



**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, 2017

UW-Extension (UWEX) offers a range of educational programs to meet the needs of approximately 170,000 residents who live and work in the towns, villages, and cities in Winnebago County. Using technology and a community network, UWEX utilizes a wide reaching outreach effort to increase awareness of educational opportunities, and add value to improve the lives of those we serve.

UWEX educational programming is built upon a foundation of unbiased research, identified educational priorities, and is designed to inclusively address tough issues to educate and empower the diverse population of citizens. UWEX staff, partners, and volunteers value the uniqueness of each resident's economic status, education, national origin, racial background, sexual orientation, or ability, so each person who participates in a program feels welcome and has the opportunity to transform their life and build even stronger communities in Winnebago County.



UWEX is continually building its strong network of elected officials, community leaders, non-profit organizations, and partners to increase awareness of educational programs that protect the rich natural resources and food supply, build stronger and healthier families, prepare youth for thriving careers, and work toward economically strong and resilient communities.



Health, Food Safety & Security

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

New in 2017...

In order to provide kids and families the skills they need to eat healthier while creating more food secure homes, UWEX staff received a Food Smart Families grant. An intern was hired to train high school students to teach nutrition lessons to fifth graders in after school programs. Families and children with limited resources learned how to shop for and cook nutritious meals on a budget.

Gardening can not only increase access to affordable and healthy foods, it improves our health and mental well-being. Several UWEX programs partnered with the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry to offer classes so families could learn nutrition and gardening. Families took home container gardens to grow their own vegetables and herbs.



Health, Food Safety & Security

Ongoing programs...

UW-Extension (UWEX) empowers residents with limited incomes to make choices to achieve healthy lives and reduce health disparities. Nearly 1,880 unduplicated contacts were made in settings such as schools, homeless shelters, WIC Clinics, food pantries and the housing authority.

Through community programs, media and one-on-one teaching, our residents

are granted access to the newest research in food preservation and safety in a variety of formats with a widespread reach.

Thirty-nine individuals were certified to teach Taking Care of You: Mind, Body, Spirit which offers practical strategies and experiences to help deal with the stress in life.



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 2017...

UWEX conducted community-based research in Omro in a statewide partner study with UW-Madison focused on workforce attraction and retention of young adults. The study provided valuable local and statewide insights into the types of amenities that attract workforce participants to a region.

Ongoing programs...

Rent Smart focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. UWEX certified 104 professionals with newly revised curriculum.

Eight-six (86) participants received Rent Smart certificates. Participants receiving housing assistance require 2 years of positive rental history. Partnership with the housing authority grants 1 year

of positive rental history to participants upon completion of this class.

To help landlords form strong partnerships with their tenants, 59 landlords received training on better tenant relationships, laws governing property ownership and guidance on being a more productive and positive landlord.

Fourteen (14) youth completed a Tractor Safety Course. Participants earn certification allowing them to work and understand the risk on farms.

Youth were equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and process information through STEM curriculum. STEM experiences were provided to 341 youth in 13 afterschool programs in Neenah, Menasha and Oshkosh.

Youth are empowered with workforce readiness skills to help them thrive today and tomorrow. Sixty-eight (68) youth are leaders in 4-H club settings to other youth and adult volunteers teach skills in health living, citizenship, science and agriculture.

**In 2017,
UW-Extension
leveraged nearly
\$12,000 in grants and
\$605,112.67* in state
specialist value to
support programming
in Winnebago County.**

* Three year average (2014-2016)



Thriving Youth, Families, Organizations and Communities

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

New in 2017...

Adverse Childhood Experiences education identified a gap in affordable professional development for agencies to respond to toxic stress and its effects. In response, an educator became a certified trainer and began offering training in “Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work”, a Child Abuse prevention Curriculum.

UWEX served as a member of the newly formed Social and Place Connectedness Team to implement a program in the Sacred Heart neighborhood of Oshkosh, evaluating if improved health outcomes are a direct result from greater social connectedness.

Ongoing programs...

Volunteers

Volunteers bring skills and expertise to UWEX programming while building confidence and creating lasting relationships. Through UWEX programming:

- 508 4-H members belong to community clubs, many serve as club officers, ambassadors, and camp counselors. 329 youth spent 5,056 volunteer hours on 56+ community service projects. 190 adults volunteered 13,339 hours supporting 18 4-H clubs and county-wide programming for a value of \$307,597*.
- 99 Winnebago County Master Gardeners Volunteers participated in 19 ongoing community projects and numerous other engagements, providing over 7,100 hours of horticulture education

and support throughout the county for a value of \$165,386*.

- 40 Winnebago Home and Community Education Volunteers spent over 6,000 hours producing 3,000 hats and 200 fabric flowers for cancer patients for a value of \$138,360*. 87 volunteers provided an addition 435 hours of education to the community.

Organizations & Communities

Strong, effective non-profit organizations and collaborations are critical support systems to strengthen a community’s vitality, meet community goals, and support people to meet their needs.

UWEX educators provided organizational development support through teaching, coaching and facilitating strategic planning and decision making processes. This included fostering skills in board leadership, visioning, relationship building, and evaluating program and organizational efficiency to prioritize resources.

UWEX partnered with Kinship Care and the Aging and Disability Resource Center to create a safe and enriching space for 240 individuals (21 unique families) in the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support group. Individuals were provided a meal, child care, and time to discuss their unique challenges.

Youth leadership development training in the areas of risk management, organizational development, parliamentary procedures, conflict resolution, and financial management were offered to adult volunteers and 37 youth officers.

UWEX supported neighborhood leadership capacity building training in the Fox Valley/Oshkosh area in order to build neighborhood leaders and stronger connections.



* Volunteer hours in Wisconsin are estimated to be worth \$23.06/hour according to Independent Sector.



Resilient & Productive Environments

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

New in 2017...

Understanding interactions between the water quality in Green Bay, the Fox River, watersheds contributing to them, and the climate, helps us best approach water quality concerns in Lake Winnebago and the Pool Lakes. UW-Extension (UWEX) helped to plan the State of Lake Michigan Conference in Green Bay where over 300 people learned and networked about Great Lake issues.

Ongoing programs...

The annual Winter Woodland Owner Conference was attended by 120 attendees who learned information about woodland management.

UWEX, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Land and Water Conservation Department, and a local farm partnered to hold the Soil Health Field Day.

Twenty-one (21) farmers learned the importance of cover crops and soil biological activity as it relates to water infiltration, soil erosion, and surface runoff.

Building the capacity of professionals to better serve their communities in the area of horticulture and environmental services, 48 green industry professionals attended one of seven statewide workshops where they learned about tree pruning best management practices in the urban forest. Twenty (20) municipal employees participated in basic and advanced hands-on chainsaw safety workshops.

UWEX engaged in efforts focused on outreach related to the Lower Fox River TMDL and development of comprehensive lake management plans for the Winnebago Lake System.

Eighteen (18) youth served as camp counselors and 95 youth attend the Winnebago County Summer Camp where they had experiences to address environmental issues with the goal of becoming responsible stewards of the land.

In 2017, we hosted 678 meetings, at the JP Coughlin Center, with over 12,567 people in attendance.



Winnebago County Faculty, Staff and Committee in 2017

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