

CYF NEWS – December 2003 issue

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1. HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CYF LEADERSHIP TEAM!

Cheri, Gayle, and Kathy want to thank each of you for the awesome work you did in support of MSUE's state budget needs this fall. We should no longer be "the best kept secret in Michigan!" Though we're pleased to be spared in the Governor's executive order, we note that these are still trying times for the people of Michigan, and that our programs are strongly needed. Now is the time to continue our efforts, thank our supporters, and continue to keep all interested parties informed about our work.

State leaders hope to meet with field staff in the regions to strategize around our high priority programming in early childhood, youth mentoring, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). We look forward to this opportunity. Congratulations to Susan Cocciarelli who successfully negotiated a contract with the Family Independence Agency for EITC education.

We're excited that Tammy Sullivan will join our team January 1 as Associate Program Leader, Health Promotion. She'll be joining Dawn Contreras and Kendra Moyses (formerly Davis – congratulations to the bride!) on the immunization team.

We would like to welcome Lori Stephens-Brown to MSU Extension in St. Clair County, also. Lori began on October 13, 2003, and is providing leadership for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP) and Family Nutrition Program (FNP). She currently works for MSU Extension part time since she is busy at home with her children Lara and Noah and husband Pete. While attending MSU, Lori worked for Lois Thieleke on the Oakland County food safety hotline. She worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension from 1985 to 1998. Welcome Lori!

Kids Count Data books will be released soon, and with them, a great educational opportunity for us. See more information in this newsletter. Thanks to program leader Paul McConaughy for his work on this.

Just as we were breathing a sigh of relief over the state of Michigan budget challenges, a federal budget challenge popped up for EFNEP. The federal Omnibus bill includes a 10 percent cut for programs, including EFNEP. The House of Representatives passed this bill the end of the first week of December. The Senate is scheduled to vote on it when they return from the holiday break, January 20, 2004. Stay tuned for more information as things progress.

Funding is available for food safety education. Visit www.foodsafe.msu.edu, then under "outreach," on

the side bar, click on “MDA Food Safety Fund” and follow the directions to apply for a Michigan Consumer Food Safety Education Grant. This grant opportunity is provided through a larger grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Proposals are due January 9, 2004.

2. COMMUNICATING MSUE IMPACT IN RESPONSE TO THE 2003 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK RELEASE

The Michigan League for Human Services compiles a Kids Count data book each year that focuses on key indicators that research suggests matter to the quality of life for children and families. The data book combines data from many different data sources to produce a profile of each county in the state and of the City of Detroit.

Kids Count focuses on these broad areas:

- Family income and employment
- Child care and early education
- The health of babies and children
- Child abuse and neglect
- The health and well-being of youth
- Education

The goal of *Kids Count* is improving the health and well-being of Michigan children and their families by helping communities to understand the circumstances and environment in which they live.

The *2003 Kids Count in Michigan Data Book* will be released in January. Many communities use this as an opportunity to come together to develop plans for dealing with the problems identified in the report. But, it is also a great opportunity to talk about all the ways your programs contribute to the success of youth in your community.

This year let's turn the focus to a celebration of our success. Let's take this opportunity to point out where MSUE youth are doing great and how we are helping. A toolkit to support your communication with local media has been e-mailed to each county's extension director. Please review it and see if there are ways you can use it to share information about program results you're especially proud of related to youth in your community. If you need a copy of the toolkit please send an e-mail to mcconaup@msue.msu.edu.

3. BETTER KID CARE PROJECT UPDATE

The Better Kid Care Project is a program that has coupled Michigan State University Extension and the Family Independence Agency of Michigan. This project works to further involve both agencies in the area of child care. With two different components to the project, MSUE staff has been able to reach a wide variety of child care providers across the state.

The Satellite Series

Better Kid Care — Phase I is designed to enhance the skills of child care providers throughout Michigan. This objective is achieved through the broadcast of the Better Kid Care satellite series, produced by Penn State University Extension. The series is supplemented with additional child care resources, as well as discussions facilitated by MSUE staff members.

Broadcast in Michigan since 1995, we have been able to exponentially expand our reach to area child care providers. In the 2003-2004 program year, the audience of the Better Kid Care Project has expanded to 39 participating Michigan counties. The counties represent a diverse mix of urban and rural areas, demonstrating the universal need for quality child care trainings.

2003-2004 Better Kid Care Satellite Series

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 10-23-03 | Improving and Using Your Observation Skills |
| 12-11-03 | Active Play: Fighting Obesity and Diabetes and Keeping Children Healthy |
| 03-18-04 | Hot Topics for Center Directors: The Nuts and Bolts of Operating a Successful Center |
| 04-22-04 | The Art and Science of Playing with Young Children |
| 05-27-04 | Dealing with Anger - The Children's and Yours |

The Training and Mentoring Project

As a result of welfare reform, the number of low-income parents, particularly mothers, who will be required to participate in education and/or training programs or to seek employment, has increased dramatically. These parents also are seeking child care, preferring care that is conveniently located near their place of employment or their home. Sixty six percent of families in Michigan who are eligible to receive assistance for child care rely on relatives or other providers who are unregulated (Kids Count in Michigan, 2000). Others utilize regulated family child care homes or licensed child care centers. Those who are licensed often note feelings of isolation created by the demands of their child care business.

In order to reach out to this diverse group of relative care, unregulated and regulated providers, and to recruit other community members to become regulated child care providers, MSUE has developed a unique program. To address the needs of this audience, a comprehensive training was developed and offered in a supportive and convenient environment, using paraprofessionals who not only train, but also mentor the providers. The project is divided into three stages: community engagement, training, and mentoring.

The goal of the Better Kid Care Project — Training and Mentoring Program is to assist communities — mothers, fathers, significant others, extended family and friends in to take an active role in responding to child care issues resulting from welfare reform. To accomplish this goal, participants in this project will participate in child-care-related training and mentoring to become regulated/licensed child care providers and become part of a child care network.

The program was developed in Saginaw County through funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation through the Joining Forces Initiative. The project was expanded through funding from the Michigan Family Independence Agency to five additional sites: Arenac, Bay, Jackson, Oakland, and Wayne counties. For more information contact Lisa McGlone at mzglonel@msue.msu.edu.

4. EAT HEALTHY + PLAY HARD = SMART STUDENTS MARCH 4TH CONFERENCE

This highly regarded conference debuted in 2003. The 2004 conference will be Thursday, March 4th at the Novi Sheraton Hotel. Keynote speakers will be David Satcher, MD, Ph.D., National Chairman for Action for Healthy Kids and former U.S. Surgeon General; and Howell Wechsler, EdD, MPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health. Breakout sessions will feature practical ideas and success stories from Michigan schools for motivating students and families to “eat healthy and play hard.” Conference registration is \$50 (before February 20) or \$75 (after February 20).

MSUE Team Nutrition County Contacts and MSU Extension Educators will be mailed conference registration information in January to share with others. The Michigan Team Nutrition Web site will also have additional conference information as it becomes available. See www.tn.fcs.msue.msu.edu. The conference is presented by the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Department of Education, and United Dairy Industry of Michigan in collaboration with Michigan Action for Healthy

Kids, Michigan Team Nutrition, MSU Extension and other health organization partners.

Conference attendees will also be able to register for a Michigan Action for Healthy Kids Coalition healthy schools leadership training to be held March 5th at the Novi Sheraton. The training will provide the information and skills necessary to assist school health teams in assessing and changing their nutrition and physical activity environments.

5. FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FCS) WEB PAGE

MSU Extension is moving toward the activation of a new Web portal that will provide many benefits for users. Examples include:

- Personalizing your view of the Web site to reflect your interests.
- Fast and easy searching and sharing of information.
- The capacity to create a workgroup for a project and then have a shared mailing list, documents, and to do list.
- New ways to deliver training throughout the state.
- A statewide calendar of events linked to on-line registration.

It's great to be part of the process of learning to effectively use the World Wide Web. As part of that learning curve and in preparation for the move to the portal, the FCS Marketing Team has updated the FCS home page and a majority of the FCS program home pages.

To check out the changes, start at <http://www.fcs.msue.msu.edu/>.

If you have comments about the update please e-mail Paul McConaughy, chair, FCS Marketing Team at mcconaup@msue.msu.edu.

6. BLUE RIBBON UPDATE

Q. Since we have not received the latest Blue Ribbon update would you please tell us more about the new features?

A. MarTech has added several Member Charts (formerly called Database Statistics). They are Members by Grade, Members by Residence, Members by Status and Members by Race. They are in both pie and graph formats. The charts can be printed for use in reports, grant-writing, and presentations.

Q. We have certified volunteers that have extenuating circumstances, like can't drive or don't call them at work. Is there anywhere in the program that we can record this information without having it print on reports?

A. Yes, several counties are recording this type of information on the Comments line located on the Leader Certification screen which is accessed from the Member/Leader screen.

If you have questions or need help contact Judy Lentz-Bishop, bishopj@msue.msu.edu, (517)353-2922 or Laura Allen, lacourse@msue.msu.edu, (517)432-7632.

/Laura Allen/Judy Lentz-Bishop/

7. "MANAGEMENT FOR SUCCESS" NEWSLETTER

LAST ISSUE. Once again, thank you Lois for your wonderful leadership, contribution, and time put into this newsletter. The best of luck to you in your new role!

8. DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF “CYF NEWS”

January 19, 2004, is the deadline for submitting articles for the January 23, 2004, edition of “CYF News.”

Please submit articles to Gail Hebert at hebertg@msue.msu.edu

9. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“It sometimes seems that intense desire creates not only its own opportunities, but its own talents.”

— Eric Hoffer

Sincerely,

Cheri Booth
Interim Associate Director & State Leader for 4-H
MSU Extension

Gayle Coleman
Interim State Leader Family and Consumer Sciences

Kathy Stuever Foerster
Interim State Leader Family and Consumer Sciences

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