



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Cindy Sarkady
UW Extension

February 5, 2018

Honorable Members of the Sheboygan County Board and County Administrator Adam Payne,

I am pleased to submit the 2017 Annual Report for UW Extension, Sheboygan County. In the past year, UW Extension has continued to teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, while engaging with individuals, families, towns, committees, partners and stakeholders in transforming lives and communities in Sheboygan County.

Highlights of the various educational outcomes in 2017 include increasing youth development opportunities in leadership, citizenship, and service learning; research projects included the gypsum study to improved soils physical conditions and the potential benefit for gypsum application to reduce dissolved reactive phosphorus moving from area fields into area waterbodies and clover cover crops as cover third and final year of this study, conducted by UW-Extension Sheboygan County and the UW-Madison Soil Science Department; Supporting Healthy Families evidence-based, seven-part Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14 was facilitated for the 8th time in Plymouth. The family skill-building program saves nearly \$10 for every \$1 invested in the program in future costs for drug treatment, lost earnings, and time in the juvenile justice system.

In 2017, the University of Wisconsin Extension nEXT Generation restructuring started on July 1, 2017, with Area Extension Directors transitioning in the role of Administrative Leadership. Educators who served as part-time Department Head returned to their program area focus 100% at the end of December 2017. I am proud to work with the UW Extension Sheboygan team and value the support of the Sheboygan County Administrator and County Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Mission Statement and Summary of Responsibilities

Through UW-Extension, the people of Sheboygan County and beyond can solve their most pressing issues and uncover their most promising opportunities through hundreds of programs and initiatives. Fundamental to this mission are UW-Extension's partnerships with Sheboygan County government, UW Sheboygan campus, and other public and private organizations. UW-Extension's wide-ranging initiatives impact 1.5 million people every year by providing access to university resources and engaging people in learning, wherever they live and work.

Responsibilities include integrating a scholarly approach to outreach into Sheboygan County focusing on Youth Development, Growth Management, Family Living, Nutrition, and Agricultural education, addressing the specific educational needs of under-served populations in our community, and empower area residents to make informed decisions, become more self-sufficient, to improve their lives and add value to the communities in which they live.

Goals and Objectives Achieved in 2017

- Wisconsin statutes require community comprehensive plans to be updated not less than once every 10 years. In 2017, the towns of Herman, Mitchell and Wilson, and the village of Howards Grove all faced update deadlines and risked losing the legal standing to rezone property. Growth Management Educator Kevin Struck made the four communities aware of the requirement, explained their planning options, and helped them make an informed choice of which update option was best.
- Engaging Youth in Citizenship Sheboygan County Youth Government Day program took place on April 19, 2017 in collaboration with Sheboygan County Government and the Sheboygan County American Legion Posts. Approximately 145 students from Cedar Grove, Oostburg, Random Lake, and Plymouth High Schools participated in the day-long program where they toured various county departments and participated in experiential learning to increase knowledge of the services, roles, and responsibilities of elected officials; increase their knowledge and confidence of students when engaged in voting at the polls; and increase confidence in engaging in government decision making.
- This past year's emphasis has been of building new relationships, both internally and externally. On October 1, the FoodWise program realigned to be with Fond du Lac County. FoodWise also developed external relationships with new partner agencies that share in the goal of a healthier community, including six local food pantries, an elementary school, a low-income housing site, an after-school agency, and the Sheboygan County Activity and Nutrition (SCAN) coalition. These relationships resulted in an additional 130 classes to be taught by FoodWise in 2018.
- Research partners have included: UW-Madison - Soil Science Department, Nutrient & Pest Management Program; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department; and The Nature Conservancy. Approximately 250 people attended Extension educational programs in 2017 to learn about cover crops and other best management practices. Research results will be disseminated throughout Sheboygan County and across the state.
- The evidence-based, seven-part Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14 was facilitated for the 8th time in Plymouth to provide outreach. The family skill-building program saves nearly \$10 for every \$1 invested in the program in future costs for drug treatment, lost earnings, and time in the juvenile justice system.

Budget

The UW-Extension Sheboygan County 2017 approved budget was \$459,416, with actual expenses of \$423,408. The 2018 levy amount is \$431,936. The total approved budget for 2018 is \$467,836. Our budget more closely reflects our expenses and revenue than in past years due to the accountability in financial management. The 2017 budget goals were accomplished primarily by responsible operations, pursuits of matching funds, sustainable program revenue, and support from community, county, and state stakeholders.

Issues and Challenges Ahead

Many UW Extension programs leverage substantial local, state and federal dollars to enhance the quality of life for residents in Sheboygan County. The state's 2015-17 biennial budget reduced the University of Wisconsin System funding by \$250 million. Cooperative Extension's portion of the cut is \$3.6 million per year – 8.3 percent of its ongoing state funding. The nEXT Generation Cooperative Extension movement has implemented the start of the regionalization of counties by creating 22 Areas. Local programming continues in all 72 counties. The regionalization structure instituted Area Extension Directors starting in July 2017 with the responsibility of Administrative oversight of an area consisting of 2 to 5 counties. The nEXT Generation model continues to move forward and now will moving under the UW Madison structure starting in July 2018. The commitment to local needs and education is still the driving mission of the UW Extension system.

Goals and Objectives for 2018

- Identify at least two populations of protected audiences throughout Sheboygan County, and implement at least two new strategies to meet the needs that are unique to these communities.
- Develop educational programs in crop science aimed at improving the profitability of cropping systems while implementing practices that protect natural resources.
- Support area farmer led groups to successfully implement useful on-farm demonstrations, and provide information and educational resources as requested.
- Provide technical assistance to Greenbush, Glenbeulah, Mosel, Rhine, Waldo, and Adell as each works on and adopts the required 10-year update to its comprehensive plan. With price quotes from consultants as high as \$20,000 per plan update, these communities will save substantial money partnering with UW-Extension.
- Provide groundwater and private well education through 1) year-round availability of homeowner testing kits at our UW-Extension Office, and 2) a local well water testing event to be held in cooperation with Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation, and the certified lab at UW-Stevens Point.
- By October 2018, at least 50% of participants will report intent to spend their FoodShare dollars more wisely by using food resource management strategies they have learned from FoodWise classes.
- Strengthen relationships and increase the capacity of youth serving agencies by offering at least two opportunities for professional or organizational development (e.g., parliamentary procedure, youth-adult partnership) to nonprofits throughout Sheboygan County.