



MEDINA County

WESTERN RESERVE EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Young people need to be prepared to handle finances as adults, and the OSU Extension signature program **Real Money, Real World** is a real eye-opening experience. In Medina County 1,700 youth experienced the financial fair in 2013 with the help of over 200 adult volunteers, giving the youth a better idea of what is involved in earning, spending and managing money. Comments on student evaluations help explain the impact of the program: “It really helped show what an education does to help you later in life;” “Think before you buy;” and “When I went grocery shopping with my mom yesterday, some things I wanted, but I told her never mind because of the price.”
- More than 330 **adult volunteers** donated time and talents to help 4-H members ages 5 to 18 develop lifelong skills. The 1,200 youth belong to 51 community-based **4-H Clubs** led by volunteers. Each adult gives about 250 hours, or a total of more than 80,000 hours, valued at \$1.4 million. Research shows that youth belonging to clubs and having a relationship with a significant adult are more likely to develop a positive self-image and lead productive lives.
- Over 900 Medina County youth participated in **Quality Assurance Training**, where they learn best management practices when raising livestock that enters the food supply.
- Seventy-two children ages 5 to 8 participated in group learning activities at **4-H Cloverbud Day Camp**. Children gain awareness of the importance of cooperative learning and play. Songs, games, crafts and science lessons, led by 36 trained 4-H teens, are designed to build cooperation, sharing and helping one another.

- **4-H CARTEENS** (Cautious And Responsible TEENS) members teach traffic safety to their peers and work to reduce the number of repeat offenses by young drivers. Teens gained leadership while moderating discussions and organizing activities. Participants learned about driving safely and making wise decisions. First-time juvenile traffic offenders who attend the class may be considered by the court for a waiver of a two-point penalty assessed to their licenses. The program is co-sponsored by OSU Extension, the Medina County Juvenile Court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Twenty-five active **Master Money Mentor** volunteers help others one-on-one with money matters like budgeting, saving and reducing debt. More than 20 families were enrolled so far this year, many of them becoming aware of other helpful community resources for the first time. After visits totaling 15 hours with a Master Money Mentor volunteer one divorced woman established a record keeping and bill paying system that works for her.
- Two 6-week and two 3-week **parenting class series** helped over 20 parents learn new tools and gain confidence in their parenting skills. All of the parents reported starting to use at least one of the skills they learned at home. A mom of three started using choices and encouragement as a result of attending the classes, and she finds more peace and less sibling rivalry at home.
- Monthly **meetings at the Battered Women’s Shelter** helped 25 moms feel better able to cope with their situations.



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- Four **canning and freezing workshops** were held during the year, with over 150 individuals taking advantage of learning safe food preservation methods. Twenty canner gauges were tested for safety, and staff answered phoned-in questions and provided fact sheets to over 500 other people.
- Targeting SNAP-eligible clientele, **SNAP-Ed** classes reached 318 adults and youth through collaboration with numerous community agencies. The Lodi Family Center was a partner for the Summer Food Service Program for county youth. Adult programs continue to be presented at both the Wadsworth and Medina Salvation Army locations. An information table is provided at the Feeding Medina County food distribution locations at Lodi Hospital and the Medina County Fairgrounds. At each table, preparation and food storage tips are provided for distributed foods. Of 805 direct contacts, 352 reported a great deal of new information was learned. Two hundred four adults reported a large number of changes were planned for healthy eating. A Summer Food Service Program teen reported reading labels when shopping with Mom.

Gardeners **staffed a weekly Horticulture Hotline** in our office from April through October helping more than 70 callers, walk-ins and emails with home, yard and garden questions.

- **“Unnatural Invasions” Spring Seminar** was hosted by Medina County Master Gardeners with 19 participants.
- **Displays, demos and fact sheets** were distributed at the Medina County Fair and Medina County Earth Day to hundreds of fairgoers.

Medina County receives \$34,181 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Medina County Extension hosted **Pesticide Applicator Training and Recertification** for Ohio privately licensed applicators. Thirty-six participants learned ways to control pests, with a focus on responsible product use to ensure the health of people and the environment.
- The Medina County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator **fielded over 400 phone calls** on topics related to ponds, insects, gardening, agriculture and wildlife since January.
- The Medina County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator assisted Feeding Medina County in the planning of **new community gardens and an orchard** to provide fresh produce to low-income families, including children and the elderly.
- Hundreds of attendees of **Medina County Earth Day** at Buffalo Creek Retreat learned about invasive insects, plants, and aquatic wildlife and the negative impacts they present.
- A 13-week New Master Gardener Class trained 13 new Medina County **Master Gardener Volunteer Interns** in areas of commercial horticulture. New volunteers will begin volunteering for the community in November.
- Fifteen Master Gardeners have **volunteered over 300 hours** in 2013, contacting over 865 adults and youth during programs and volunteer opportunities. Our Master