STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

• Recipients of the USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), learn how to stretch their food dollars through interactive classes. In 2014, OSU Extension taught 1,114 food stamp-eligible and food stamp recipients classes on diet quality, physical activity, food safety and food resource management. As a result, participants were significantly less likely to run out of food at the end of the month, were more likely to make economical and healthier choices when grocery shopping, and were more likely to provide healthier meals for their families.

• The Development of Living Skills (DLS) program offers in-home instruction to individuals and families referred by Children Services. Instruction is given in the areas of nutrition, parenting, child development, money management and home economics. DLS provided 1,859 hours of teaching time to 155 clients. As a result of instruction, 11 children were reunited with their parents from foster care, and 24 at-risk children were able to remain in their parent’s home, eluding foster care.

• The resurgence of families experimenting with home canning is one sign of difficult economic times. OSU Extension’s Food Preservation and Food Preparation classes teach research-based techniques and skills to make the food dollar go farther while keeping food safety in mind. In 2014, 418 participants attended home canning, local foods, nutrition and food preparation classes.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

• In 2014 there were 62 4-H Clubs in Butler County, which represented over 1,236 members. This program was delivered with the help of 193 adult volunteers, who gave countless hours back to our community and youth. In 2014, 25 new advisors went through training to become volunteers and one new 4-H Club was started.

• During 2014, 555 teens were mandated to attend one of 40 Butler County 4-H CARTEENS programs accompanied by a parent or guardian. This program is a partnership between OSU Extension, Butler County juvenile court, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. This program is staffed by 21 teen volunteers, who gave over 1,848 hours to the program.

• During the summer of 2014, 178 youth participated in the STEM program. STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics based on real-world experiences.

• The Junior Master Gardener program was taught by OSU Extension Master Gardeners. Over the eight-week program, 15 youth participated in lessons about vegetable garden planning, planting and care, pest control, soil health, and invasive species.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

• Master Gardeners are OSU Extension-trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely, research-based
Butler County receives $98,821 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

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