



FRANKLIN County

HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Food in Urban Communities**—OSU Extension collaborated with community partners and area residents to explore how the Weinland Park Community in Columbus could make the production, processing, distribution, preparation and celebration of food a catalyst for urban neighborhood development. One major outcome is the Educational Plan for the Food District at Weinland Park. This plan provides a starting point and framework as the community moves from planning toward implementation.
- **EFNEP**—The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program helps adults with limited resources make healthier, safer, budget-friendly food choices. The program teaches youth about nutrition, food preparation, food safety and physical activity. In 2013, Franklin County EFNEP reached 268 participants and impacted 1,179 family members. Eighty-five percent of the participants said they improved their food resource management skills, 92% improved their nutrition practices and 65% developed better food safety practices. Youth EFNEP reached 561 youth through school enrichment and summer programs.
- **SNAP-Ed**—Participants in classes offered by Extension through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education learned how to stretch their food dollars and eat a healthier diet. In Franklin County, 1,196 adults participated in 2013. Seventy-nine percent of the participants reported learning something new, and over 53% said they plan to make lifestyle changes.
- **Senior Series**—Through a partnership with the Franklin County Office on Aging, 1,150 senior adults attended 155

educational programs designed to strengthen their health and improve their mental outlook. Ninety-eight percent of the participants reported learning new information, and 97% said they were confident that the choices they make based on the information will help them maintain an active lifestyle.

- **Financial Literacy and Homeownership Education**—OSU Extension/University District provides financial literacy and homebuyer education to Franklin County residents. In 2013, OSU Extension assisted 110 families with the purchase of homes in Weinland Park.
- **Bridging the Digital, Social, Educational and Economic Divide**—Through collaboration with Connect Ohio, OSU Extension offers free basic computer/Internet access and affordable, advanced computer classes to residents. In 2013, OSU Extension educated over 1,400 adults at 10 sites in the city of Columbus.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Real Money, Real World**—Real Money, Real World is an active, hands-on experience that gives students the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will make as adults. OSU Extension professionals have developed a curriculum that simulates real-life experiences to help youth achieve financial literacy. In Franklin County, 1,069 Franklin County youth participated in and benefited from the program.
- **4-H Camps**—Young people know 4-H Camp is fun, and research shows 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and teen counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communications and leadership, cultivating



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the job readiness skills employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. In Franklin County, 162 campers and 42 teen counselors spent five days sharpening these important life skills in “nature’s classroom” at 4-H Camp Ohio.

- **4-H CARTEENS**—4-H CARTEENS is a program managed by OSU Extension personnel in Franklin County, along with collaborative partners and student volunteers from Franklin County. The goal of 4-H CARTEENS is to reduce the number of second-time traffic offenders in Ohio by having driver safety information taught to teens by teens. Professionals in the field also share information. Participants are generally court-ordered to attend with their parents. Three hundred youth and their parents participated in 2012.
- **4-H Cloverbuds**—The 4-H Cloverbud program is designed as a non-formal approach to developing the confidence, social skills, decision making abilities, subject matter knowledge and physical skills of kindergarten through second-grade youth. As youth begin their 4-H Cloverbud experience, they take part in a unique blend of non-competitive activities and opportunities specially designed for their age level. In Franklin County, 126 kindergarten through second grade youth participated in activities throughout the year, including Cloverbud Day Camp, 4-H Discovery Day, Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge, club field trips and service activities.
- **4-H Enrichment**—4-H enrichment programs are designed to bring 4-H to youth in schools, after school programs, libraries and other settings. In May 2013, Franklin County OSU Extension personnel also spearheaded and coordinated the first-ever School Garden Conference, which drew participants from Franklin County and across the state. In 2013, youth in over 120 classrooms, after school programs, libraries and special events participated in Franklin County OSU Extension enrichment programs, impacting approximately 6,000 youth.
- **Life Skill Development through 4-H Projects**—Ohio 4-H offers over 200 4-H projects. Each project book contains information and activities for members to explore as an organized group project or individually at home under the guidance of a parent or interested adult. Project topics range from aerospace to zoology. In Franklin County, 832 youth acquired new skills while completing 2,026 4-H projects.
- **Assuring Quality Care for Animals**—Assuring Quality Care for Animals teaches 4-H youth how to use best practices that guarantee quality, safe food animal products for consumers and responsible animal handling, care and welfare. In Franklin County, 140 youth participated in five

livestock Quality Assurance Trainings and Horse Safety and Ethics Programs.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Master Gardener Volunteers**—Master Gardener Volunteers contributed over 4,800 hours in 2013 in Franklin County. At the current value of \$21.79 per hour of volunteer labor, the Master Gardener Volunteers contributed approximately \$104,500 to the residents of Franklin County.
- **Community Gardens**—Master Gardener Volunteers contributed over 1,400 hours at 19 community garden sites across the county. Thousands of pounds of fresh produce were donated to local food pantries.
- **Garden Information Line**—Master Gardener Volunteers responded to 450 phone calls and emails to the Garden Information Line. Franklin County residents received information and guidance on their problems with trees, lawns, vegetables, flowers, nuisance wildlife and pest issues.
- **Youth Programs**—Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteers donated over 450 hours at the Highland Youth Garden, where youth were taught to grow fresh vegetables, fruit and herbs. Additional youth programs such as State Fair Judging and Learning Gardens across Franklin County were supported with over 25 hours of Master Gardener Volunteers time.

Franklin County receives \$513,161 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.