



MIAMI County

TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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For the past five years, the Miami County Extension office front desk has handled an average of 8,917 contacts per year, which equates to about one person every 13 minutes. This does not include contacts or outreach that the other four Extension educators make!

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Miami County boasts 45 **4-H Clubs** with 802 members led by 194 adult volunteers. Members commented, “4-H has taught me important life skills such as public speaking and interview etiquette, but the most important lesson is that hard work pays off” and “without 4-H and the experiences within this organization, I would not be the person I am today.”
- Over 700 kindergarten through third grade students in 32 classrooms participated in **4-H school enrichment programs**. Classes focused on aerospace science, natural resources, animal science and nutrition education. Through answering questions, completing worksheets and conducting experiments, students demonstrated increased knowledge.
- Ninety-one youths attended the Miami County **4-H Junior Camp** at Indian Hills 4-H Camp in Pleasant Hill. This five-day camp provided activities to develop leadership skills, team-building, interpersonal skills and lasting friendships.
- Eleven youths in kindergarten through second grade participated in the **4-H Cloverbud Day Camp**. They took part in a variety of learning experiences and hands-on activities including outdoor recreation, crafts and nature.
- Thirty-three youth volunteers served as **4-H Camp Counselors** for **4-H Junior Camp**. They completed 24 hours of training on such topics as program planning, risk management, emergency procedures, first aid and bullying.
- Three hundred ninety youth livestock producers explored the 10 good production practices, animal welfare and ethics during five **Quality Assurance Training** programs. Participants learned ways to improve the care and well-being of their animals to ensure safe food is being produced.
- One hundred ninety-seven youths enrolled in food and nutrition, clothing and other **4-H projects** and participated in 4-H project judging. Through the interviews, members articulated the work involved in their projects as well as what they enjoyed about the projects. They also gained greater confidence through the interview process.
- Approximately 340 sixth grade students participated in **Real Money, Real World**, a hands-on lifestyle and budget simulation experience. Comments included, “The thing that surprised me most was how much child care costs,” “I think all kids should do this” and “One thing I plan to change is to get a good education in college.”
- Miami County **4-H CARTEENS** reached 152 teen drivers and their parents. Participants learned the importance of wearing safety belts, driving distractions and traffic laws. Comments included, “it really opened my eyes to see how one decision can change a life” and “I will never touch my phone again while driving.” The program collaborates with Miami County Juvenile Court and Ohio State Highway Patrol.

- Eight hundred fifty youths learned what is involved in managing the business risks associated with producing and bringing a hog to market through the **Commodity Carnival** at the Miami County Fair.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **Troy Rec Center**, a downtown youth-serving organization, received \$135,188 in grants for a building renovation. OSU Extension helped by facilitating an in-depth strategic planning process (June 2012–May 2013) with the board of directors; co-authored the successful grant proposals (summer 2013); and assisted with scope of work, pre-construction meetings and contractor selection.
- The **Family Nutrition Program** began the Summer Food Service Program, which saw more than a hundred children each week for eight weeks at Garden Manor and Richards Chapel. The children received nutrition lessons, sampled healthy snacks and participated in physical fitness activities.
- Over 600 people participated in just over 70 **SNAP-Ed** programs. These included cooking demos at two local food pantries, programs at five senior sites, programs for parents at two government housing complexes, a pregnant teens (GRADS) outreach at the JVS and two summer lunch club sites. Evaluations showed that 87% of the participants reported new skills and knowledge adopted.
- SNAP-Ed also conducted nutrition programs for **Head Start Family Night**, where 45 parents focused on ways to avoid sugar-laden snacks for preschoolers. They sampled healthy snacks that were easy to make for their children.
- Over 300 individuals attended **Successful Co-Parenting**, a court-mandated program for divorcing couples with children under the age of 18. The program's main video was developed by Miami County's Family and Consumer Sciences educator Jamie Seger in partnership with local 4-H youths; it has received over 7,600 views on YouTube and is being utilized nationwide.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In 2013, 14 new Master Gardener interns were trained, bringing the county total to nearly 70 **Master Gardener Volunteers**. Each Master Gardener donates 20–30 hours per year (nearly 1,800 hours total) back to the communities in Miami County. This is valued at over \$33,000.
- The Master Gardeners undertook numerous projects in 2013: Fall Farm Fest at Knoop Farm, call-in and in-person Helpline (for yard and garden questions), two Habitat for Humanity sites, Tipp City Christmas in the Village (assisted

with home garden designs), Partners in Hope Community Garden, Miami County Fair flower beds and booth and Forest Hill Arbor Day grade school.

- Ninety individuals were recertified at **Pesticide Applicator Training**. Trainees learned health and environmental safeguards for handling pesticides. Proper spray timing, application rates and methods minimize negative impacts and help protect our environment.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Miami County's **Community Development educator** conducted over 60 consultations with individuals interested in business start-ups, small business expansions, farming, local foods and non-profit management.
- In September, a new **Miami County Local Food Council** was formed to identify opportunities for expanding commerce in the farming and food business sectors. They hosted a successful "Locavore Dinner" with 43 persons in attendance. A Local Food Summit is planned to expand more local foods business in Miami County.
- A partnership with Miami County Job and Family Services and the Job Center provided **pre-foreclosure, loan mediation, and homebuyer education** information to more than 70 participants in the Workforce Investment Act and SNAP-Ed programs.
- **New Start for Financial Success**, a program for bankruptcy clients, reached 22 Miami County residents. Participants reported plans to improve spending behaviors after attending the class. Comments included, "Wonderful information that I will definitely use" and "I wish I would have taken this program years ago!"

Miami County receives \$27,855 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.