



**UW  
Extension**  
Winnebago County

**We teach, learn,  
lead & serve**

**UW-Extension  
Values:**

- Community
- Discovery
- Inclusiveness
- Relationships
- Respect

**Our Purpose:**

Connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.



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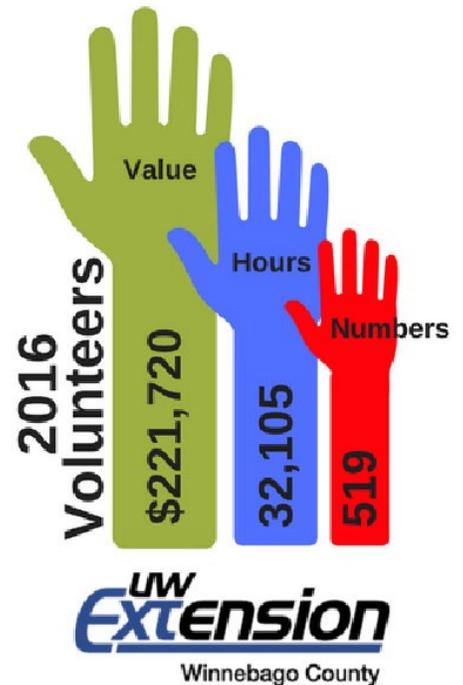
# Winnebago County UW-Extension: Transforming lives, organizations and communities

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY, 2016

UW-Extension (UWEX) supports, empowers, and engages the citizens of Winnebago County through education, unbiased research, and local partnerships. UWEX programming transforms lives, organizations, and communities by meeting needs, tackling tough issues, and growing these entities to be more resilient and better prepared to meet challenges.

To better serve the diverse population of approximately 170,000 rural, suburban and urban residents of the county we not only partner with others, we also engage volunteers to augment our educational programs and outreach. Volunteers are a crucial component to the success of many of our efforts. Volunteers are comprised of many community individuals along with our formal volunteer organizations including 4-H Youth Development, Home and Community Education Association, and the Master Gardener Association.

These volunteers combined give over 32,000 hours to help address community issues, work with community partners, and educate and empower citizens of the community.



## Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations and Communities

UW-Extension creates thriving youth, families, and communities by building the capacity of volunteers, leaders, professionals, and organizations in Winnebago County.

*New in 2016...*

Rural transportation is an important need not currently met, not only for elderly or disabled, but is also becoming critical to workforce mobility and retention.

To contribute to this need, UWEX worked with key partners to sponsor a Rural Transportation Visioning and Strategic Doing Process. This process generated a shared vision, as well as initial action steps for all involved. The 3 big ideas that resulted for moving forward included connecting rural transportation and health facilities; connecting rural transportation, employers and potential workforce; and building the network to connect people to transportation.



## Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations and Communities

Another effort to help our aging population was the Creating Aging Communities Workshop facilitated by UWEX and sponsored by the Winnebago County Health Department. Participants looked at how the county fares, reviewed the qualities of aging friendly communities, and learned tools to help an aging community.

Traumatic experiences in childhood can have major impacts on the way a child experiences their life. Higher incidents of trauma correlate with higher levels of negative social, physical, mental and emotional health indicators. UWEX is one of the leaders educating the community including over 300 professionals on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey, the results, and implications.

Building community at the neighborhood level is a successful approach to creating positive change at the individual, family and community scale. Transformation takes place when neighbors are empowered to identify issues relevant to them, when talents and assets are leveraged to improve community, and when skills and tools are provided to neighbors to help them reach identified goals.

UWEX collaborated with the Neighborhood Partners Network (NP2), to teach 30 neighbors from 7 neighborhoods across the Fox Valley through a 4-part Leadership Capacity Building workshop series for neighborhood teams. Additionally, a summer educator was hired to conduct door-to-door outreach throughout neighborhoods in the City of Menasha.

[Ongoing programs...](#)

### Volunteers

Volunteers bring many skills and expertise to UWEX programming where they are able to build confidence and create

lasting relationships. Through UWEX programming:

- 521 4-H members volunteer in their community clubs many serving as club officers, ambassadors, and camp counselors. 205 adults support those 4-H clubs and countywide programming.
- 120 Winnebago County Master Gardeners Volunteers participated in 19 on-going community projects and numerous other projects, providing over 7,700 hours of horticulture education and support throughout the county.
- 85 Winnebago Home and Community Education members and their volunteers sponsored the Wisconsin Bookworms™ for 141 Head Start children, produced 3,150 pieces of headgear for cancer patients and worked on local community needs.

### Organizations

Strong, effective non-profit organizations and collaborations are critical support systems that strengthen a community's vitality, help meet community goals, and support people in meeting their needs. UWEX educators provided organizational development support through teaching, coaching and facilitating strategic planning and decision making processes for 17 local non-profit organizations, collaborations, and governmental units.

Working together to address the needs of Winnebago County families, each month, 30-50 agency representatives learn of community resources through The Oshkosh Collaboration Workgroup, co-lead by the Oshkosh Area United Way and UWEX.



**In 2016**

**UW-Extension**

**leveraged \$120,928 in grants and \$613,449**

**in state specialist**

**value to support**

**programming in**

**Winnebago County.**



## Stronger Economies

Growing stronger economies means supporting business development and growth, creating cross-sector support for businesses, and teaching families how to stretch their budgets.

### *New in 2016...*

As the housing market sees a shift to more renting than owning and a shortage of rental property available, UWEX partnered with the Winnebago Apartment Association to provide a workshop for tenants and landlords. Over 78 attendees learned the value of forming a strong partnership between tenant and landlord.

A new outreach and education initiative for Hmong gardeners is focusing on high tunnel food production & safety, and vegetable varieties.

### *Ongoing programs...*

Eighty-one participants received Rent Smart certificates for attending 6 hours of

instruction on acquiring and maintaining rental property as tenants. Rent Smart is also offered at Oshkosh Correctional Institute as part of the inmate re-entry program.

Seven youth completed a 6-week tractor and farm safety course. Participants earn certification allowing them to work on a farm, adding manpower to the farm labor force.

Youth continue to be educated in workforce readiness skills and exploration of various career opportunities. In 4-H club settings, youth participate in experiences where they learn skills in running effective meetings or giving public demonstrations. Through 4-H project work, members learn skills woodworking, mechanics, how to care for animals or gardens, and they can explore science themes or channel their creativity through performing arts!



## Health, Food Safety & Security

Part of transforming a community is helping citizens make healthy, informed choices in their life and making sure that everyone has access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food.

### *New in 2016...*

Growing and producing local food depends on many supportive factors and systems. UWEX worked with UW Oshkosh Quest III students to visit local food producers and analyze whether local zoning codes support or prohibit those systems. The project produced useful information to share with local decision makers. It also allowed for students to better understand our local food system and what it takes to help local food farmers to have a successful business.

### *Ongoing programs...*

UWEX empowers residents with limited incomes to make choices to achieve healthy lives and reduce health disparities. Nearly 4,945 contacts were made in 7 schools within the Neenah Joint School District and 5 schools within the Oshkosh Area School District in addition to community sites such as Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, Winnebago County Housing Authority and Boys and Girls Club.

Through community programs, media and one-on-one teaching, over 300 individuals learned research based home food preservation and food safety information.

*“Winnebago County  
UW-Extension define  
the word “experts”  
when it comes to  
knowing the community  
they serve. We are so  
fortunate to have their  
talents be a part of our  
community!”  
- Community Partner*





# Resilient & Productive Environments

Natural resources are integral to the communities of Winnebago County. Addressing their ecological health is complex, with many potential paths leading to a sustainable environment.

### *New in 2016...*

Water quality of the Lake Winnebago System is impacted by land use, weather patterns, and human activity. In the urban environment one effort to help mitigate pollutants in storm water runoff is the education and construction of rain gardens. Rain gardens not only help protect water quality, they provide critical pollinator habitat.

Land & Water Conservation, Facilities & Property Management Departments and UWEX, Master Gardeners and the City of Oshkosh partnered to construct rain gardens at the JP Coughlin Center demonstrating nearly 50 different types of plants, and how they can occur in harmony with existing landscaping.

### *Ongoing programs...*

The annual Winter Woodland Owner Conference was attended by 62 attendees. Participants learned the latest forest management techniques.

UWEX, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Land and Water Conservation Department, and a host farm partnered to hold a Soil Health Field Day. Over 60 agency staff, farmers, and students learned the importance of organic matter and cover crops as it relates to water infiltration, soil erosion, and runoff.

Nine producers received assistance with developing nutrient management plans. Pesticide applicator training was provided to 37 people.

Thirty green industry professional attended one of four statewide workshops where they learned about best management practices of pest management in the urban forest while protecting pollinators.

Master Gardener volunteers responded to horticulture and environmental stewardship questions from 278 residents.

**In 2016 we hosted 634 meetings, at the JP Coughlin Center, with over 12,231 people in attendance.**



## Winnebago County Faculty, Staff and Committee in 2016

### DEPARTMENT HEAD

Christine Kniep

### 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Kayla Oberstadt  
Sarah Thompson

### AGRICULTURE/ HORTICULTURE

Darrell McCauley  
Kimberly Miller

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ NATURAL RESOURCES

Chad Cook  
Catherine Neiswender

### FAMILY LIVING

Amanda Dornfeld  
Christine Kniep

### NUTRITION EDUCATION

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Evan Groth  
Kristine Soper

### SUPPORT STAFF

Carol Hollmaier  
Michelle Peplow  
Ashley Rolph  
Amy Timm

### 2016-17 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION, EXTENSION & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Tom Snider, Chair  
Nancy Barker  
Julie Gordon  
Alvin Long  
George Scherck

Winnebago County UWEX 2016 Annual Report –February 2017

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