



ILLINOIS

Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

What We Do

University of Illinois Extension is the community-based outreach arm of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Based in Naperville, our staff and volunteer team provide the link between the University and the residents of DuPage County.

U of I Extension programs are aimed at making life better, healthier, safer and more profitable for individuals and their communities. Locally, we offer informal education in the areas of 4-H youth development, horticulture and natural resources, health and wellness, and SNAP-Education with Illinois Nutrition Education Programs.

2019 DuPage County Reach

Volunteers

**414**Extension/4-H
volunteers

Volunteer Hours

**18,139**Volunteer hours in
communities

Volunteer Value

**\$487,758**Volunteer value*
to communities

4-H Program

**7,623**Youth
Participants

SNAP-Education

**2,826**Unique
Participants

Master Gardeners

**7,998**Direct
Contacts

Website

**76,509**Local Unique
Page Views

Facebook

**193,004**Facebook
Post Reach

Media

**246**Print and
Broadcast

* \$26.89 per hour was utilized as the hourly value of Illinois volunteer service, as reported by Independent Sector at www.independentsector.org

Contact Us

E-mail: uie-dkk@illinois.eduVisit our website: go.illinois.edu/extensiondkkFind us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/extensiondkk

DuPage County

1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170, Naperville IL 60563

630-955-1123

From Our Participants

4-H was the key to my growth from a shy child to a confident leader. It gave me many unique opportunities to make a difference for my club, my community, and beyond.

ALEXANDER FORD

4-H MEMBER

Extension has provided us with an opportunity to engage with our neighbors in a greater understanding of gardening best practices, environmental issues and nature.

MICHAEL & JUDITH HORSLEY

MASTER PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS



Master Gardeners teach and garden with residents of DuPage Care Center. Over the past 10 years, Master Gardeners have given 16,125 volunteer hours to the therapeutic horticulture project. It is just one of more than a dozen Master Gardener-led projects in the county.



PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Healthy West Chicago collaborates with Extension by working with both the SNAP-Ed and the Nutrition and Wellness teams to help serve all residents. The diverse offerings include presentations for adult residents, afterschool programs for youth, and cooking demonstrations and nutrition education at community fairs. “We like that all programming is evidence-based,” said Carly Smitherman, program administrator. **“They are meant to offer our community members knowledge to make long-term lifestyle changes.”**



YOUTH CAN CHOOSE TO EXPERIENCE 4-H IN DIFFERENT WAYS

In DuPage County, youth may participate in 4-H through several avenues. Some get to know 4-H at one-time workshops; others may check out a special interest club on robotics or sewing, or have been part of an afterschool program. Hundreds also participate by joining a community club, attending regular meetings, doing community service and completing hands-on projects. The goal is the same — providing positive youth development. Programs address animal sciences; career and leadership development; creative arts; environmental sciences; global civic engagement; healthy living and nutrition; and STEM. **“I like that you can choose to do projects that interest you, and that you wouldn’t normally have the option to explore,”** said 4-H member Nuha Hussain.

MASTER NATURALIST STARTS TREE TAGGING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Master Naturalist Paula Kosin of Downers Grove decided to try to “cure tree blindness” in her neighborhood. The term describes how many people do not actively notice trees, or know how to identify or care for them. When the leaves turned colors in fall, she tagged trees with signs “introducing” them to her neighbors. For example: “Hi! I am a Freeman Maple. I am your clean air machine.” The tags outlined other benefits of trees, such as supporting wildlife and boosting home values. The tags also provided care tips, like proper watering and mulching techniques. Kosin’s goal was to raise awareness of parkway trees and educate residents. **“I love spending time outdoors, and I want to share that appreciation and respect for nature and the environment with others,”** she said. Her work earned the education award among the Master Naturalist group.



TEAM HELPS LOCAL PANTRIES SERVE CLIENTS

In DuPage County, one in six children go to bed hungry every night. The SNAP-Education team works with food pantry partners at many levels. For example, our team guided Wayne Township Food Pantry (WTFP) for its grand reopening. This included layout assistance, proper messaging and engaging resources to ensure WTFP was ready to reopen its doors. **Impactful environmental changes — such as colorful signage, recipe cards, and attractive displays for fruits and vegetables — help make the healthy choice the easy choice.** WTFP serves parts of Bartlett, Carol Stream, Hanover Park, St. Charles, Wayne and West Chicago.