

DUNN COUNTY 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



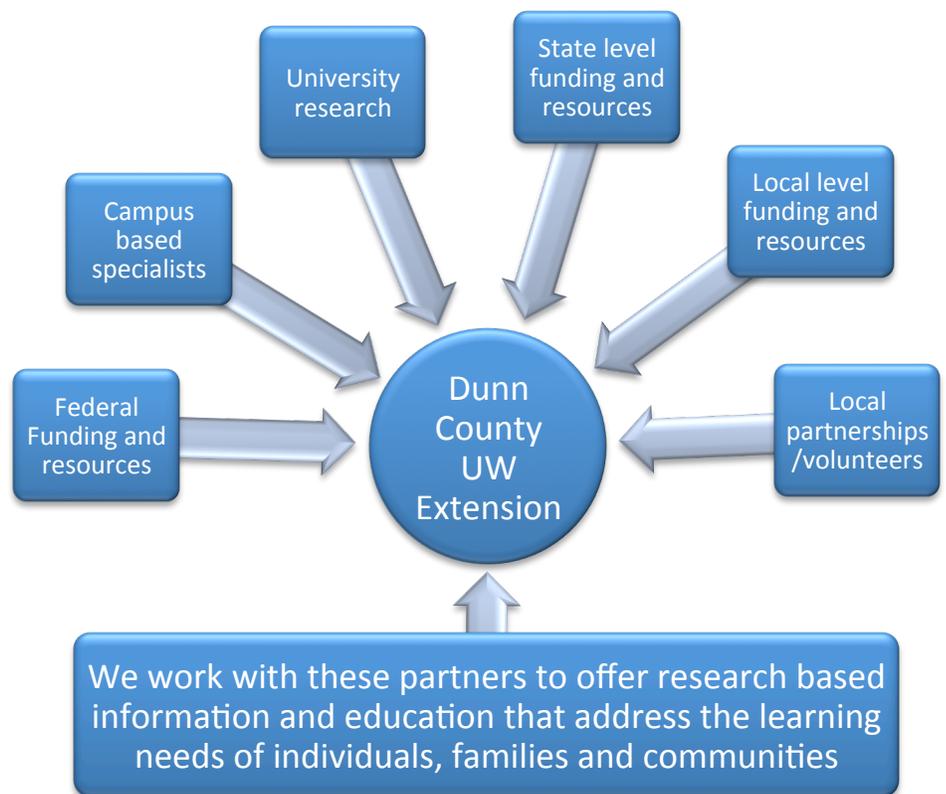
Making a Difference in Dunn County

The **PURPOSE** to which we commit...We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

The **VISION** of what we want to become...A thriving, well-known and sought-out educational resource that reflects the rich diversity of the state

The **VALUES** we strive to live by...Community, Discovery, Inclusiveness, Relationships, and Respect

What does Extension mean to you? What is the value of the programs Extension offers...to you? This year's report provides examples of what the public value of our programs are to you and to our community. We provide evidence of our programs' **private value** to program participants, including such factors as time saved, dollars earned or health benefits increased. But, we also create **public value** when our programs benefit others in the community — those who do not participate in our programs directly.



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We empower others and ourselves by listening to, learning from, and respecting local knowledge. We value our partnerships and believe community voices are critical to success. We work in community with one another to build a culture of collegiality.

Collaboration... By the Numbers

32 – Dunn County UWEX supports **32 Community Clubs:** 16 Community 4-H Clubs, 13 HCE Chapters, and Dunn County Beekeepers, Master Gardeners & Master Food Preservers

25 – UWEX educators have collaborated with **25 community agencies:** Bridge to Hope, House of Hope, Catholic Charities, Churches, Children's Service Society, Eau Claire Family Resource Center, Head Start, Stepping Stones, Workforce Resource, Arbor Place, Positive Alternatives, United Way, Red Cross, WestCAP, Red Cedar Medical Center, Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Menomonie, UW-Stout, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Farm Bureau, Main Street Menomonie & School Districts.

22 – UWEX educators collaborated with **22 County entities:** W2, 8 Senior Meal Sites, WIC, Public Health, Immunization Clinics, CJCC, Juvenile Justice Sub-Committee, Birth-3, Diversion Court, Energy Assistance, The Fair Board, Human Services Department of Children and Families, Fish & Game, Land Conservation & the Economic Development Corporation.

12 – UWEX educators led or participated in **12 community committees:** Western Wisconsin Ag Lenders, Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day, Dairy Promotion Committee, CVTC Farm Production Management Program Advisory Committee, Emergency Food & Shelter Collaborative, Resiliency Committee, Truancy Prevention, Dunn County Health Watch, Dunn County Partnership for Youth's teams, including: Parent Education and Resource, Community Forum,



familiesontheGO!



TECHNOLOGY AS A TEACHING TOOL: REACHING FAMILIES ON THE GO!

As families become increasingly busy and dependent on mobile devices and instant information, it is prudent for Educators to find innovative ways to extend information and resources to families, evaluate those efforts, and capture their ideas.

Face to face educational opportunities and informational meetings for families are becoming more and more difficult to accommodate with busy schedules and financial constraints, such as the high cost of gas and limited public transportation beyond Menomonie.

Dunn County UW-Extension has made inroads to reach this underserved audience by branding "Families on the Go" as an avenue to introduce a variety of educational opportunities aimed at promoting mental health within busy families. This brand in Dunn County will allow families to

recognize and engage with quality educational programs through UW-Extension.

Through a state grant, Dunn County was awarded a 22,000 UW-Extension Infusing Technology Grant. This grant allowed educators the ability to expand their "Families on the Go" programming through the acquisition of iPads and other hardware.

Acknowledging that there are barriers to accessing mobile technology UW-Extension established a loan program allowing families to check out iPads. This offers all families the opportunities to participate and interact in broadcasted events remotely, the flexibility to view past offerings, and the freedom to contribute their ideas thus addressing some of the known issues that exists within the proverbial digital divide.

A new website is about to launch outlining this project and can be found at dunnfamiliesgo.org.

We promote lifelong learning, unbiased transformational education and excellence through our scholarly work. We integrate University research with community-based knowledge to explore new solutions and their practical applications. We encourage innovation in teaching, research and outreach to serve the public good.

4-H and Robotics



In 2012, 4-H continued its expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming by introducing LEGO® NXT Robotics to clubs, member and adult volunteers.

A study by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology found that "Economic forecasts point to a need for producing, over the next decade, approximately 1 million more college graduates in STEM fields than expected under current assumptions." It is because of this need that 4-H Youth Development programming in Dunn County has embraced all opportunities to bring technology into the mix when working with members.

Studies specific to LEGO® Mindstorms® NXT suggest youth gain problem solving skills, creative thinking skills and an increase in scientific-technological knowledge (Barak & Zadok, 2009; Barker, 2007; Nagchaudhuri, 2002). Other studies show youth who worked with LEGO® Mindstorms® NXT systems improved in-school performance in STEM related disciplines (Cejka, Rogers, & Portsmore, 2006; Panadero, Romaacuten, & Kloos, 2010)

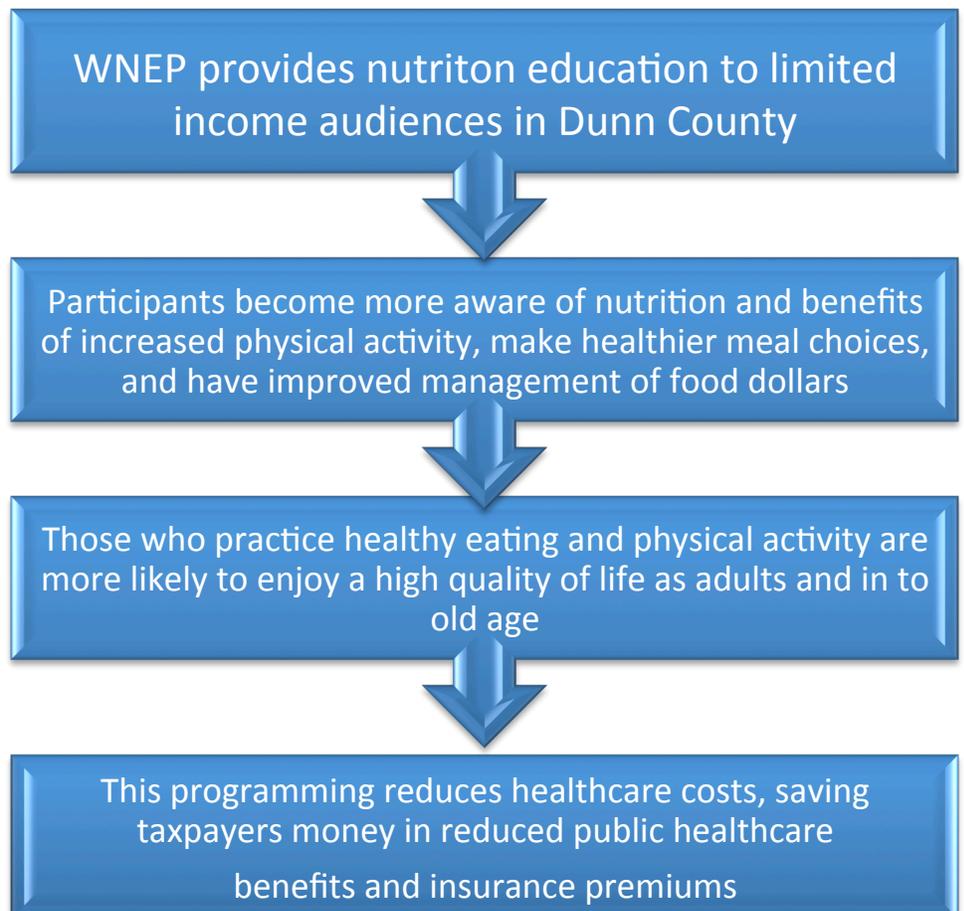
During our Robotics Day, participant's ages 8-13, were able to build and program their robots to complete assigned tasks. After participating, members stated they knew more about the role of robots in our society and what careers utilize robotics skills.



Demonstrating Public Value

UW-EXTENSION PROGRAMS DELIVER VALUE TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED. HERE'S ONE EXAMPLE:

Individuals participating in a University of Wisconsin-Extension Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program



We appreciate and serve as stewards of our state's resources. We honor and value each other's time and talents. We seek to maintain a balance between life and work priorities.

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

The work of UW-Extension can be far-reaching because of our work to empower local volunteers. 4-H has been meaningfully engaging volunteers to deliver high-quality educational programs for a very long time. Other UW-Extension Programs in Dunn County are increasing their involvement in volunteer development to extend program reach. This investment in volunteers allows us to be good stewards of our state and county resources—increasing the work we can accomplish within Dunn County.

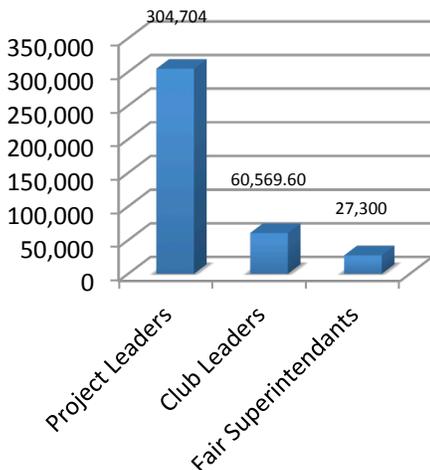
Each hour a volunteer serves is worth \$18.20 in Wisconsin, according to Independent Sector, an organization that studies volunteer contributions to organizations. What value do 4-H Extension Volunteers provide to Dunn County?

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER VALUE:
\$460,648**

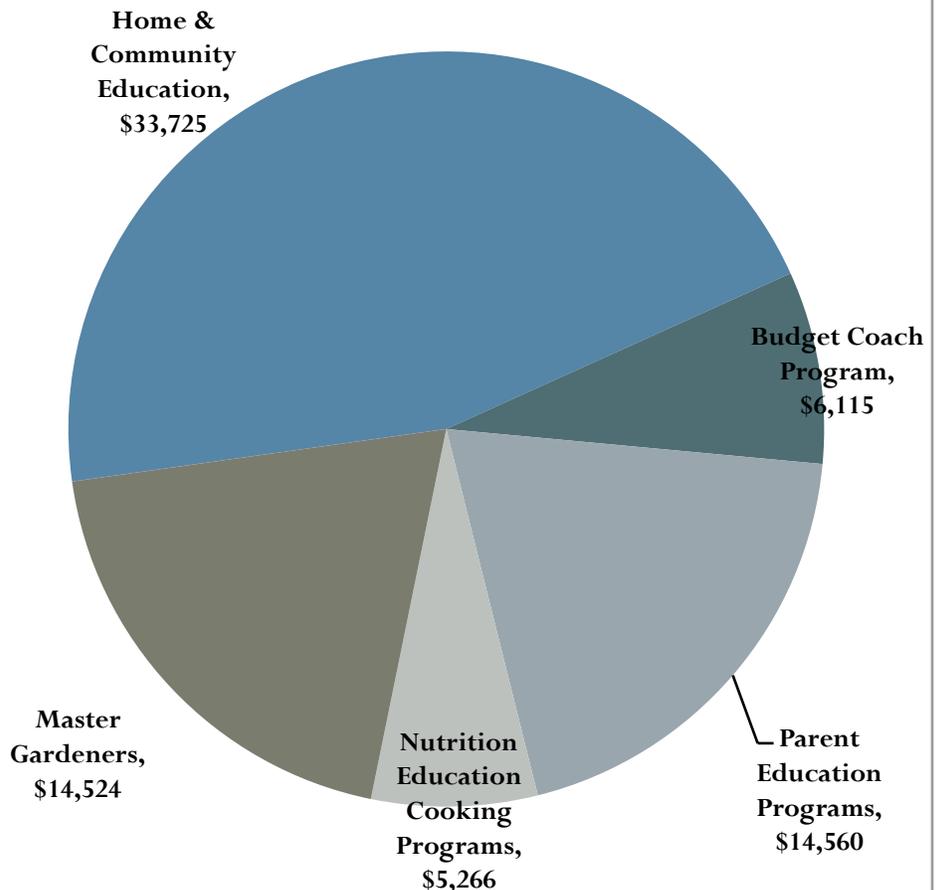


Master Gardeners are partners in igniting new learning among young people through this educational display at 4-H Discovery Day!

4-H Volunteers Make "Cents" \$392,573



Value of Extension Volunteers in Other Programs \$ 74,190



We foster positive relationships through honesty, open communication and accountability. We meet educational needs by creating linkages among cultural, economic and environmental contexts. We recognize and trust the essential and interconnected nature of all roles within Cooperative Extension.

MEETING IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE COUNTY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



We recognize, appreciate and honor the differences, similarities and contributions of all people and communities. We are intentional in our efforts to ensure equity, justice and fairness. We embrace new ideas and approaches in our work.

WNEP strives to reach out to diverse, low income residents (preschool to seniors/families to singles) as statistics show increasing food insecurity in Dunn County:

- Poverty rate increase:
2012: 15.5%
- Food Share Recipient increase:
2012: 8200
4,899 adults
3,374 children
- 37% of female headed households are in poverty
- 18% of children 0-17 are in poverty

2012: WNEP reached 4,235 learners to help them learn to prepare healthy, economical meals; review food safety; and learn how to stretch their food dollars.

One of Family Living's major program areas includes Parenting. Parenting brings public value by giving parents the tools to up the odds that their kids will be prepared for the real world. Parenting the Love and Logic Way™ was offered to the Dunn County community in 2012. 95 parents attended the 6 week class. In addition, UWEX was instrumental in bringing co-founder Dr. Foster Cline to Menomonie. Over 300 people came to the two hour free event and nearly 100 professionals came to an all day session.

Back to the Table for Families on the Go!

Kristen Bruder, Family Living, and Sandy Tarter, WNEP, formed a unique partnership with WestCap and the Mayo Health Systems to help busy families come back to the table for a family meal.

Research shows that eating together as a family raises the odds that children will be more successful in their schoolwork, self-esteem development, behavior, and the list goes on! But how do families put a meal together when they are pulled in so many directions? Back to the Table offers:

- Parenting approaches to negate negative behavior by kids at the table.
- Ideas for enjoying a relaxing meal together as a family utilizing conversation starters.
- Food safety tips and information
- Nutrition information
- Freezer cooking concept – pull a meal from the freezer when cooking isn't feasible.
- How much freezer cooking saves the family budget!

In 2012 a pilot program was conducted at the Menomonie Middle School with 12 participants.

Each participant worked with a partner to prepare six meals (doubled so each could bring six meals home). The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive! A \$1,000 grant was awarded by the Community Foundation to continue the program and a financial partnership was formed with the hospital! This is a great way to bring nutrition and family mealtime back to busy families!



Regional Broadband

Educator: Jill Hietpas

Serving three counties (Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire) Jill cross programmed and collaborated with education agencies and UWEX program areas for education outreach for education regarding broadband and teaching computer skills to underserved populations.

Working under the Building Community Capacity through Broadband (BCCB) grant since April 2011, a total of 6,488 training hours were provided to constituents in the tri-county region. Training provided to Dunn County consisted of:

- Advanced computer series
- iPad training
- Basic computer series
- Computer problems nuts and bolts
- Photobooks/Picasa Classes
- Basic Email
- BCCB Broadband focus group

Thanks to a state and local partnership, Jill's work has continued in 2013. In Dunn County Jill's work has included starting an initiative with iPads and Agricultural Technology Outreach and the Fresh Start Computer Literacy and Nutrition series.



BROADBAND IN WISCONSIN: SOWING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE

As part of the Building Community Capacity through Broadband (BCCB) project, University of Wisconsin-Extension hired outreach educators to teach digital literacy, purchase devices (like the tablets pictured above) and fund fiber and WiMax infrastructure. Now these tools, along with free classes, are being used in communities and field tested, literally, around the state.

One example of this community outreach and education is the Crop Scouting and Diagnostic Clinic hosted by UW-Extension Chippewa County Agriculture Agent's Jerry Clark and Katie (Sternweis) Wantoch of UW-Extension Dunn County. Jill Hietpas, the BCCB project outreach educator in the Chippewa Valley, worked with Cooperative Extension colleagues in the Chippewa Valley to lend the tablets for participants to learn the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) toolkit and other UW Extension-developed applications.

Jim Pingel of New Auburn came to learn how to identify and manage crop pests and issues and how technology might help him in the field.

"Using iPads and other technology is a great idea, but it can be overwhelming to decide what apps to use without getting confused," he says. "It was nice to have these iPads with the UW-Extension apps already loaded with the information beneficial to my immediate needs. As a salesman I get people who want information now. I know the common pests (cutworms, aphids) but technology helped to see images for those I don't recognize."

Jill also was able to pull in assistance from the Chippewa Internetworking Consortium (CINC), a community-owned network providing broadband connectivity (1-10 Gbps circuits) to the community anchor institutions in the Chippewa Valley.



Family Living, Kristen Bruder

- Parenting Education
- Life Transitions
- Leadership and Volunteer Development
- Family Financial Education
- Community Development in Support of Families

Nutrition Education, Sandy Tarter/Karen Fritz

- Family Nutrition Education
- Food Safety
- Food Resource Management
- Poverty and Food Insecurity

Agriculture, Katie Wantoch

- Value-Added Agriculture
- Marketing and Risk Management
- Farm Management Education
- Agriculture Economic Development

4-H Youth Development, Jason Hausler and Cindy Bourget

- Community Development in Support of Youth
- Developing Leaders and Volunteers
- 4-H Community Clubs
- Youth-Adult Partnerships
- Agricultural Economic Development

Broadband, Jill Hietpas

- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention
- Sustainability

Other Services

- Real Colors Personality Workshops
- Research based publications:
<http://learningstore.uwex.edu>
- Insect and plant disease Identification
- Pressure Canner/Gauge Testing