



# Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – August 2014

*Banner created by the  
"Young Dreamers"*

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## **Community Gardens**

The UW-Extension Community Gardens are getting the water line upgrade this month...it has been a long time in the works. A grant was received from the Fond du Lac Area Foundation to install the line. This project was started two years ago after speaking with the city water works department. The plumber wanted to wait until the ground had dried out this summer to begin the work. Now that the gardening season is slowing down and water isn't needed as much, it will be ready to go for next year. Staff at the garden will have a more efficient means to distribute water while gardeners will have greater water access.

## **Junior Master Gardeners Field Trip**

UW-Extension Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program and Master Gardeners invited Junior Master Gardener youth on a fun field trip on July 29. The Boys and Girls Club also brought their group along to Maywood Environmental Park & Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan. There were lots of things for the kids to explore, and we ended the day with a stop at Kelley's for ice cream. This trip was a culmination of a three month program where 15 children, ages 9 to 12 learned about gardening and healthy eating.

## **Young Dreamers**

My name is Araceli Oswald. I started working for UW-Extension July 1 as the Bilingual 4-H Youth Development Assistant in FDL County. In my effort to reach out to the Latino community, I have taken on the project "Young Dreamers." "Young Dreamers" is an initiative to introduce the Latino community to the 4-H program and educate both children and their families about the great mission and endless possibilities that 4-H has to offer. UW-Extension and Holy Family Catholic Community in Fond du Lac County have come together to create this group.

"Young Dreamers" are going to resume their meetings September 8 where they have very exciting activities waiting for them. We have created a partnership with two professors of UW-Fond du Lac: Kristi Wilkum (Communications-Theatre Arts) and Michaela Nowel (Anthropology-Sociology). They have agreed to give their students the opportunity to complete their service-learning by visiting this group. They will plan, create and carry out an educational project. Information will be distributed to the parents each time the group meets to create awareness of the topics their children are learning and the skills they are developing.

## **Where Does My Money Go**

From time to time, a person may have asked this question of themselves: "Where Does My Money Go?" when they find there is more month than money left. Financial security is the goal for many Americans. Financial security is defined as a family's ability to meet its short-term needs and to reach its long-term financial objectives. The path to financial security begins with establishing financial stability or the ability to make ends meet.

The ADVOCAP Fresh Start program has included Fond du Lac County UW Extension Family Living Programs as an educational component in their Federal Youth Builds Grant. The Fresh Start program provides an opportunity for their participants to get a “fresh start” on life, through helping them obtain GED’s, create an awareness of the need to be in control of their finances through learning about setting up a spending plan and understand how to fix healthy, economical nutritional meals, while learning building trades skills.

Financial literacy education is taught once a month to Fresh Start participants, using the National Endowment for Financial Education Curriculum which encompasses the concepts of developing and using a spending plan, understanding credit and its use, understanding financial services including savings, debit/checking accounts, writing checks, reconciliation of financial accounts and insurance. Participants each month are working on individual spending plans, gaining knowledge of their income and expenses and how they use it.

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