

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
of
Hamilton County

2002 Annual Report

Engaging Our Community

In 1999 the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service of Hamilton County developed a five year Plan of Work. With the unprecedented growth and ever-changing needs of Hamilton County residents, Extension Board members in 2002 re-evaluated the greatest needs of Hamilton County where educational resources of the Extension Service could best be utilized.

We Listened. . . .

Issues that were identified in Hamilton County where Extension Education could make a difference included: Increased urban horticulture with short term offerings, Ag Day Expansion, Ag Programs for youth camps and classrooms, increased community gardens, work with adult children of Aging Parents, Food Safety and heritage skills for all ages, education of CFS issues through youth day camps, expansion of the youth leadership program, leadership information on running meetings, setting agendas for community groups, education on the rural/urban conflict, connecting rural and city youth, support and collaborate with youth programs “that focus on at risk situations”, and extend the 4-H program. . . . by recruiting at the Junior High level and expanding day camps.

We Responded. . . .

- * The Library Gardening Series (Fall Gardening = Spring Beauty) was developed with one time programs for county residents on lawn care, trees and shrubs, and perennials with a total of 6 programs at 4 libraries.
- * Ag Days were lengthened and day cares, homeschools and the public were invited to attend.
- * Master Gardeners are working with Westfield Town Hall on a restoration project.
- * You and Your Aging Parents Series was presented with Summer Trace Retirement Center co-sponsoring the classes.
- * Food Safety presentations were given at Ag Day and at 4-H Day Camp. Food safety information was included in each issue of 2 different newsletters.
- * A five-day, Day Camp curriculum was designed by summer intern with gardening, financial issues, food safety, character education and leadership skills included in the curriculum. Implementation of this team project will be in 2003.
- * Youth Leadership Program (ACTS) is expanding into the Westfield School System.
- * Sponsor of National Kids Day in Hamilton County.
- * Developed a Challenge Leadership Program for 4-H Camp.

Making A Difference

A Chance To Serve (ACTS)

The A Chance To Serve leadership program was developed in response to a need for a sense of community in Hamilton County, particularly with our youth following the plan of work sessions.

The ACTS program that resulted is a series of 5 day-long leadership training sessions. After participating in this training program, ACTS participants are placed on a community board or committee for one year. An adult community leader from the various boards or committees also participates in the five training sessions and serves as a mentor during the participant's board or committee term.

The sessions are hands-on and interactive. Topics covered include communication, public speaking, and listening skills; youth and adult perspectives and stereotypes; gifts, talents, and personality surveys; land use, trusteeship, community visioning and philanthropy; board and group process, parliamentary procedure, consensus building, and government.

Currently all 20 participants are serving on boards or committees in the community, and join 32 additional graduates. All participants exhibited improved leadership skills in group activities. Surveys completed by participants at the conclusion of the program revealed 15 of the 20 participants indicated an increase in leadership skills and knowledge. Twelve of the participants felt the ACTS program made them feel more connected to their community.

You & Your Aging Parents

Changing family forms and situations often leaves families looking for new skills and resources. The management of caregiver demands, guilt feelings, communication skills, and resources are needed.

The nine hour You & Your Aging Parents series focused on understanding the concerns and issues of aging, stress management of the caregiver, decision-making skills and ways to communicate more effectively with the aging parent.

98% of those in attendance stated their attitude toward the aging parent relationship had improved and 100% shared they expected to change their behavior as a result of the program by the following means: communicating more openly, looking for means to not feel guilty about the status of their parent, and they planned to seek alternative information from their parent about their needs instead of making their own assumptions.

Some comments on the *ACTS* survey:

"I have come out of my shell. I have gained new friends. I have learned information about Hamilton County I would never have known."

"I have more confidence when speaking with adults."

"I am more confident in myself and leadership skills."

"The ACTS program has given me a better understanding of people."

"Please continue the program; it has helped me grow as a person. I am more educated now on multiple topics involving my everyday life and community."

You & Your Aging Parents comments included:

"Thank You!!! I appreciate your efforts to meet our needs and providing the wealth of additional resources that you did. You've made a positive difference for us."

"Thank you for your hard work and extra information. A great program."

"This knowledge will help me learn her (my mother) needs, find the resources and possibly improve her quality of life."

Master Gardener Program

Providing community service through education and beautification projects is the emphasis of this program. In exchange for horticultural information, learners are required to perform community service in order to become certified as Master Gardeners. The Master Gardener program in Hamilton county has trained more than 600 persons since its inception in 1984. Today there are over 200 members of the Hamilton County Master Gardener Association.

This year, two groups, consisting of 17 persons in the afternoon and 34 persons in the evening sessions, participated in a series of 15 classes for training to become certified as Master Gardeners. The afternoon class increased their knowledge level from 66 to 81% when evaluated using a pre/post test. The evening class showed an increase from 59 to 81% using the same test instrument.

From the *Library Series*:
“I had a great sense of satisfaction with the process, the outcome, and the enthusiasm of those on the committee. There is a wonderful feeling of having provided a service to the community.”

In 2002, the 212 active Master Gardeners of Hamilton County contributed the following at a minimum:

- a total of 6,041 volunteer hours (7.5% increase over 2001)
- completed 1153.5 hours of advanced educational training (20% increase)
- made at least 4,686 contacts to provide information to clientele
- established a native plant display garden at the entrance to the Extension Office

4-H

4-H is a volunteer-based, informal educational program. It involves helping youth grow in knowledge, skill, citizenship and leadership by providing experiences which develop self-confidence. 4-H encourages well-rounded development of the total person. In 2002, 1608 youth participated in 4-H in Hamilton County, and those youth completed over 5,000 4-H projects. 139 youth in grades 7 and above participated in the Junior leader program. There were 51 members completing all 10 years in 4-H, with 4 others completing 9 years. Our 4-H Junior Leader president was chosen as one of the state’s representatives to the National Conversation on Youth in Washington, D.C. We had two members attend Citizenship Washington Focus trip and one attend State Fair Youth Leadership School. Eight participated in 4-H/Youth Round-Up, five participated in Science Workshops at Purdue, and two attended State Junior Leader Conference.

Some comments shared by 4-H members and their families include:

- * “The 4-H program has taught me multiple skills that I will use in the future such as leadership and responsibility.”
- * “The 4-H program has made me commit to a project, fulfill the project and complete it. I have learned time management and how important record keeping is. I like the leadership role I am able to take at the county fair.”
- * “Completing projects and working with my club has taught me cooperation, communication, responsibility, organization, and leadership.”

Super Sitter

This is a basic class in childcare and addresses child and sitter safety in our world today.

Comments:
“I will be more safe in watching kids and know what to do when certain situations come up.”

Ag Day (Agriculture Awareness and Understanding)

There is a need to develop an increased awareness of the importance of agriculture in Hamilton County and a heightened understanding of the food and fiber system. Agriculture plays a significant role in Hamilton County's economy even though farm population has declined dramatically. This has led to a loss of awareness by non-farm sectors of the population concerning agriculture's economical and cultural impact. Decisions made without education on policies and land use could have dire affects on both the farm and non-farm sectors of Hamilton County. Current perception and lack of awareness of agriculture limit youth from even considering on-farm or off-farm jobs and careers in agriculture.

Eighteen hundred second graders, teachers and parents from 76 classrooms representing 16 elementary schools and one private school participated in hands-on activities at 15 different live animal, soil, 4-H and crop presentations. A combine with a simulator video projected on the wall was a new addition to this year's Ag Day.

All 16 schools indicated that they strongly agreed that Ag Day broadened their understanding and awareness of the impact of agriculture in Hamilton County and Indiana.

Comments from Ag Day included:

"Ag Day gives students a hands-on experience with animals and farming which is not a common occurrence in our community."

Calling All Parents

This monthly newsletter for parents of pre-school children covers issues on nutrition, health and safety, family activities, discipline and more and is mailed to over 3,000 Hamilton County families (16,800 mailed annually). We get several comments on it's usefulness and how day cares and schools use this with their families.

Water Quality

Collaboration with the Hamilton County Health Department and the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District has resulted in receiving a 319 Water Quality Grant from EPA for \$72,000 to fund a program to identify and possibly replace failing septic systems. The focus will be to assist in the replacement process by recommending alternative private waste handling systems such as recirculating sand filters or mound systems for home use. The grant was approved in August. Two applications have been received and one approved to date. Also included will be educational programs and materials for installers and homeowners.

Myers-Briggs Leadership Assessments

As groups, whether it be office staffs, departments, or organizations work together, it is important to understand communication styles, leadership preferences and decision making styles to most effectively work together.

Through instruments such as Myers-Briggs and the color matrix programs we can assist groups in developing an initial understanding of each other, their leadership and communication styles. 115 participated in these sessions.

Comments following the programs included:

"This makes so much sense in the way we communicate with each other. WOW, I have a greater understanding of both myself and others now....THANKS."

Multiplying Our Efforts.....the Heart Of Our Success

There is never an end to the amount of people who could be reached by Extension programming if only we had enough hours in a day to accomplish it. In order to reach the number of people we need to reach, we must utilize volunteers. In all the combined Extension program areas, over 5,000 volunteers are busy doing everything from managing clubs to presenting programs. They drive, they plant, they assist, they beautify, they sew, they organize, they lead, they teach, they serve as invaluable parts of the Extension equation. Without our volunteers, we would not exist. With their help, we reach thousands of residents each year. **THANK YOU!**

The 4-H Program in Hamilton County is fortunate to have 235 adult volunteers and over 139 youth volunteers. The average volunteer in Indiana donates 220 hours per year preparing and teaching, drives 300-400 miles in their own car and spends up to \$60 on teaching materials.

The 269 Extension Homemakers present educational programs and provide needed resources and services to various organizations and agencies in the County through strengthening leadership and the home.

The Master Gardeners perform community service in exchange for horticulture information. Over 6,000 hours were given by 212 volunteers to educate and beautify our county.

Considering our volunteer numbers in Hamilton County in 2002.

**Purdue University Extension Service
of
Hamilton County
volunteers provided
\$898,040.00 *
worth of time and service to the
residents of Hamilton County**

* Dollar figures based on \$10.00/hour
for given service

Supporting Hamilton County residents in 2002.	
Educational Presentations	168
Attendance	6101
Extension Meetings	557
Attendance	10,409
Non-Extension Meetings	82
Farm, Home and Business Visits	109
Office Calls	899
Telephone Calls (educational)	6224
Newsletters (written)	31
Newsletters (distributed)	16,138
News Releases (written)	36
Circular Letters (written)	247
Circular Letters (mailed)	19,187

Partners In Our Success—Partners In Excellence

Ag Reliant Genetics
 American Red Cross of Hamilton County
 Beck's Hybrids
 Carey Ridge Elementary School
 Carmel Chamber of Commerce
 Carmel Elementary School
 Carmel Library
 Carmel United Methodist Church
 Chaucie's Place
 Collegewood Elementary School
 Community Partnerships with Youth, Inc.
 Consumer & Family Sciences Teachers
 Dow Agro
 Durbin Elementary School
 Elementary Teachers
 Farm Service Agency
 Fishers Elementary School
 Forest Hill Elementary School
 Gatewood Farms
 Hamilton County Beef Cattlemen
 Hamilton County Commissioners
 Hamilton County Community Corrections
 Hamilton County Community Systemwide Response Team
 Hamilton County Council
 Hamilton County DHIA
 Hamilton County Emergency Management
 Hamilton County Extension Board
 Hamilton County Extension Homemaker Association
 Hamilton County Farm Bureau Coop
 Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Inc.
 Hamilton County 4-H Council, Inc.
 Hamilton County 4-H Junior Leaders
 Hamilton County Health Department
 Hamilton County Healthier Communities Council
 Hamilton County Kiwanis Clubs
 Hamilton County Legacy Foundation
 Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Department
 Hamilton County Plan Commission
 Hamilton County Pork Producers
 Hamilton County Probation
 Hamilton County Progress Committee
 Hamilton County Sheep Producers
 Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
 Hamilton County Youth As Resources
 Hamilton Heights Elementary School
 Hamilton Heights FFA
 Hamilton Southeastern FFA

Hamilton Southeastern High School
 Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School
 Hamilton Southeastern Library, Fishers & Noblesville
 Harbour Manor
 Hazel Dell Elementary School
 Healthy Families of Hamilton County
 Heritage Hills RC&D
 Hinkle Creek Elementary School
 Home School Association
 Hometown TV
 Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.
 Meals on Wheels
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Noblesville Chamber of Commerce
 Noblesville Schools
 North Elementary School
 Oak Trace Elementary School
 Orchard Park Elementary School
 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Elementary School
 Parenting Coalition
 People Helping People—Noblesville
 Pioneer Hybrids International
 Prairie Trace Elementary School
 Prevail, Inc.
 Reynolds Farm Equipment
 Riverview Hospital
 Royster-Clark
 Senior Services of Hamilton County, Inc.
 Shepard's Center
 Sheridan FFA
 Smoky Row Elementary School
 Stony Creek Elementary School
 Stonycreek Farm
 Summer Trace Retirement Center
 Topics Newspapers
 United Way of Central Indiana
 Westfield Library
 White River Elementary School
 Woodbrook Elementary School
 Woods Edge Greenhouse
 WISH-TV
 WTHR-TV

Many thanks to these groups with whom we worked in the past year. Success is due to your involvement.

Our Driving Forces

Our Mission: Working for Hamilton County Residents

The mission of the nationwide Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is to help people improve their lives through an educational process which focuses scientific knowledge on issues and needs.

In Indiana, the Cooperative Extension Service is the informal, educational outreach program of Purdue University, Indiana's land grant university. Funding is through a partnership of County, State, and Federal Resources. Besides 4-H and Youth Development, the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service of Hamilton County provides educational opportunities in agriculture, horticulture, consumer concerns, family issues, leadership and community development. Founded nationally in 1914, the Extension Service has served Hamilton County since 1918 when the first "County Agent" was hired. Hamilton County currently has three Extension Educators, two Program Assistants and four support staff members.

Meet the Staff

Susan L. Peterson, CED, Extension Educator
Consumer & Family Science
William C. Rice, Extension Educator, Agriculture/Natural Resources
Andrea L. Hatfield, Extension Educator, 4-H/Youth Development
Sue Morse, Program Assistant, Consumer & Family Science
Lisa Hanni, Program Assistant, Agriculture/Natural Resources &
4-H/Youth Development
Marilyn Leonard, Office Manager
Alberta Ginder, Bookkeeper
Janet Hadley, Secretary
Betty Ayers, Receptionist

2002 Hamilton County Extension Board

Terms Ending January 2003

Darryl L. Beals
Christine Albrechts-Cook
Gloria DelGreco
Richard Dellinger
Gregg Montgomery

Terms Ending January 2004

Don Kincaid
Russell W. Macdonald
Kathy Richardson
William Root
Tim Whisman

Terms Ending January 2005

Kathryn Mascaro
Helen Musselman
Jim Nenni
Greg Vollmer
Charlie White

John Hiatt—County Council Representative
Judy Levine—County Council Representative
Becky Weiss—4-H Council Representative
P-CARET Representatives:
Darryl Beals
Richard Dellinger
Jim Nenni
William Root

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