

# Urban Partnerships

## National Big Cities Extension Conference

San Diego, California  
August 1994

# ≈ URBAN SUCCESS STORIES ≈

## - TABLE OF CONTENTS -

<b>SECTION #1</b>	<b>THE ENVIRONMENT</b>	
1	Environmental Issues Program	San Diego
2	Groundwater Management Education	Long Island
3	Minnesota Don't Bag It Lawn Care	Minneapolis/St. Paul
4	Schultze House	San Antonio
5	Texas AgriFood Masters	San Antonio
6	Tree Planting	San Antonio
7	Urban Garden Center	Honolulu
8	Urban Greening Initiative	Los Angeles
<b>SECTION #2</b>	<b>FAMILY LIFE ISSUES</b>	
9	Casa de Milagros (House of Miracles)	San Antonio
10	Community Access Resource Network	San Antonio
11	Family Life Skills Shares The Basics	Columbus
12	Food Nutrition Program	St. Paul
13	Food Service - Train The Trainer	San Antonio
14	Neighborhood Family Initiative	Detroit
15	Nutrition Education - Homeless/Disabled	San Antonio
16	Take Charge/Be Somebody	New York City
<b>SECTION #3</b>	<b>4-H &amp; YOUTH</b>	
17	4-H After School Activity Program	Los Angeles
18	Classroom Gardens	San Antonio
19	Dads Make A Difference	St. Paul
20	Green Brigade	San Antonio
21	Jump In	St. Paul
22	Making The Grade/Making A Difference	Fairfax
23	Parent Readiness Education Program	Chicago
24	Science Educator Training	Detroit
25	Seattle 4-H	Seattle
26	Teens And Greens	Pittsburgh
27	Urban Youth Awareness Of Agriculture	San Antonio
28	Water Wizards	San Antonio
29	Willing & Interested Seniors For Education	Chicago
30	Youth At Risk School-Age Child Care	San Diego
<b>SECTION #4</b>	<b>NETWORKING / INFORMATION</b>	
31	First Time Home Buyers	West Palm Beach
32	Partnerships That Get Better And Better	Columbus
33	Making Friends With The Media	Columbus
34	Metro INFO-U Consumer Information System	St. Paul

**TITLE: ≈ ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PROGRAM ≈**

**CITY/STATE: San Diego, California**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- To build coalitions for constructive problem solving in the environmental arena, from groups that are traditionally at odds
- To deal with issues involving urban encroachment on the surrounding agricultural areas
- To develop model systems involving the handling of environment issues that can be utilized in other areas of the state and nation

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Environmental Issues Program works with many of the National Initiatives that have come to the forefront in San Diego County. Issues include: Water Quality and Best Management Practices for Agriculture and Non-Point Source Pollution, Waste Management and Sewage Sludge Utilization, Lead Toxicity and Utilization, Endangered Species Habitats and Wetlands Considerations in Land Use, Pesticide Safety and Laws & Regulations. The program develops coalitions where appropriate and provides information in numerous formats. It also conducts applied research where it will facilitate proper, informed decision making.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Numerous groups and agencies are currently partners in our programs. These include, USDA, EPA, Cal EPA, State Water Resources Control Board and local boards, Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Coalition (local, non-profit), Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, Audubon Society, various local environmental organizations, and pesticide applicator associations

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

The Environmental Issues Program is beginning to be a focal point (locally and statewide) for development of solutions to local environmental problems.

**CONTACT: Ms. B. Diane Wallace, County Director  
(619)694-2864**

**TITLE:     ≈ GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT EDUCATION ≈**

**CITY/STATE:                     Long Island, New York**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Educate homeowners to use water wisely, both indoors and outside their homes
  - Provide acceptable alternatives for the commercial horticulture industry to use materials, create designs, and modify maintenance practices that will require less water
  - Educate youth about Long Island's water resources to help them to understand the need to protect and conserve them

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Extension provides the educational support and resources to Nassau County's efforts in groundwater management and conservation. Research-based information comes from Cornell University, USDA, EPA, DEC, county departments and other sources. Educational methods include: providing instruction throughout 56 school districts, volunteer outreach to adult audiences, field days and seminars, a water helpline, training programs to water purveyors and hands-on research/demonstration plots.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Nassau County Department of Public Works -- provides primary funding
- Nassau County Water Purveyors -- training staff and distributing educational messages via utility bills
- Cornell University -- delivers specific research and educational resources
- Nassau County Dept. of Health, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, EPA -- technical assistance in writing educational resources and training materials

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Annual reduction in water usage has averaged 7% for the 7-year period of the program. All school districts in the county have been trained and provided free teaching resources at both the elementary and the junior high school levels. Sales trends in the green industry show use of more drought tolerant turfgrasses and landscape plants. Volunteers are trained to provide programs in water conservation in the home landscape.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Mary Kaye Merwin. County Director  
(516)454-0900

**TITLE:**     ≈ *MINNESOTA DON'T BAG IT LAWN CARE PROGRAM* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                     Metropolitan area - Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**         •     Homeowners change yard care practices to include not bagging lawn clippings, reducing spring and summer grass growth by shifting to a fall fertilization program, and by adopting home composting practices.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

A variety of print & media materials were prepared and circulated on lawn care (reduced fertilization, recycling nutrients by not bagging lawn clippings) and home composting techniques. Master Gardener volunteers taught classes throughout the community on lawn care & composting. A media blitz on TV, radio, newspapers and direct mailings were undertaken with county & city solid waste agencies.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- The Minnesota Extension Service -- provided technical support
- The Metropolitan Council -- funding and a forum for collaborative work between agencies
- County Solid Waste Agencies (7 counties) -- funding & assistance on message distribution
- City Solid Waste Officials (approx. 140 cities) -- included messages in city newsletters

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

75% of homeowners in the area adopted principles of the "Minnesota Don't Bag It Lawn Care Program, and 45% adopted home composting practices.

Government agencies found Extension as a viable resource in both planning & technical support.

**CONTACT:** Mr. David Whiting, Extension Educator  
(612)777-8156

**TITLE:**                    **≈ SCHULTZE HOUSE ≈**

**CITY/STATE:**                    **San Antonio, Texas**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- **Serve as an education center for downtown and the Victoria Courts Housing Project**
- **Feature a model cottage garden on the grounds**
- **Raise funds for Master Gardener projects**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

A model cottage garden is maintained at HemisFair Park at the Schultze House, a building built in 1893 and restored by the Bexar County Master Gardeners. Monthly horticultural classes are offered for area residents and "brown-baggers" who work in the area. The Master Gardeners operate a gift shoppe to cover expenses of the operation.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- **City of San Antonio Parks -- donate building and bedding plants**
- **Bexar County Master Gardeners -- manage facility and gardens**
- **Texas Agriculture Extension Service -- instructors**

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Media coverage has been heavy and 200 people a month utilize the facility.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE:**                    ≈ *TEXAS AGRIFOOD MASTERS* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                    San Antonio, Texas

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Identify, recruit and train potential volunteers who maintain a deep appreciation for the farm, ranch and the food & fiber industries in order that they may perform educational services reaching urban consumers and youth, in support of the agricultural, food & fiber industries
  - Maintain an unbiased, research-based, urban educational program that can be duplicated and coordinated by agri-industry groups, universities or Extension personnel
  - Coordinate and support volunteers to that they may reach consumers with factual research-based agricultural, natural resources, food safety and environmental information

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

TAMs receive 32 hours of intensive training provided by Extension, university, industry and health professionals. In exchange, volunteers must participate in at least 12 projects in the next year, to achieve the TAM mission. There are four project areas in which the volunteers may become involved. They are the School Curriculum & Career Project, the Speakers Bureau, the Industry Relations Project and the News and Media Relations project.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service and AgriFood Education Council, a non-profit educational corporation. The mission of the AgriFood Education Council is to support urban awareness of agriculture and the food & fiber industries and financially support the Texas AgriFood Master effort here in this impact area.

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

1992 - 3,175 volunteer hours --- 1,381,809 persons reached  
1993 - 4,788 volunteer hours --- 1,254,075 persons reached

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE:**                    ≈ ***TREE PLANTING*** ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                    San Antonio, Texas

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- **Replace the trees in city parks**
- **Increase neighborhood involvement with public properties**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service Horticulture Associate recruits neighborhood associations and other groups to plant trees in their parks. Master Gardeners supervise probationers to help with the work. The City of San Antonio provides the 20 gallon or larger trees. The associations have to agree to water the trees for two years and Master Gardeners monitor the care.

Texas Forest Service funded a position through the city assigned to the Master Gardeners to help coordinate the effort.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- City of San Antonio Parks -- staff, trees
- Texas Forest Service -- funding
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service -- train planters and coordinate planting
- Neighborhood associations -- plant and care for trees
- Probationers -- plant trees
- Master Gardeners -- monitor and supervise tree care

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

300 trees planted in City Parks in 1993, a second grant funded for 1994/1995. Thirty parks are affected.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE:**                    ≈ *URBAN GARDEN CENTER* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                    Honolulu, Hawaii

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- To develop a one stop, community-based educational facility to meet Oahu's growing demand for gardening and related information
  - To develop a showcase of practical application with classroom training and experimental studies in agriculture and home economics
  - To expand practical hands-on educational programs to reach out into the community, to schools and businesses, as well as traditional Extension clientele

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Extension urban Garden Center is ideally located in the center of Oahu's population. The 30-acre parcel was originally used for the College's agricultural instructional program. In 1981, Cooperative Extension Service-Oahu acquired the right to use the site for the county urban horticultural program. To meet the changing needs and priorities of its people, Oahu County Extension initiated a long-range plan to develop a centralized "state of the art" facility to provide formal and non-formal education in the community for youth and families in agriculture, natural and human resources. The center will be a setting for demonstrations, lectures, workshops, seminars, clinics and field-tours. The center will feature a showcase of tropical botanical gardens and an educational resource center with library to support practical hands-on educational programs.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Initially, worked within the college and university to develop a support base to market our Extension services and programs. In-house partnerships were developed with program groups, targeted clientele and volunteers in the community as supporters.
- Legislators -- capital improvement project funds for roadway, street lighting and parking
- UH Property Management - repair and maintenance with cottage and classroom
- Individual volunteers and businesses -- donations and services

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

An overwhelming response from the community - volunteers, collaborators, and potential partners. Need to secure extramural funding to maintain programs actively in the community.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Bernice Arakawa, County Extension Director  
(808)956-7254

**TITLE:**                    *≈ URBAN GREENING INITIATIVE ≈*

**CITY/STATE:**                    Los Angeles, California

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- Support activities and projects with lead to immediate short-term and long-term employment
- Improve nutrition and access to food
- Develop community leadership skills to insure long-term involvement of residents affected by the events of Spring, 1992

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Community-based organizations competed for Forest Service grants to carry out projects focused on vocational training through urban gardening, urban agriculture, urban forestry or agro-forestry environmental education. Capacity building institutions formed a support network for these efforts. They were funded to provide education, consultation, and technical assistance and basic training in: urban horticulture, gardening, urban forestry, aboriculture, tree maintenance and small-scale agriculture. Also included was leadership development, resource development, small business planning and management, team building, cross-cultural and interracial interaction and communication.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- U.S.D.A. - Office of the Secretary
- U. S. Forest Service
- ES-U.S.D.A.
- Los Angeles County Urban Garden Staff
- TreePeople, Inc.
- L.A. Harvest, Inc.
- L.A. Conservation Corps

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

More than 8,000 new trees have been planted in chronically neglected neighborhoods. 50 neighborhoods have completed new landscaping and community beautification projects. 750 young or displaced adult workers have found alternatives to gangs, drug related activities and hopelessness through training and in some cases employment in horticulture, urban forestry and landscaping. Major corporations and foundations are considering the program and searching for ways to become involved.

**CONTACT:** Mr. George Rendell, County Director  
(213)744-4852

**TITLE:** ≈ *CASA de MILAGROS (House of Miracles)* ≈

**CITY/STATE:** San Antonio, Texas

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- Expectant mothers booked into the criminal justice system learn to cope with their lives in order to avoid using drugs and learn basic skills in finance, health and nutrition

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Case de Milagros is a new program aimed at providing day treatment for substance abuse to pregnant women in the criminal justice system. It is open to pregnant women as a condition of release from jail on bond or as a requirement of probation.

Its goal is to help 104 women a year. The 90-day program has room for 26 women at a time. Keeping a woman in the Milagros program costs \$8 a day versus \$50 in jail. A large percentage of the pregnant women in jail have not had prenatal care, are drug dependent placing their babies at risk of developmental problems and low birth weight.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service - Expanded Nutrition Program
- Centro Del Barrio-Parenting
- MATCH-Motivation Education and Training Program
- Battered Women's Shelter
- Twelve Step Program-Substance Abuse

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Participants learn self-worth that they have something to offer their families. Program participants make lifestyle changes, such as going back to school, getting a job, reducing intake of alcohol.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE: ≈ COMMUNITY ACCESS RESOURCE NETWORK ≈**

**CITY/STATE: San Antonio, Texas**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Increase patients knowledge of nutrition basics
  - Increase awareness of personal risk factors
  - Foster positive practices related to nutrition, diet and health through expanded educational efforts

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Educational outreach program focused on nutrition and health and diet, through a collaboration effort with Bexar County University Health System.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service provides one ENP program assistant to publicize, schedule and give classes at the Southeast and Southwest Family Health Centers
- The University Health System provides an office complete with computer, printer and word processor to the program assistant. Also a copier so that ENP handouts for clients can be copied and distributed to clients.

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Creation of prevention and wellness opportunities to the uninsured and higher risk clients of the county. Evaluation is not yet available.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE: ≈ FAMILY LIFE SKILLS SHARES THE BASICS ≈**

**CITY/STATE: Columbus, Ohio**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- To help limited income residents develop basic living skills
  - To identify and develop partnerships with other agencies/organizations that share Extension's mission and can utilize Extension's expertise and information to reach specific program goals

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Family Life Skills (FLS) is based on the premise that parents will provide as safe and pleasant a home as they are able. Too often, a lack of knowledge and skills prevents this from occurring. FLS begins by determining a participant's existing living skills and builds on that. Curriculum includes: consumer skills, clothing care and repair, nutrition and food buying, home care and maintenance, and communicating as a family. Lessons are flexible, easily changed to meet the needs of the participants and staff in other organizations/agencies.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES: (Partners provide funding, audiences, program guidance, facilities)**

- Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Friends of the Homeless Inc.
- Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
- Franklin County Department of Aging/Life Care Alliance
- Hickory Ridge Townhouses Program
- Columbus Housing Partnership
- City of Columbus Department of Development
- Franklin County Agricultural Society (County Fair Board)

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Evaluations overwhelmingly show the participants find the classes worthwhile and relevant. They select additional modules for learning and speak to the practicality of the information. The program has hired several of its employees. Many of the educators have found full-time employment as a result of the growth of their personal skills.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Jacqueline LaMuth, County Extension Director  
(614)443-6200

**TITLE:**                    **≈ FOOD NUTRITION PROGRAM ≈**

**CITY/STATE:**                    **St. Paul, Minnesota**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- **To improve food buying and financial management practices**
- **Maximize family and individual nutrition**
- **Reduce food cost**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Minnesota is one of only eight states in the nation with a Family Nutrition Program funded by the USDA Food Stamp Program. Low-income Ramsey County residents receive a variety of programs to assist them, including food programs, AFDC, emergency food shelves and the Expanded Food Nutrition Education program. Unlike these, the Family Nutrition Program focuses specifically on financial management and food budgeting. Its purpose is to provide in-depth education in money management in order to help families prepare low-cost, healthy meals, pay their bills and survive on limited incomes.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- **Minnesota Extension -- staffing**
- **University of Minnesota -- state program coordinator**
- **Community Agencies -- referrals**

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Target audience shopping skillfully, managing finances, carefully maximizing use of commodities and preparing food economically.

**CONTACT:** Mr. Kim Boyce, County Extension Director  
(612)777-1327

**TITLE:**        ≈ **FOOD SERVICE - TRAIN THE TRAINER** ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                      San Antonio, Texas

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- Cafeteria employees improve safe food practices
- Cafeteria employees and managers develop knowledge of special dietary conditions and how to counsel youth on food selection

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Specialists and local dieticians will be involved in presenting dietary information to food service managers.

Training for area food service managers will be held for 2 days using restaurant association curriculum on food safety. Trainers will then train at their schools on site. Trainers will have to pass "tests" to receive certificates and credit for training hours.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Region 20 Service Center -- space, participants, funding, follow up, evaluation
- Restaurant Association -- curriculum, evaluation
- Dietetic Association -- presenters and speakers
- Texas Department of Agriculture -- refreshment break
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service Specialists -- master trainers, curriculum
- Individual school districts -- local "trainers" and tracking
- State agency that governs food service -- authorization to use material

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Trainings planned for September and October, 1994. Already there is an awareness of new community resources and responses. Potential of ultimately impacting 600 school cafeteria workers who feed 20,000+ children.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE:**                    **≈ NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY INITIATIVE ≈**

**CITY/STATE:**                    **Detroit, Michigan**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- **Develop a shared vision of what might be within target communities**
- **Develop capacity within communities and residents to improve quality of life**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This is a multi-year effort between Extension, the Ford Foundation and the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan. NFI is an effort to support residents in improving the quality of their lives. NFI strengthens the capacity of Lower Woodward Corridor neighborhoods to plan and participate in its own revitalization. A major focus has been the development of a Multipurpose Child Development Center, a self-contained unit that comprehensively addresses all the developmental needs of children from infancy to 8th grade. Older youth will be involved in operations and teaching roles with the children. Major to this initiative is the WRAP AROUND PREVENTION STRATEGIES program. This part of the program focuses on prevention targeted at community youth and families-at-risk.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- **The Ford Foundation/Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan -- provides funding for the program**
- **Child Care Coordinating Council**
- **Interim Commission on The Prevention of Crime, Drugs and Violence**
- **Jefferies Residence Empowerment Committee**
- **Channel 56 Television**
- **Wigle Récreation Center**
- **Life Directions**

**CONTACT:** Mr. Morse Brown, County Extension Director  
(313)494-3003

**TITLE: ≈ NUTRITION EDUCATION FOR THE HOMELESS/DISABLED ≈**

**CITY/STATE: San Antonio, Texas**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Inform of basic nutrition needs
  - Inform of nutrition as related to health
  - Inform of nutrition as related to budgeting and accessing of available resources

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Emergency food is provided to homeless and residents. Referrals are given to other sources of food and financial assistance to supplement nutrition needs.

When clients are waiting for food, education is provided and includes food choices, preparation and purchasing.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Christian Assistance Ministry and Expanded Nutrition Program of Bexar County have joined in a partnership unique to our community where food assistance is combined with physical and financial health. A full-time aide has been provided by ENP and has been provided a classroom for this purpose.

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

The physical crisis consequent to eating habits has been initially addressed with a preventive effort to reduce cancer, diabetes and heart disease. Presentations are given to the 10,000 population of San Antonio who use the food pantry system.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE: ≈ TAKE CHARGE/BE SOMEBODY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ≈**

**CITY/STATE:** New York City, New York

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Prevent substance abuse in vulnerable youth through building an effective community partnership (of grassroots leaders, youth, agencies) to develop community-owned initiatives
  - Develop self-sustaining and multi-faceted programs and strategies which enable the neighborhood to launch on positive education/career/leadership pathways

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This is a 5-year federally funded community partnership designed as a replicable model for transitional communities - those incorporating large numbers of formerly homeless families. The partnership concept brings grassroots leaders (adult & youth) together with organizations to develop a better community for all residents, new and old. Emphasis placed on leaving the community to determine what programs they want for their neighborhood from a menu of possibilities. Extension is respected for its role in bringing together the players and resources. This is an ivory tower/trenches-collaboration.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- CUCE/NYC -- lead agency
- Youth Network & Adult Council -- community decision-making vehicles
- NADAP -- expertise in national substance abuse preventive strategies
- Highbridge Community Life Center, Highbridge Heights Unity Center, MOSAIC, Mid-Bronx Senior Citizens Center -- local cbos
- NYC Dept. of Transportation -- city government
- Bronx Borough President's Office -- local government
- Local schools, etc; evaluation through CUNY Graduate Center

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Local groups meet regularly and coordinate services for the neighborhood. A cadre of youth and adult leaders have skills and history of taking charge; there are new community-driven programs for the neighborhood.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Ruth Allen, Director, New York City Extension Programs  
(212)340-2900

**TITLE:        ≈ 4-H AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAM ≈**

**CITY/STATE:                    Los Angeles, California**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- **Provide a nurturing environment for youth ages 7-13 residing in public housing communities, following regular school hours**
  - **Increase amount & quality of positive interactions between youth & adults**
  - **Improve the social, emotional, physical and academic well-being of youth in public housing communities**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This program serves public housing communities and adjacent elementary schools throughout L.A. County. Program areas include homework and tutorial assistance, learning-by-doing projects, recreation/leisure play, and community service. Unique to the program is recruitment and job preparation of residents from communities who are employed by Extension as site coordinators. Volunteerism is central to the program.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- ES-USDA -- program development, funding and identification of resources
- National 4-H Council -- funding, curriculum support, partnerships, resource development and leadership
- Los Angeles Unified School District -- facilities, outreach and collaboration
- UNOCAL -- funding for expansion, partnerships and volunteers
- UC -- program development & administration and academic & managerial staff
- Housing Authority -- facilities, site & administrative funding
- Community Development Commission -- facilities, supplies, telephone and mileage;
- HUD -- resource development, partnerships and interagency agreements
- CA 4-H Foundation -- major donor development
- VISTA -- staff development
- Resident Advisory Councils -- volunteers and program development
- McKesson & Leavey Foundations -- funding and volunteers
- Recreation and Parks -- facilities

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THIS PROGRAM?**

8 sites established; 7 sites prepared to come on-line by mid-September 1994; staff development program in place; 300 youth enrollees; well developed plan for volunteer recruitment from public/private sector.

**CONTACT: Mr. George Rendell, County Director  
(213)744-4852**

**TITLE:****≈ CLASSROOM GARDENS ≈****CITY/STATE:**

San Antonio, Texas

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- Give urban youth access to gardening for the environmental, nutritional and gardening lesson it teaches
- Increase the self esteem of the youth to increase their chances of being successful citizens

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Schools pay \$200.00 to the Bexar County Master Gardeners to receive two raised bed gardens and plants, seeds, fertilizer, etc., in perpetuity. They recruit their own volunteers or teachers to receive basic training offered 4 times/year and advanced training offered 2 times/year. A spring and fall harvest festival and vegetable shows are offered as celebrations of the seasons' gardening.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Bexar County Master Gardeners -- administrative lead, provide instructors, troubleshooters for field, mailouts, curriculum packages
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service -- manage overall projects, instructors
- Schools -- sites, volunteers and funds

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

105 schools participated as of Spring-1994 with over 6,000 youth, over 70% are ethnic minorities. An evaluation completed by Our Lady of the Lake University was complimentary of the project in terms of impact on youth. Media coverage has been heavy.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE:**                    **≈ DADS MAKE A DIFFERENCE ≈**

**CITY/STATE:**                    **St. Paul, Minnesota**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- **Increase the involvement of fathers in the lives of children**
  - **Build awareness about the legal, financial and emotional responsibilities of fathering**
  - **Prevent too-early parenting**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Paternal education for youth utilizes cross-age teaching methods, including: listening to youth in focus groups; working with a broad array of educators, officials and service providers; and developing & piloting educational materials. As a result an activity-based four lesson curriculum was designed to give teens the opportunity to discuss & examine the importance fathers play in the lives of children and the risks they face in their path to adulthood. It is designed to be taught by older teens to middle school students. It includes an 18-minute video featuring real teens.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- **Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota -- provided public policy knowledge**
- **Family Tree Clinic of St. Paul -- link to youth & issues of sexuality education**
- **Ramsey County Attorney's Office, Child Support & Collections -- fiscal agent**
- **Minnesota Extension Service, Ramsey County -- the link to research on family issues**

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

150 7th graders participated in the pilot curriculum this spring. 80% of the students when surveyed after the lessons knew what paternity meant and could name one way to establish paternity. Testimony about the project to the State Legislature on behalf of a proposed Male Responsibility/Fathering bill helped it pass and make available \$500,000 in grant money for similar projects.

**CONTACT:** Mr. Gary Greenfield, Project Coordinator  
(612)777-2869

**TITLE:**                    ≈ *GREEN BRIGADE* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                    San Antonio, Texas

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Provide a work/learning opportunity for juvenile offenders
  - Create model xeriscape gardens for public view
  - Create teaching gardens for youth "at-risk" in inner-city County parks

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Thirty juvenile offenders receive minimum wage to attend instruction and work in horticulture under supervision of the Master Gardeners. They built a 1-acre model xeriscape garden and teaching garden complex in Rodriguez Park. Seventy youth, ages 9 to 14, receive garden plots and instruction in vegetable gardening, nutrition and environmental issues from Master Gardeners, local experts, and the Green Brigade youth. Previous projects were at Comanche and MacArthur Parks. Future projects will include compost piles at all county parks. Juvenile Probation is charged with discipline responsibilities. They provide a half-time Case Aide for the project.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Bexar County Parks -- administrative lead
- National Parks Service -- major funding
- JTPA -- minor funding
- Bexar County Juvenile Probation -- recruit juvenile offenders and counsel youth
- ~~Bexar County Master Gardeners -- volunteer supervisors and instructors~~
- ~~Texas Agricultural Extension Service -- manage project and instructors~~
- Private sector firms -- supplies

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Of the 61 participants (Green Brigade), 23 found jobs, 140 youth gardened in 1993-1994, the model xeriscape and teaching gardens were completed, and the County refunded the project. Vandalism was reduced in Rodriguez Park. KSAT-12 TV did a video report on the project.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433



**TITLE:        ≈ MAKING THE GRADE/MAKING A DIFFERENCE ≈**

**CITY/STATE:                    Fairfax, Virginia (D.C. Area)**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- **Raise public awareness and stimulate collaborative action on behalf of area youth**
  - **Provide structured and productive activities for youth living in at-risk families and communities**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

This project is not intended to produce a final product, but is an on-going process, continually evolving, reviewing community needs and strengths, available resources and human capital. This project has resulted in the formation of numerous partnerships which have strengthened Extension's approach and abilities to serve youth. A major effort has been replication of the national Making The Grade model. A federal-grant to organize youth programs in low-income, highly diverse communities had resulted in a Mall Youth Booth at a local mall and countless examples of enhanced communications and coordination between organizations.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- ES-U.S.D.A. -- Youth-at-Risk Grant
- National Collaboration for Youth
- National Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations
- Project Literacy U.S.
- U. S. Department of Health & Human Services
- U. S. Department of Labor
- Burger King Corporation
- RespecTeen

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

200 local citizens developed action plans and recommendations focused on solutions to youth issues. Fifteen working group sessions were held within three tracks: Recreation & Enrichment Programs, Education & Information Needs, Focus on High-Risk Youth. Two Youth Summits have been held. Collaboration between and among youth serving and family service agencies has dramatically increased, providing a central focus of services to benefit local residents more effectively.

**CONTACT: Ms. Julie Knight, Extension Agent, 4-H**  
**(703)324-5369**



**TITLE:** ≈ *SCIENCE EDUCATOR TRAINING* ≈

**CITY/STATE:** Detroit, Michigan

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Minority youth improve skills, enjoy learning, raise proficiency and discover career potential in all areas of science
  - Make science proficiency relevant and reachable for all students

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Curriculum consists of four parts: SCIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM, a series of trainings for science teachers, scout leaders and parents on how to provide fun, hands-on learning in non-formal settings. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MINORITY YOUTH IN SCIENCE & GEOGRAPHY, series of learning experience including "Discovering the Explorer, the Inventor and the Scientist in Me", training for volunteers & youth professionals. Also includes the Michigan 4-H SPACES curriculum. GROW LABS IN THE CLASSROOM, a rotational loan program of Grow Lab to public schools, including in-service training for teachers, and all necessary supplies. This curriculum teaches about plant life in a controlled environment in the classroom. COUNTY-WIDE TREE, PLANT & GARDENING SEMINAR will be conducted in collaboration with "The Greening of Detroit" project.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- "The Greening of Detroit" -- facilities, community access
- Belle Isle Conservatory -- facilities, materials, publicity
- Neighborhood Associations -- volunteers, funding, networking
- The Horticultural Therapeutic Society -- volunteers

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Community response has been overwhelming. A few problems have surfaced, including not enough staff to deliver programs to all who want them. Communications is a problem with collaborations. There is some turfdom.

**CONTACT:** Mr. Morse Brown, County Extension Director  
(313)494-3003

**TITLE:**                    **≈ SEATTLE 4-H ≈**

**CITY/STATE:**                    **Seattle, Washington**

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- **Deliver educational programs to youth through recreational community centers and youth-related social service agencies**
  - **Enhance formal education through experiential learning**
  - **Showcase youth for their efforts at an annual Seattle 4-H urban fair**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Seattle 4-H program takes some salient rural model elements and applies them to an urban setting. Unlike its 80 year old counterpart, Seattle 4-H is in a developmental process at only 14 years of age. It is evolving to becoming urban. Seattle has a myriad of agencies & organizations serving youth. Seattle 4-H must compete with all of them, especially the powerful ones, for they provoke challenge. In order to survive, Seattle 4-H must pay attention to every detail.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- **Seattle Department of Parks & Recreation; Seattle Public Schools; Central Area Youth Assn; High Point YMCA; Tukwila School District; Southwest Youth & Family Services; Central Youth & Family Services; Orient Center for Homeless Youth; Lambert House for Gay and Lesbian Youth; Atlantic Street Center and Seattle Public Schools - Alternative Schools Division -- provide facilities, personnel, transportation, supplies and materials**
- **The Bullitt Foundation; Metropolitan King County Council; Medina Foundation and Safeco Insurance Company -- provide funding for special programs**
- **The Seattle Center -- provides staff services, facilities, parking, stage & sound equipment**

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Seattle 4-H has provided tools for young people to take control of their lives. Through this program, youth have learned to respect themselves and the organization. They have grown to understand positive relationships. The community has begun to recognize and appreciate Seattle 4-H as a valuable educational program which cuts across all ethnic, cultural and geographical boundaries. This phenomenon has happened because it has plugged into an already established system.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Juana Royster, County Extension Director  
(206)296-3900

**TITLE:**                    ≈ *TEENS AND GREENS* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                   Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- **Maintain & enhance targeted urban green space**
  - **Create & develop 5 teams of youth & adults to design, plant and maintain identified greening projects**
  - **Develop entry level skills for youth employment in horticulture and related areas**
  - **Enhance community awareness of the benefits of maintaining neighborhood green space**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Allegheny County 4-H, in collaboration with Penn State Urban Foresters and several local community organizations, recruited and trained volunteers to teach youth to develop new and maintain existing urban forest and garden areas. Target areas were within the central loop of Pittsburgh, having high populations of low income and minority families. A grant funds the program and provides stipends for youth participants.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Penn State Urban Foresters
- City of Pittsburgh Parks Department
- JTPA
- Western Pennsylvania Convency
- Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Five target neighborhoods were involved in a revitalization program led by teams of youths and adult volunteers. The planted and restored green space within at-risk communities, restoring a sense of pride and ownership to the residents.

**CONTACT:** Mr. Deno DeCiantis, County Extension Director  
(412)392-8540

**TITLE:**                    *≈ URBAN YOUTH AWARENESS OF AGRICULTURE ≈*

**CITY/STATE:**                    San Antonio, Texas

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**                    ●     **To create a positive awareness and understanding of the role agriculture plays in providing food, clothing and shelter to teachers and fourth grade students in urban schools**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Extension agents and trained volunteers provide in-service training for elementary school teachers on the "Ag in the Classroom" curriculum. The curriculum enhances basic classroom studies through experiential learning. There is a broad range of student activities to accommodate learner styles, providing extended activities to promote learning and critical thinking. Teacher Resource Kits accompany the curriculum. This provides students the opportunity to see, touch and learn first-hand about raw products that ultimately are made into the finished product.

Fairs are conducted in school districts to provide additional educational opportunities for youth completing the "Ag in the Classroom" project. The involvement of students with animals and hands-on activities has proven to be most successful in student learning.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Texas Agricultural Extension Service -- custodian and coordinator
- Texas Department of Agriculture -- "Project TEACH" curriculum, in-service for leaders, food service personnel
- Texas Farm Bureau -- "Ag in the Classroom" curriculum, in-service training to volunteers
- San Antonio Livestock Exposition -- \$23,350 grant, in-kind contributions
- AgriFood Education Council -- economic support, training materials, operations of volunteer organization
- Texas AgriFood Masters -- provides the volunteers

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

Materials have been placed in 195 classrooms in 8 school districts and private schools and 6 Ag Fairs have been conducted in the San Antonio metropolitan area. 8,550 students plus teachers have directly benefitted from the program.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE:**                    ≈ *WATER WIZARDS* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                    San Antonio, Texas

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Increase the capability of potential leaders from among the area's young people to deal with the water issue
  - Impact all youth on water issues by training gifted youth in the issues of water conservation

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Every week a class of gifted and talented youngsters from various school districts in Bexar County attend a week long curriculum designed to educate them about all facets of the water question in the region. The Extension Service and Master Gardeners are responsible for Fridays. We do a xeriscape tour of the Botanical Gardens; the youth do a small landscape plan; we do soil moisture retention and runoff demonstrations; and each youth gets a cactus.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Edwards Underground Water District -- administrative lead and recruiting
- San Antonio Botanical Gardens -- site and instruction
- San Antonio museums -- instructors
- ~~Bexar County Master Gardeners -- instructors~~
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service -- resource material and instructors

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

200 young people every summer become water conservation experts.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Kaye Woodward, County Extension Director  
(210)228-0433

**TITLE:** ~ *WILLING AND INTERESTED SENIORS FOR EDUCATION (WISE)* ~

**CITY/STATE:** Chicago, Illinois

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

- Provide extra guidance and individualized attention for students who are frustrated by lack of success or in danger of dropping out
- Provide positive adult role models
- Give older adults the chance to share their knowledge and life experiences with children

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Willing and Interested Seniors for Education (WISE) puts to use one of the community's most valuable assets, its senior citizens, to improve the quality of education in Chicago Public Schools. WISE volunteers are recruited and put to work as tutors, mentors, counselors and, most of all, friends to children. Volunteers receive training at the Extension Urban Leadership Center in a variety of topics, including communication skills, working with different age groups and understanding the school organization. On-site coordinators schedule volunteers.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Chicago Public Schools -- access to schools, staff to work with volunteers on site
- Retirement Research Foundation -- start up funding for the program
- Local churches and community organizations -- source of WISE volunteers

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

In 1991, WISE volunteers worked at two elementary schools and one high school. By 1994, 123 WISE volunteers were active at 14 schools, including two high schools. With help from WISE volunteers, students have improved their grades in science, math and reading. Students have also been motivated by knowing that older people in the community care about them and their futures.

Volunteers learn that they can continue to be active, contributing members of society.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Jim Oliver, Associate Director - Urban Programs  
(312)201-0909

**TITLE:** ~ *YOUTH AT RISK SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM* ~

**CITY/STATE:** San Diego, California

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Establish community coalitions that will address the factors that place youth and their families at risk
  - Provide parent education opportunities through multi-delivery approaches
  - Provide a safe and educational enrichment program for elementary school-age youth

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

We currently have 8 parent fee school-age child care programs operated by local 4-H Foundation. Our program is designed to provide educational enrichment that support classroom learning. A major component has been to be a link between the school and parents and to provide education and resource referral to families at risk.

**COALITION BUILDING** - Community coalitions were started to help better identify issues and to help maintain sustainability of the project. Grants have been secured by several of these coalitions.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- El Cajon School District -- provides space and communication access
- Chula Vista Schools -- communication access
- Chula Vista Parks & Recreation -- space, staffing & access to other community agencies
- Chula Vista Youth Coalition Advisory Group -- provide networking opportunities
- City of Chula Vista -- financial support through grants & grant writing staff
- USDA -- funding for Youth At Risk Project

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

In each of these communities we are seen as a resource to agencies working with youth families. According to the National Survey conducted by University of Wisconsin, children improved pro-social behaviors, increased respect of adults and improved academic behaviors.

**CONTACT:** Ms. B. Diane Wallace, County Director  
(619)694-2864

**TITLE:**        ~ *FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS EDUCATION PROGRAM* ~

**CITY/STATE:**                   West Palm Beach, Florida

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- To understand and be able to allocate a portion of take-home income to meet housing obligations in a timely manner
  - To understand how to maintain interior and exterior household surfaces to maintain or increase property values
  - To understand and assume responsibilities that come with home ownership

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The program is to assist the homeowner with developing skills necessary to fund and maintain their home as a part of the housing program initiated by the City of West Palm Beach. An educational program is conducted for each homeowner, either individually or in groups. Volunteer Master Gardeners are used to assist the individuals in assessing their landscape needs and bringing it up to standards, keeping in mind their families' incomes.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- The Cooperative Extension Service provides one trained Extension agent to conduct the educational programs and evaluate the results. The City of West Palm Beach provides full funding for the position and the information necessary on each new home buyer to make the contacts. They also pre-screen the applicants and coordinate an educational seminar with the bank for those interested in purchasing homes.

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

The impact to date has not been measured, due to the program just starting in May of 1994.

**CONTACT:** Mr. Clayton Hutcheson, County Extension Director  
(407)233-1712

**TITLE:**     ≈ *PARTNERSHIPS THAT GET BETTER AND BETTER* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                   Columbus, Ohio

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- To extend the reach and scope of Extension programming through collaborative efforts with other agencies and organizations
  - To identify and develop partnerships with other agencies/organizations that share Extension's mission and can utilize Extension's expertise and information to reach specific program goals

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

More of a process and philosophy than a specific program, staff members identify and develop programs (Family Life Skills, Mom and Me, Home Care and Repair, Mastering Your Money) that are modular and flexible. Ideas come from discussions with other professionals and advisory committees.

Staff listen to the needs and the way program staff in other organizations/agencies would like us to be involved. We customize our program to meet their needs and still allow us to deliver our information.

We become partners in several ways: We approach the organization, we co-author a proposal, we are written into their proposal as a sub-contractor, we step in and "rescue" a program when another organization fails to produce and we are offered a project with funding.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Columbus Housing Partnership
- City of Columbus Dept. of Development
- Franklin County Agricultural Society (County Fair Board)
- Franklin County Dept. of Aging/Life Care Alliance
- Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
- Hickory Ridge Townhouses Program
- Friends of the Homeless Inc.

Partners provide funds, audiences, program guidance, facilities.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Jacqueline LaMuth, County Extension Director  
(614)443-6200



**TITLE:**     ≈ *METRO INFO-U CONSUMER INFORMATION SYSTEM* ≈

**CITY/STATE:**                     St. Paul, Minnesota

- PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**
- Provide the public with access to information from the Minnesota Extension Service
  - Create an efficient way to respond to repetitive questions & allow educators to focus on more complex programming
  - Allows the Minnesota Extension Service to serve a large urban population in a cost-effective & high quality manner

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

INFO-U is an audiotex telephone information system. When someone has a question, they can call the INFO-U system using a touch-tone phone and listen to a message about 2 minutes in length that responds to a particular issue. INFO-U is free, and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Currently, the Metro INFO-U system has 300 messages on a variety of topics: horticulture, food & nutrition, housing, water quality, parenting & youth. In 1993, 13,123 people called the service and listened to 15,220 messages. In addition to the messages listed in the catalogue, INFO-U is also used for program management. Every county has access to 3 message slots they can use to inform clientele about programs or issues of local concern. This is especially successful for the Master Gardener program where updates are available from specialists focusing on issues at that point in the growing season.

**PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES:**

- The system is funded by the participating counties (currently 7 metro & 8 in greater Minnesota). Staff from these counties manage the system through a Leadership Committee & a Coordinator who contributes 15% of their work load to the project.
- Campus partners include: the Educational Development System who provide technical support, graphic design, marketing support & accounting; specialists who assist in script development; administrators who coordinate work load of field staff & provide support for system participation.

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

INFO-U has allowed metro staff to use technology to increase access to the Minnesota Extension Service. When an issue of wide public concern arises, we can now respond quickly & efficiently to requests for information.

**CONTACT:** Ms. Rose Allen, Extension Educator  
(612)777-8156