



# Franklin County

2105 S. Hamilton Rd., Suite 100  
Columbus 43232, 614-462-6700



## 2008 County Highlights

### Strengthening Families and Communities

- **630 families** graduated from the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** in Franklin County. The participants learned the importance of good nutrition, wise use of their resources, and food safety basics. These lessons impacted 2,281 family members from the participants' homes. Individuals participating in EFNEP in Franklin County showed improvement in all practices evaluated. 76% improved in food resource management practices, 85% in nutrition practices, and 60% in food safety practices. The 4-H Youth Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program in Franklin County reached 1,315 youth through school enrichment and summer programs.
- **Senior Options**—1,800 senior adults at 40 sites attended Senior Series educational programs designed to improve their mental and physical health, and to strengthen their ability to remain independent. 85% of the participants plan to do something differently based on what they learned.
- The Franklin County Family Nutrition Program (FNP) targeted 1,979 older adults who were either receiving food stamps or were food stamp eligible. Of those older adults, 75% reported that they learned new information and 74% stated they would make the changes recommended at the nutrition programs. A Franklin County program assistant has presented nutrition information on the VoiceCorp Radio Service, which has approximately 2,000 listeners.

### Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- **Habitat Helpers**—Participants in the Junior Master Gardener program, conducted at Dublin's Chapman Elementary School from February through October, utilized the outdoor school habitat for lessons led by school staff and a Master Gardener volunteer. Twenty-four students participated during the school year, and several continued to come to summer sessions. Youth learned about plants, growing vegetables, streams and pollution, and built a special Japanese meditation garden.

### Preparing Youth for Success

- The **Real Money, Real World** 4-H curriculum was offered for 6 weeks to four Gahanna High School Family and Consumer Sciences classes reaching 120 junior

and senior students. In the Columbus City Schools, 35 students at Clinton Middle School participated in the money management assimilation activity. These students presented what they learned to the County Commissioners on March 4.

- **4-H CARTEENS**—363 teens and 363 parents/guardians participated in 4-H CARTEENS, a two-hour traffic safety educational program for teen traffic offenders. 4-H teen volunteers served as facilitators for a series of traffic safety learning stations. The teen participants become more aware of the dangers of driving impaired and/or speeding.
- **Camping**—24 Franklin County teens prepared as Certified Camp Counselors to lead activities at 4-H Junior Camp in 2008. 94 youth attended the Franklin County Junior Camp and developed self-reliance, decision making skills, and a better understanding and appreciation for the environment.
- OSU Extension, Franklin County received a 21st Century Learning Center grant through the Columbus Public Schools to provide **4-H Afterschool** programming at the Indianola Middle School. This collaboration affords Franklin County Extension an opportunity to expand 4-H Youth Development curricula to 55 urban middle school youth and focus on the following topics during the afterschool hours: academic achievement, substance abuse prevention, and health and wellness.
- **Livestock Quality Assurance**—130 youth enrolled in market livestock projects received Quality Assurance training to meet the legal requirements for them to sell animals at the Franklin County Fair. This training offers 4-H members valuable information about treating animals humanely and ethically while also giving them the skills they need to raise livestock and safely contribute to the food chain.
- 75 fifth- and sixth-graders in Franklin County have joined the **Young Buckeye STEM Scholars** program, sponsored by the Ohio 4-H Youth Development Program and the Ohio Academy of Science. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. The afterschool program, funded by the Ohio General Assembly last summer, is designed to spark interest in those areas among Ohio's youth by capitalizing on 4-H's emphasis on experiential-based learning. Each school participating in the project has started a new 4-H club. The schools participating in the program are Brookside

Elementary, Colonial Hills Elementary, and Slate Hills Elementary. The program is scheduled through August 2009.

- **Leadership Training**—75 youth serving as club officers had the opportunity to attend peer-taught training to learn how to effectively run the business meetings for their 4-H clubs giving them life skills to become community leaders.
- **Columbus Summer Youth Work Program** in partnership with Godman Guild helped 125 youth build leadership and workforce skills. They also learned how to manage the money they earned as participants in the mayor's summer youth work training program.
- **Children Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR)**—One of Ohio's two demonstration sites for building capacity in at-risk populations was completed in 2008. Teens enrolled in the BYLAWS (Building Youth Leadership and Workforce Skills) program learned how to create an effective resume, complete a job application, participate in an interview, and demonstrate desirable leadership habits on the job.
- 150 youth ages 5–8 participated in six fun, educational events at the **4-H Cloverbud Day Camp** held at Blendon Woods Metro Park. The youth increased their knowledge of what a seed is and how a plant grows. They also learned about insects found in Ohio soils; how to choose and make a healthy snack; participated in “parachute” and “Noodle” games; and completed two craft activities.

### **Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities**

- **Columbus Saves**—4,200 individuals heard the message, “Build Wealth, Not Debt.” Proclamations were received by Franklin County Commissioners and Columbus City Council. News shows on NBC and ABC covered personal finance information. Thirty-five community partners helped spread the message. In addition, 2,000 fliers were distributed to Earned Income Tax Credit Participants. An event organized by the Franklin County Commissioners on February 29 with County Treasurer

Ed Leonard participating at Woodcrest Elementary School was presented to second graders. The County Commissioners gave each child a piggy bank explaining this was the first step to saving money.

- **Family Resource Management**—“It's About Time,” a Balancing Work and Family class, was taught to 52 Ohio Job and Family Service employees and to 84 women enrolled in New Direction Career Center for a total of 136 participants. As a result of the classes, participants increased their knowledge about work life balance, goal setting, stress management, and effective personal time management.
- OSU Extension helped over 500 families earn in excess of \$600,000 in earned income and child tax credit through the **Earned Income Tax Credit campaign**. These services were provided at the OSU Extension Learning Center at Godman Guild and OSU's African/African-American Studies Extension Center.
- OSU Extension taught financial literacy and leadership development seminars to over 80 youth who participated in the **Columbus Franklin County Youth Works** program this summer. Youth had an opportunity to participate in a one-day Reality Day program operated by 20 volunteers, who worked in various financial and non-financial fields.
- A financial literacy seminar was presented to 50 youth enrolled in the City of Columbus Techcorps Program. A financial literacy workshop was conducted for 27 adults transitioning from welfare to the workforce who are enrolled in Godman Guild's Job Success program. Also, a financial literacy workshop was conducted for 35 individuals who were formerly incarcerated and presently enrolled in a re-entry program at Community Connections.
- OSU Extension/University District was instrumental in helping the Weinland Park Civic Association obtain a \$75,000 grant to promote safety in the area. Some of the funded projects will include a Community Ambassadors program, safety educational workshops, and a neighborhood based, police-youth initiative.

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Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension

TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868