

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

2010 Stakeholder Report



County Extension Council

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Greene County Extension Council

Every Iowa county has an elected Extension Council that guides local educational programming by partnering with staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the council represents the issues and people of the county.

We have identified these local issues as priority topics for current and future programming:

- Human Development
- Community Development
- Business Development

ISU Extension in Green County

104 • W. Washington St.
Jefferson, IA 50129
Phone: (515) 386-2138
Fax: (515) 386-3884
www.extension.iastate.edu/greene

In Greene County, it starts with Extension. Together we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Greene County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.

Extension Council Chair

Regional Extension Education Director

It Starts With Healthy People

Greene county residents have had the opportunity to learn about nutrition and health. The ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Program Specialist has provided residents opportunities to prepare healthy meals, food safety, stretching food dollars, smart shopping tips and general information for healthy living. Residents may have seen the Program Specialist at Toddlerfest in the spring, demonstrating healthy meal preparation at the county fair, training Jefferson-Scranton school district food service staff on food safety principles and practices, sharing economical and healthy shopping tips through Greene County Cares program, or inspecting pressure canners for safe food preservation.

The Greene County State 4-H Youth Conference Challenge sparked the interest of senior 4-H'ers resulting in a 300% increase in the number of Greene County youth attending the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference in Ames.

The Greene County Extension Council and the Greene County 4-H Foundation partnered to pay the full registration fee for the first 20

applicants. Twelve youth attended the 2010 Conference under the leadership of chaperones Melinda Tilley and Brent Badger. Youth attending were: Kristen Klocksiem, Emily Rumley, Brandon Tilley, Emma Tilley, Kami Badger, Stan Safley, Kelly Reed, Kyle Peterson, Taylor Hardin, Andrew Schnebly, Makayla Minnehan and Stephanie Thompson. Following their conference experience the participants shared presentations of the experience at a club meeting or other venue or at the county awards ceremony in November.



It Starts With Healthy Environments

Greene County has 36 members who support the community by promoting healthy environments

around the county. 11 new Master Gardener program participants completed their training in 2010.

Some of their 2010 projects include the upkeep and arrangement of flowers in front of the Extension Office, the annual bus tour and sponsorship of the annual plant sale plus public gardening seminars. A particularly energetic endeavor of the Master Gardeners is "The Bucket Brigade." Master Gardeners who are part of the Brigade plant flowers in buckets and set them around town or in front of venues with special events.



It Starts With Healthy Economies

Greene County Extension holds family financial security, community capacity building and entrepreneurship as high priorities. By employing Tina Meseck as a Family Financial Educator (FFE) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site coordinator work is being done to improve the financial future of families in Greene County.

Two IRS certified volunteers completed 51 tax returns in the first year of operating the Greene County VITA site for families with household incomes of less than \$48,279. While completing tax returns FFE Tina Meseck considers what additional information would be helpful to the client. She asks helpful questions that pertain to various financial topics. The aim is to keep community members informed of changes in financial practices and program related to family finances.

A total of \$96,027 was brought into Greene County as a result of these 51 tax return, with \$33,457 coming

from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Horizons

Grand Junction's Horizons continues their after school tutoring program twice a week at the Public Library with 10 – 15 participating. This opportunity allows elementary children time with adults who help with homework, a listen to children read and help practice math skills. Building wealth begins with a good educational foundation.

On September 16, twenty-two Greene County leaders learned how decisions made today may impact the community in the 20 or 30 years.

Building on Grand Junction's 2009 RuFES (Horizons)work, Don Macke, from RUPRI led a Entrepreneur Focused Economic Development discussion on October 7, 2010 funded by the Greene County Community Foundation.

Families Together

The *Families Together* program fulfilled a key need for high-quality education for parents and child care providers in Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties. Three 90-minute workshops were held this year with attendance figures showing a significant amount of repeat participation. This program continues to provide greater educational depth and information value to participants.

The *Partnering 4 Families Empowerment Area (P4F)*, encompassing Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties, is a collaborative group whose purpose is to promote the well-being of young children. Lack of high-quality education for parents and child care providers has been identified as a key need for the region.

In at least five prior years, the *Partnering 4 Families* group contracted with ISU Extension to provide education, but limited funding for 2009-10 made continued funding impossible. In the interest of

maintaining this highly desired program, Extension staff members sought and obtained limited funding from the County Extension Councils in Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie counties. This funding has enabled staff to continue much-needed parent and child care provider educational efforts in each of the four counties.



County staff promoted the programs and built partnerships with other organizations which serve children and families to effectively build participation. A total of 83 individuals participated with Ninety-eight percent responding that they had learned something they will apply to their interaction with children.

... and justice for all

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Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

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