



Extension Impact: Education Makes a Difference

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WAUPACA COUNTY

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Find Your Super Power at 4-H Camp

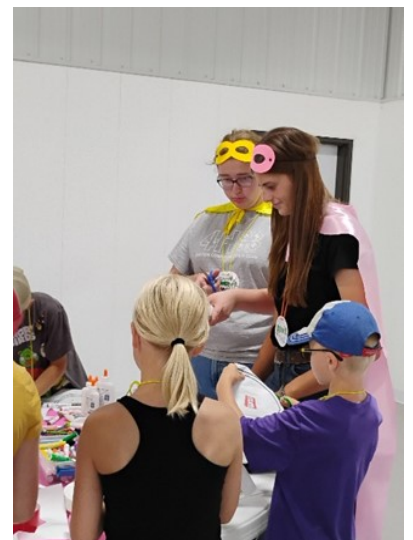
By Penny Tank, UW-Madison Extension 4-H Educator for Waupaca County

Superheroes was the theme of the annual 4-H sponsored younger member camp experience. This is a day camp type program held in the evening from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds for 4-H members and kids not in 4-H. Thirty-five children grades K-4 participated, 5 youth were group counselors, and 12 youth and adults partnered to lead the sessions of Superhero snack mix, craft, tie-dyeing, and STEM. Six of the campers were non 4-H members. Many parents stayed for the evening



for a total of close to 80 people. This event is planned by Tank and the 4-H youth ambassador group. The youth decided on the theme and came up with many great ideas (including all older youth wearing a super hero cape)! In addition to our own advertising, the Superhero Camp flier was shared with all school districts and public

libraries in the county to post on their social media accounts and hang on the bulletin board. The evaluations showed that the campers had a good time. They enjoyed tie-dyeing and making a bubble blower the most. When asked something they learned at camp, some responses included new games, how to make better bubbles (STEM class), and that you can do anything with your imagination! Day Camp is also an excellent opportunity annually for older youth to be involved in all parts of the event from brainstorming to planning to leading.



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The Impact of Community Collaboration on Waupaca County's Resource Fair

By Amy Ebert, UW-Madison Extension Community Development Educator for Waupaca County



In August, Connecting Waupaca County Communities (CWCC) hosted its first resource fair in Manawa, bringing together a wide range of services and resources under one roof for families and children in Waupaca County. The fair's primary goal was to consolidate essential services in one location, making it easier for residents to access support. Additionally, the event served as a valuable networking opportunity for local organizations, creating connections and collaboration within the community. Through engaging activities, education, and empowerment, the fair aimed to strengthen community ties and enhance the quality of life for all attendees.



Organized by a planning team from over five agencies and several community members, the fair featured 38 tabling organizations, 18 event volunteers, and 8 service volunteers. The fair served 136 attendees with services including free haircuts, family photos, health screenings, and complimentary shuttles for those needing transportation. Attendees also received a box of pantry staples from Feeding America and had access to produce from a small farmers market on site. Generous donations from local organizations and individuals greatly contributed to the fair's success.



I actively participated in group decision-making and supported the team in increasing their capacity to reach their goals. I collaborated with members to develop a multilingual website and promotional materials in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and English to increase accessibility. I also volunteered during the event to help things run smoothly.

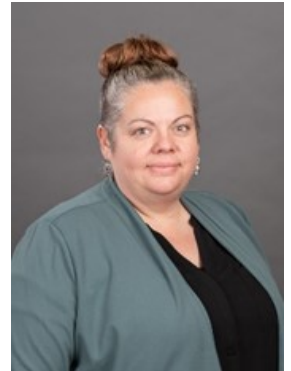
Feedback from tabling organizations, volunteers, and attendees was positive. CWCC is already looking forward to hosting the event again next year. This experience has provided useful insights and set a strong foundation for future events. As the facilitator for the upcoming debrief meeting, I will guide the team in reflecting on the event's successes and challenges. This approach will help them celebrate achievements, address areas for improvement, and build on this momentum for even greater impact in the future.



New Educator and Program Assistant Join Extension– Waupaca County

By Alicia Utke, UW-Madison Extension Human Development and Relationships Educator for Waupaca County

Alicia Utke has joined the Extension Waupaca County team as the Human Development and Relationships Educator. She has a strong foundation in family life education and extensive experience in community engagement. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Family Life Education and a minor in Psychology from UW-Stevens Point. Alicia has served as the Human Development and Relationship Educator at the University of Madison Extension in Sheboygan County for the past year. Prior to her Extension roles, she spent several years as the Lead Preschool Teacher at the University Child Learning and Care Center, affiliated with UW Stevens Point. She is particularly drawn to Waupaca County Extension because of its commitment to rural families. Alicia is eager to bring her experience in supporting older people, caring for caregivers, teaching families, and community collaboration to the team.



Allie Bellin is the new program assistant for Extension- Waupaca County. Summer is her favorite season as she enjoys boating & kayaking, playing sand volleyball and being outside in the sunshine. During the cold winter months she likes to read, build puzzles and watch reruns of Golden Girls and Friends. She loves to travel and spend time with her family and friends.



Food Justice, Food Insecurity in Waupaca County

By Christi Gabrilska, UW-Madison Extension FoodWise Coordinator for Calumet, Outagamie, Winnebago & Waupaca Counties

Hailee Paul, UW-Madison Extension FoodWise Educator for Waupaca County



FoodWise staff Hailee and Christi, co-facilitators of Waupaca County Hunger Network, began planning an exhibit that would highlight the topic of food insecurity at the Waupaca Public Library in February. The Network has many members that work with individuals and families who are affected by this subject. With everyone's expertise, resources, state specialists and county, state and nation wide data, the team created ways to depict this information. The intention is to bring light to the area statistics and the importance of the supplemental programs that are available. It's raw and real with lots to digest and take away. The exhibit is free during the library's operating hours. There have been visitors

from near and far and one was James Card from the Waupaca County Post who wrote an article featuring this work.

“In Waupaca County, 5,653 people live in poverty. In Wisconsin, 19.5% of children face food insecurity.

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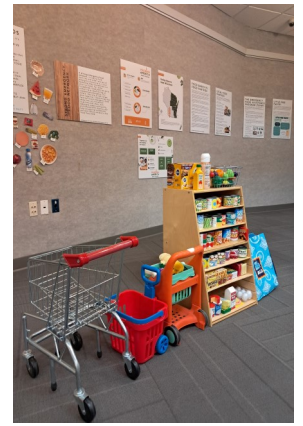
These are some of the facts on display in the exhibition room at the Waupaca Area Public Library. The exhibit is titled “Food Justice” and was created in partnership with the Waupaca County Hunger Network, FoodWise, and Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

Compared to other previous exhibits that feature artwork, history or interesting achievements, this exhibit is educational about a topic that is difficult for some to comprehend. The exhibit is well organized and succinct and within about 15 minutes of perusal, one can walk away well informed about food issues locally and on the state and national level.

Many topics are covered, such as the difference between a food bank and a food pantry (a bank donates food to other groups, a pantry donates food to individuals). There is the table-leg model of food security: emergency food network, vibrant food systems, federal food programs and economic security. Some assumptions are challenged: people in the country can grow their own food, right? There is a section on rural hunger and it turns out it is worse than urban hunger (15% for rural areas, 11.8% for urban areas).

There is information about some solutions such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Project Backpack, Foodshare, farmer’s market programs, various meal programs for school children and a listing of local pantries. The exhibit will be on display until Sept. 14.

The Waupaca Area Public Library is walking the walk on this topic. In 2022, they created the Little Free Pantry within the library. Check out the refrigerator on the main floor. There is no registration, checkout or income limits. If a person in the community needs food, they can help themselves. They accept donations of non-perishable foods and depending on the season, they have fresh produce from community gardens.”



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