**Family Living Program Report**

**Luane Meyer, Family Living Agent / September-October 2015**

Programming for the past month:

The six sessions of the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program were completed. Ongoing support that the participants indicated they would be involved with were using the Action Plan tool as a way of recording and motivating themselves to continue with self-care, take part in a related series that has a different focus that is being held at the BR Memorial Hospital, and stay in contact with Extension and other community agencies regarding the formation of a Support Group.

The fall session of the Strengthening Families Program began and Monica, Alex, and I are involved in facilitating sessions. We are continuing to recruit families for the 10-14 Program. The richness of the program comes from the families who are attending for different reasons – may be referred, want to become acquainted with families in the community, strengthen family relationships that are a part of a family with 2 parents in the household, blended family, parent and child, grandparents raising their grandchildren.

HCE is in the planning stages of a busy Fall season. Executive Board members and committee members are preparing to host the West District meeting in Black River Falls. The program will include two local presenters, Trisha Wagner and her presentation on Nicaragua and Tom Teeples will be speaking on the Ice Age Trail. During this 75th year of HCE in WI, members with 55+ years of membership are being recognized. The county Awards committee is putting together a display of 55+ members from the 8 counties. Another HCE honor is the installation of Joan Staffon as the 2016 WAHCE State President.

Team meetings for county staff included preparation and participation in the monthly staff meetings. Also a recent meeting of Community Program Advisory Group with a focus on issues within the county that the group could research and possibly provide leadership on as well as expanding on the membership of the group.

Professional Development Opportunities:

Attended the NW Regional Family Living Program discussions with 2 new Family Living Program specialists in the areas of Healthy Minds, Children & Families and Diverse and Underserved Children, Families and Communities.

Outreach Opportunities:

Articles submitted to 60 Forward quarterly newspaper as well as Banner Journal and Jackson County Chronicle. Team members from the office also used Facebook to boost the outreach of the Strengthening Families Program registration information.