

2008 SUCCESS STORIES Tippecanoe County

AG DAYS

Each year families become more removed from the farm and have less knowledge of where their food comes from. Agricultural literacy is dependent upon programs such as Ag Days. Knowing the importance of agriculture is important to share with youth, and in turn they can share with their families.

In Tippecanoe County, an organizing committee plans the annual event. All elementary schools, sponsors and presenters are contacted. The program is held at the Tippecanoe county Fairgrounds over a two day period in the spring. Teachers are supplied with materials to supplement their lesson preparations.

In 2008, sixty-four classrooms participated in Agriculture Days, with over 1400 fourth grade students, plus parents, teachers and chaperones in attendance.

Afterwards, all teachers reported that their students had a greater understanding of the impact of agriculture in Tippecanoe County as a result of attending Ag Days. The teachers also indicated that Ag Days was a great educational value.

The Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing

Funding for many local not-for-profit organizations has become very tight. Grant funding from corporations and philanthropic foundations has become an important mechanism for these community-based groups.

Purdue Extension offers the two-day workshop "A Beginner's Guide to Grant Writing" twice each year. The program is presented by distance education via live video to several locations in Indiana. It uses local facilitators to work directly with participants.

After completing the workshop, participants feel more confident in their grant writing skills, understand how to develop a project idea into a proposal, and know where to find information for available funding. Reports of funds awarded to program participants, statewide, indicate \$6.0+ million in funded proposals since 2005.

Grants have supported building renovations, infrastructure development, school-based programs and equipment, small business funding, environmental protection projects, health and human resource projects, programs to enhance computer and health education projects, youth programs, and general operating dollars supporting organization growth and sustainability.

Purdue Extension

Knowledge to Go

1-888-EXT-INFO

Historic Battle Ground Development Corporation

Local citizens often come together to deal with local concerns and for community development or re-development. They sometimes need assistance in getting organized, writing goals, objectives, and bylaws, electing officers, and competing for funding.

Purdue Extension Educators are available to local groups who need assistance with organizing their community-based groups, holding their initial public meetings, and beginning their planning process for the improvement and development of their communities.

There now exists the Historic Battle Ground Development Corporation, with bylaws, a board of directors, their IRS 501(c)(3) designation, and dues paying community organization members. They have successfully written proposals and received grant funding for several projects to improve their downtown streetscapes. They have a list of goals, are planning projects for the future, and working to build their volunteer corp.

Tippecanoe's Notable Teens

High school students need to gain and refine their leadership skills and community involvement in order to successfully assume leadership roles within their schools and their communities.

Purdue Extension in Tippecanoe County was worked with the Purdue University Office of Community Relations, Leadership Lafayette, and local high schools to develop Tippecanoe's Notable Teens [TNT], a leadership training academy for high school sophomores and juniors.

Workshop topics include team work, conducting community service projects, interpersonal communications, valuing diversity, conflict resolution, volunteer opportunities, and brainstorming techniques.

Nearly 70 students have completed the TNT program since 2005. All participants have indicated that they have gained knowledge and awareness of volunteer opportunities, the importance of community service and leadership skills.