

MSU Extension Contributions and Impacts for Macomb County

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Macomb County offers essential educational services to county residents that other organizations and county departments cannot provide. Staff members serve civic leaders, community organizations, businesses, families, children, agriculture and natural resource managers with need-based, unbiased, university generated information.

Since the early 1990s Macomb County MSU Extension has received non-county grants ranging from **\$750,000** to **\$1.2 million** annually. In 2008, the department received **\$820,428 in non-county grants**. These grants represent support from **20 organizations**, including state and federal government, foundations, financial institutions and non-profit organizations. In addition, volunteers for MSU Extension's mentoring, 4-H youth development, Master Gardener, Great Lakes Education and Master Composter programs contribute time valued at **nearly \$1.5 million** annually.

For every \$1 Macomb County invests in MSU Extension, Michigan State University contributes \$2.2. That contribution produces educational activities that produce results:

For Retaining Homeowners

- MSU Extension provided education in home ownership, home repair and personal financial management to 463 Macomb County residents this year.
- Of the 537 people who attended MSU Extension sponsored foreclosure prevention or counseling seminars this year, 148 were able to avoid foreclosure, which saved **\$3.2 million** to the homeowners, neighbors and local government.
- In 2009 MSU Extension will begin a unique partnership with leaders in Eastpointe and Mount Clemens, communities where residents are experiencing high numbers of foreclosures, to market vacant properties to targeted homebuyers. Upon completion, the program will be replicated in other communities.

For Entrepreneurs and Farmers

- MSU Extension staff members assisted more than 500 growers with university-tested information to meet their production challenges. Macomb County's agricultural industry is valued at **\$44 million**.
- Using current technologies and recommended rates when applying commercial pesticides not only saves lawn care and landscape businesses money, but it also protects the environment. This year MSU Extension helped **200 commercial pesticide applicators** learn about the most modern, safe and effective pest control strategies while meeting compliance regulations.
- Owners of nearly **100 new or expanding agriculture and food businesses** received counseling to explore developing or growing a business with help from MSU Extension. Five of these business owners received business development grant funding totaling **\$174,000**.

For Communities

- **Nearly 120 Macomb County elected and appointed officials** learned about community planning, zoning and development from MSU Extension staff members this year.

- Macomb County's **300 active Master Gardeners** reported more than **10,000 volunteer hours** this summer. Another 65 individuals completed the fall 2007 Master Gardener training program and will join the volunteer ranks in 2009. The value of Macomb County Master Gardener volunteers' contribution to the community is **\$195,200**.
- MSU Extension staff assisted in the launch, expansion, education or evaluation of 13 farmers markets in the Metro-Detroit area this year. An economic analysis of one of these markets in 2007 revealed **annual gross sales of \$600,000**.

For Natural Resource Preservation and Protection

- This year **more than 10,000 youths and 384 adults** learned about water quality, groundwater protection and waste management in MSU Extension programs.
- Composting yard waste provides a safe source of nutrients and keeps materials from landfills. This year MSU Extension helped 40 Macomb County residents become Master Composters. These individuals spent 505 hours teaching others how to compost, a service worth **\$9853**.
- Nearly **2,500 youths and more than 1,000 adults** learned about the history, science and fishery of the Great Lakes, many through hands-on studies offered by Michigan Sea Grant Extension. University research has shown that this program significantly improves the knowledge and behavior of participants with respect to the Great Lakes.
- There are 57 marinas, 27 marine service businesses and 57,494 registered recreational boats in Macomb County that contribute to a marine industry valued at **\$23.5 million** that provides **3,095 jobs, \$81 million** in personal income and **\$115 million** in value-added business. Participants in this industry take part in Michigan Sea Grant Extension They learned to strengthen their economic viability and make environmentally sound decisions.
- MSU Extension staff members and Master Gardener volunteers provided 340 homeowners and landscape businesses received diagnostic assistance valued at **\$6,800** for home and landscape pest and plant problems and more than **2,340 residents** received similar help over the phone and via MSU Extension publications.

For Families

- In Macomb County, childcare is a **\$204 million industry employing 3,600 people in 800 childcare businesses**. MSU Extension offers free or low-cost training that enables these providers to meet state licensing requirements and provide quality care.
- MSU Extension educators provided **nearly 5,300 hours of state-mandated training** on child development, regulatory compliance and business management was conducted for Macomb County childcare providers.
- **2,500 people received referrals** to licensed childcare businesses in Macomb County and 90 percent of those referrals eliminated a barrier to allowing the parents to return to work or school.
- Research has shown that **early literacy is directly correlated with later academic success**. Macomb County MSU Extension staff members helped 86 local families with 144 children participate in an early literacy program to give them a good start in school that can last throughout their academic careers.
- Families become more stable when their members learn communication, problem solving and child-rearing skills. This year alone, **220 Macomb County residents** attended court-referred anger management classes taught by MSU Extension staff members. They learned strategies that will help them avoid interpersonal conflicts and prevent further contact with the judicial system.

For Low-Income Residents

- MSU Extension staff members provided nutrition education to **1,219 persons in families, 251 Macomb County senior citizens and people with disabilities and more than 2,300 youths** last year. As a result of this work, participants learn to make healthier food choices, save money, prevent chronic diseases and prevent incidence of food-borne illnesses.
- MSU Extension provided nutrition education and coupons to more than 763 low-income Macomb County families in 2008 through Project FRESH. The recipients learned about selecting, cooking, serving and safely preserving vegetables and used the coupons to purchase fresh, locally grown produce at approved farmers' markets. The families purchased **\$15,272, in** produce and enjoyed nutritious food while the farmers who sold the produce received additional income and new customers.

For Young People

- All 191 young people who took part in the MSU Extension mentoring program this year avoided placement in the county's youth home. This activity potentially saved taxpayers **nearly \$17 million** as the cost of housing one person at the youth home is **\$250 per day**.
- Nearly 140 positive, caring adult mentors spent 2,723 hours mentoring these youths. The value of their time is more than **\$53,000**.
- The peer mentoring involved 21 young people in learning listening and shared communication skills and empathy for others as they spent about 1,200 hours mentoring 26 youths. The value of their time was more than **\$24,000**.
- More than **12,400 Macomb County young people** took part in MSU Extension 4-H youth development activities this year. They learned valuable life skills like teamwork, organization and responsibility and developed positive relationships with nearly 1,293 adult volunteer leaders and 165 teen leaders. Macomb County 4-H club leaders spent 73,500 hours with these young people, which is worth **\$1.38 million**.
- **More than 27,000 Macomb County students at 26 schools** took part in an educational program offered by MSU Extension and the Macomb Intermediate School District aimed at helping them develop healthy lifestyle habits related to nutrition and exercise.