



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
WAUPACA COUNTY

Spring 2022

Extension Waupaca County

# Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

## Community Development Educator Partners to Support Local Nonprofits

*By Jessica Beckendorf, UW-Madison Extension Community Development Educator for  
Waupaca County*



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Over the course of my career, I have had the opportunity to work with and guide many different types of organizations - from tiny organizations with only a founder and a few board members, to much larger organizations with paid staff.

The needs of each organization is unique and varies based on many factors - sometimes the issues are about relationships, sometimes they are financial, and often they are a complex mix of many different things.

The pandemic added a further complication for nonprofit and community organizations. According to a report from the Helen Bader Institute for Nonprofit Management and the UW-Whitewater College of Business and Economics, Wisconsin nonprofit and community organizations experienced significant challenges in their operations and fundraising. While many of these organizations have shown incredible resilience, they also have a long way to go toward recovering and building future sustainability.

In response to this statewide need, I have been involved in a collaboration to develop curriculum that supports local nonprofit and community organizations. The “Nonprofit Peer Learning Series” has been piloted twice in the past year, and this April we are offering it in Waupaca County, along with Taylor and Racine counties.

One of the unique features of this program is that it is focused on building a peer network while learning about some of the most asked-for skills. These workshops foster collaboration and a culture of co-creation through peer learning and network building.

### **An invitation to nonprofits and community groups**

There are four offerings during 2022-2023. Sign up for an individual offering, or all four - there is no requirement to sign up for the entire series. Each offering is \$75 (scholarships available)

- Spring 2022: Action Planning/Scenario Planning (starts April 22)
- Summer 2022: Fundraising and Donor Relations (starts in July)
- Fall 2022: Telling Your Story/Marketing (starts in October)
- Winter 2023: Leadership & Organizational Culture (starts in February 2023)

To sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/nonprofit-peer-series>

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## Igniting Sparks in Young People

By Penny Tank, UW-Madison Extension 4-H Educator for Waupaca County

A spark is a passion for a self-identified interest or skill, or a capacity that metaphorically lights a fire in a young person's life, providing energy, joy, purpose, and direction. Every young person has the potential to have a spark. 4-H plays an important role in helping young people discover and pursue their sparks through project work. During the month of March, there were 3 excellent examples of this for Waupaca County 4-H members.

A county-wide Cloverbud workshop was held for members in grades K-2. Seventeen youth from 11 different 4-H clubs participated in a hands-on art project, a connection activity, and learning the 4-H Pledge.



A two day Arts Retreat was planned by Tank and the 4-H Educators from Outagamie, Calumet, and Winnebago Counties. Forty-six youth from the four counties completed hands-on arts projects including pour painting, watercolor, song writing, fiber art, jewelry making, reflection journals, and more. Evaluations from this weekend were very positive and the youth really enjoyed the chance to focus on specific project work that they feel passionate about.

In addition, Waupaca County 4-H Super Saturday project day was back in person this month after two years! Close to 160 youth registered for over 40 classes. Youth and adults both volunteered to teach classes. A few examples of classes included ice fishing, cake decorating, pet toys, painting, animals, crafts, and woodworking. 93% of evaluation responders rated the event as a 4 or 5 out of 5 as to how well they felt Super Saturday accomplished the objective of increasing project knowledge or learning about an unknown area.

## Raising a Thinking Child

By Sandy Liang, UW-Madison Extension Human Development & Relationships Educator for Waupaca County

In February-March, Sandy Liang, Human Development and Relationships Educator, worked with colleagues to facilitate a 6-week virtual Raising a Thinking Child (RTC) workshop series. RTC is an evidence-based program for parents and caregivers of children 4 to 7 years old.

RTC has demonstrated effectiveness in developing interpersonal cognitive problem-solving skills in young

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children, improving parenting skills and parent-child communication, and in decreasing both impulsive and inhibited behaviors.

The workshop series consisted of:

- Teaching dialogue to use with children to encourage problem-solving skills, understanding feelings, and to consider consequences.
- Group discussion to learn from one another.
- Interactive activities for participants to try at home or in a classroom using RTC principles.



Photo courtesy of Canva.

There were 12 participants, with both parents and early childhood educators who signed up. At the end of the workshop series, evaluation data showed that 100% would recommend the series to others. Some comments included:

“

I've noticed I've become a lot better at stopping and thinking before jumping into stressful situations - and the kids have gotten better at it too. I've especially noticed the past week, my kids have become a lot better at thinking about a good idea/choice before acting, as well as identifying their own feelings and working with me to find a solution.”

“

We spend more time communicating and less time yelling or trying to quickly solve an issue.”

Next steps include a virtual offering that is designed for Spanish-speaking participants to expand the reach and impact of RTC.

## New Partnerships Helps Expand Nutrition Education Reach in Waupaca County

By *Christi Gabrilska, UW-Madison Extension FoodWise Coordinator for Calumet, Outagamie, Winnebago & Waupaca Counties*  
*Hailee Struck, UW-Madison Extension FoodWise Educator for Waupaca County*

Waupaca County FoodWise services are offered to local schools in which 50% or more of their students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. This year a local school met that requirement and became a new partner, Manawa Elementary. A series of nutrition education lessons were offered which included topics relating to MyPlate, the five food groups and making healthy choices. Ninety students between the second and fourth grades were provided this education this spring. Each student was given the opportunity to expand on their knowledge of the MyPlate, which is also taught in their Physical Education class at school. They were also taught about the benefits fruit, vegetables, grains, protein and dairy provide our bodies with and suggested amounts their ages are suggested to eat. These lessons also cover, sometimes foods, and the amounts of added sugar in common

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beverages. Multiple delivery methods are used to teach these topics, including: hands on, games, art, movement, writing and mathematics. The fan favorite is the sample that is provided from each food group, in which our educator, Hailee, brings in a tasty sample for reinforcement and exposure to different foods.

FoodWise is able to provide these lessons throughout the county at other qualifying schools. Our other school partners include Rexford- Longfellow Elementary in Clintonville, Clintonville Head Start, Weyauwega Elementary, and Lincoln Elementary in New London.



## Connecting with Extension Waupaca County Educators & Staff

Extension Waupaca County is closely monitoring the impact COVID-19 is having on our community and our Extension programming. We are following the guidance from UW-Madison, Waupaca County Public Health and our Waupaca County partner and adjusting our procedures for events and staffing as needed.

To continue to be a resource, Extension Waupaca County Educators continue to **work safely and deliver programming using the most current guidance and best practices.** We are very much available—email is best. **Staff are working on innovative methods to serve YOU!** Please check our website for the **latest** information and resources:

**[waupaca.extension.wisc.edu](http://waupaca.extension.wisc.edu)**

You may also **call** our office at 715-258-6230 or **email** [amy.ebert@wisc.edu](mailto:amy.ebert@wisc.edu) for assistance.

### Connect via EMAIL:

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