

#### Extension Staff



Kathryn Pierson  
Office Manager



Ruth Anderson  
County Youth Coordinator



Craig Hertel  
Regional Extension Education  
Director

#### Extension Grant-Funded Staff



Val Cameron  
Preschool Enrichment Coordinator

#### Extension and Outreach Specialists housed in Warren County



Joy Rouse  
Families Program Field Specialist



Mike White  
Viticulturist

#### Extension Council

Our elected Extension Council guides local educational programming by partnering with staff. From needs assessment through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes, the Council represents the citizens of Warren County.



Standing from Left: Mark Davitt, John Monroe, Jason DeLay, Jason Huntley, Amy Tlach. Seated from Left: Lydda Youmans, Amy Oliver, Carol Mahr, and Stephanie Beier.

#### ISU Warren County Extension

909 East Second Avenue, Suite E  
Indianola, IA 50125  
Phone: (515) 961-6237  
Fax: (515) 961-6017  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/Warren](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Warren)

*Delve into Extension and discover how we support healthy people, environments, and economies. Read about some of the ways ISU Extension and Outreach meets local needs, improves quality of life, and helps make Warren County a better place to live. You'll be amazed at what we do.*

Jason DeLay  
Extension Council Chair  
Craig Hertel  
Regional Extension Education Director

#### 2011 Points of Pride

##### Priority Topics

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

- Education and Programming
- Quality Preschools
- Extension's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS)
- Making A Difference through 4-H

##### Healthy People

Sarah Tessmer, Warren County's Family Nutrition Specialist has been offering free nutrition classes for our Warren County resident expectant parents or parents with children under age 10. These classes strengthen family relationships; teach attendees time-saving steps when they shop; add meal variety and preparation; and, foster more



Back row: Alex Williams, Joe Staudacher, Grace Jakes, Emma Huffer, Nathan Magalhaes, Peter Jakes. Front row: Maggie Staudacher, Emma Jakes, Elliot Magalhaes, Aiden Hunerdosse, Jonathan Huffer

The Warren County Indianola Panthers 4-H Club recently participated in helping children through an organization called *Dress a Girl Around the World*. This organization provides new hand-made dresses for girls in developing countries. The club made more than 20 dresses out of pillow cases, bias tape and trim for young ladies in Africa.

#### Education & Healthy Environments

For 56 years, Indianola Preschool has provided a quality experience for preschoolers' ages 3-5 years. They offer a variety of class times to accommodate



100 preschoolers who participate in their nonprofit program. Indianola Preschool has obtained four of the five stars in Iowa's Quality Rating System for Child Care. QRS is a voluntary program that provides a guided way for child care providers to improve their quality of care.



*Pictured: Nole Rudie, Center, with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach staff.*

## Healthy Economies

When Noel Rudie, Harvest Innovations director of research, talks about the company's history and the successes experienced the past two years, he immediately acknowledges the level of service and depth of assistance provided by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach through the Center for Industrial Research and Service. "Using resources from CIRAS has allowed Harvest Innovations to focus on growth," says Rudie. Harvest Innovations, located in Indianola, is a manufacturer of high quality all-natural ingredients for the food industry. Ingredients are considered the finest, based on natural nutritional benefits provided by cereal grains, legumes and oil seeds. Harvest Innovations was formed with the acquisition of Soy Innovations in early 2009. With only twelve employees prior to the new ownership, the company quickly grew to twenty employees, but as a small company they had no internal resources to train employees.

Harvest Innovations soon contacted CIRAS for food safety and employee training. CIRAS was able to connect them to the Iowa-Illinois Safety Council and Lester Wilson, an Iowa State University professor in food science and human nutrition, as well as to the Center for Crops Utilization Research at Iowa State. Dr. Rudie, Director of Research, said, "The utilization of resources from CIRAS has allowed Harvest Innovations to focus on growth."

Another key component in the repertoire of CIRAS' services was the business continuity plan created by CIRAS; the key factor that positioned them to become a supplier for a large U.S. food company. In May, 2010 a customer request led the company to contract

CIRAS to complete a carbon footprint analysis of the plant. The potential impact of that study is an estimated increase of \$7 million to \$10 million in sales as well as an addition of five full-time employees.

The company now has 35 employees. "The services provided by CIRAS have made a huge impact on our bottom line and have paved the way for significant growth," explains Rudie.

## Representation

Your Extension Council members make every effort to represent and speak for Warren County citizens issues and needs as evidenced when they joined other members of the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils at the Legislative Day at the Capital.

After meeting with Representative Julian Garrett, Mark Davitt (Left) and Carol Mahr (second from right) posed with other members of Region 13.



## Making an Impact

**The creativity of our 4-H youth continues to abound and astound. Sarah Braun, 4-H'er from the Best of the Bunch, wrote, directed, and filmed the video "The Dangers of Texting While Driving." At the Iowa State Fair she won the Iowa 4H Film Festival - People's Choice Award.**



*Posing with Sarah Braun are Iowa State University Extension & Outreach staff: Chuck Morris, Jay Staker and Jed Findley.*

## Education

Children who begin school without basic language and literacy skills have difficulty learning to read. The National Research Council asserts that "academic success," defined by high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing someone's reading skill at the end of third grade. Parents, child care providers and other adults can be instrumental in preparing children to learn by reading to them at an early age.

Child Care Resource and Referral held a Family Storyteller class in Indianola for child care providers and parents. The Family Storyteller uses 12 reading techniques, video clips, modeling and take-home activities to increase the amount and quality of time parents (and other adults) and young children spend together in literacy activities.

The sequenced program was offered once a month with the cooperation of the Wee Care Nursery staff who generously provided child care. The children then joined the parents for the end of the session to read the featured book and do one of the take-home activities.

By the end of the sessions all participants were using the techniques they learned "quite a bit" or "most of the time." The participants touch the lives of 72 children. These children were exposed to early literacy activities and the adult support required for school readiness and early elementary success. Children with grade level reading skills by fourth grade are more successful throughout their lives.

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