



HENRY County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- **Preschool Vision Screening** was provided to help children enter school ready to learn. One hundred and forty-eight preschoolers were screened to determine if they would benefit from an optometry exam. Six local high school-aged 4-H members provided this screening with support from one volunteer and OSU Extension staff.
- Food safety is big business, and 63 people came to OSU Extension for training in the 20-hour **ServSafe Food Handler Program for Managers**, the four-hour **Person-in-Charge Training** and a **Basic Food Preservation Class**. Participants reported an increase in their knowledge of the causes of foodborne illness and of ways to reduce the risk of illness.
- **Homebuyer education programs** were completed by 18 families. This eight-hour course supports the loan process for first-time homebuyers to obtain a mortgage. Participants learn to manage a budget and a net worth statement and to be better consumers. Completing the course develops more confidence in consumer decisions and decreases the probability of foreclosure.
- A total of 81 people were served with **financial management programs**. Participants expressed new goals about creating spending plans and an interest in using tools to manage income and expenses. OSU Extension teamed up with the Henry County FISH program, the Together We Can Make a Difference Initiative, the Northwest Ohio Community Action and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to provide these programs.

- OSU Extension partnered with the local Community Improvement Corporation to create a committee to consider the need for **skilled labor to support Northwest Ohio manufacturing**. The shortage of skilled labor is a concern for area businesses. The new committee is addressing the problem by offering a tour to area guidance counselors, by offering individual programs and by better connecting public, vocational and two-year colleges.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2013, **Henry County 4-H** enrolled 840 youth members with 120 adult volunteer advisors assisting them in 27 community clubs throughout the county. Volunteers spend a minimum of 60 hours annually planning, conducting and providing learning activities within the club setting, totaling 7,440 hours. Based on the National Independent Sector's volunteer time value of \$22.14 per hour, this results in a program value of \$164,722 for 4-H programming in Henry County.
- The success of the **Northwest Ohio 4-H CARTEENS** continued. As of September 2013, 143 first-time traffic offenders from Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties completed the program. Forty-eight of those youth were referred by the Henry County court system. Through this program the youth refresh their driving knowledge and skills of the road while rebuilding their self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Statistics show that 4-H CARTEENS participants are less likely to commit further traffic offenses as teenagers.

- A partnership between the Henry County United Way and Henry County 4-H has produced a continuing after school program called the **SKY (Strengthening Knowledge in Youth) After School Program**. Local teens complete required volunteer hours while developing strong workforce skills. In 2013, 20 teens completed more than 40 hours of volunteer service to the program.
- Living cooperatively, experiencing new activities for positive leisure time use and learning about nature are all part of **Henry County 4-H Camp**. One hundred ninety-eight youth participated in the traditional county overnight camp program. For our youngest 4-H members, **4-H Cloverbud Camp** included 42 kindergarten through second graders and fifteen counselors.
- **Henry County 4-H Endowment Committee** continued its efforts to increase the value of the Henry County 4-H Endowment. Through the annual giving program and spring fundraiser of the Henry County 4-H Endowment Committee, an additional \$4,500 was added to this endowment of \$216,400. Through the 4-H Endowment interest money in 2013, over 350 youth were recognized for their accomplishments in 4-H and 40 youth participated in special trips and leadership experiences. Also, campers at all three camps benefited from the financial support, as have volunteers and four current or future college students who received \$3,700 in scholarship dollars.

serving low-income adults. The goal is to improve, within a limited budget, the likelihood of families and individuals who are receiving food assistance to make healthy food choices and to choose active lifestyles. In Henry County, SNAP-Ed provided direct education programming for 1,326 people in 520 classes on topic such as fruits and vegetables, dairy, food shopping and food safety. Of the participants, 98% reported learning new information, and 92% stated that they will make changes because of the information.

- The **Summer Food Service Program** was offered in Henry County for the fourth year. Forty-four days were spent with 198 children ranging in age from infancy through 18 years, with an average daily attendance of 43 children. The number of children reached increased by 51% from 2012.
- OSU Extension partners with the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio, the Henry County United Way and the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to provide an additional \$117,000 in programming with our existing staff.

Henry County receives \$29,692 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- There are 15 active Master Gardener members. This year they received the **Master Gardener Volunteer Program County Standards of Excellence Award**. Master Gardener Volunteers help with the life skills program and the local plant sale in conjunction with Hospice of Northwest Ohio. The downtown plantings of Napoleon are completed through the work of these volunteers, who also provide hotline help in the office.
- Livestock **Quality Assurance Training** was completed by 100% of youth (380 youth in all) that enrolled in and completed a livestock project through 4-H and FFA. Members were taught proper identification methods for their particular animal, methods and manners in which animals are properly cared for and the establishment and maintenance of health management plans for project animals.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is a free nutrition education program