They are curious to know how they'd like the township to look in the future.

Diana contacted several youth groups near the Township about this opportunity. She briefly presented to the Trailblazers and Lima Lights 4-H Clubs, asking if they would like to share opinions with the Town Board. She facilitated art activities with the Sheboygan Area School District Rec Department's summer day camp at Horace Mann Middle School and Wilson Elementary. Students in grades K – 6 designed structures or layouts that they would like to see where they live. Using a map of the Town, she also asked teens in Sheboygan County Juvenile Detention to think about what they'd like to see more of or less of, and where they'd locate it in the town.

As a result:

- **Two 4-H Clubs learned that their opinions are valued by a neighboring township** and agreed to participate in a follow up survey.
- **About 60 K-6 students created models of their ideal community amenities.** These included: a Dragon Zoo, a waterpark where you can swim at night, an aquarium, a space mall (for purchases before you board the rocket).
- **Seven students in juvenile detention thought about what makes a community better or worse for them.** They would like to have a roller coaster, Dave & Busters, skate park, and trampoline park.



Value Added -Sheboygan County Community members actively engage in UW -Madison Extension Regional and Statewide Program offerings. Highlights of these programs are shared in this section of the report.

Two Sheboygan County Health & Human Services staff members, a Boys and Girls Club staff member, and four students on Sheboygan’s Teen Court attended the [Wisconsin Restorative Justice Summit](#), co-organized by Extension this month in Madison. They joined more than 100 from 12 other counties who learned in workshops led by adults and youth about Native American experiences in Wisconsin boarding schools, teen courts, mentoring, and restorative healing efforts.

Health and Well-Being

An Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis Workshop for Local and Tribal Health Departments and community health partners, where they learn about the purpose, basics, methods, tools and tips to conduct qualitative data analysis to support health needs assessments. This increases community capacity in qualitative data analysis and program evaluation, and community capacity to incorporate community inputs in decision-making in public health. (Location type: Geography Served) Total Reach: 17 community health partners.

- Multiple health departments and partners reached out to express need for qualitative data analysis support. This need was reaffirmed by DHS Public Health Strategists from Division of Public Office of Policy and Practice Alignment. We improved on the content from initial workshop sessions, integrating more practice and group discussion time, as suggested by the evaluation survey. We organized and delivered a 2-hour curriculum and training materials on Qualitative Data Analysis. This includes a instructional guidebook, sample data set, a coding template, and a compilation of resources to support participants.

Jayna Hintz <i>Area Extension Director</i>	Sarah Feider <i>4-H Youth Educator</i>	Vacant <i>Support Staff</i>
Manuel Peña <i>Regional Dairy Educator</i>	Diana Hammer <i>Positive Youth Development Educator</i>	Cassi Worster <i>Marketing Specialist</i>
Kirtis Orendorff <i>Community Development Educator</i>	Jace Purdy <i>Human Development and Relationships Educator</i>	

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