



Macomb County 2023 Annual Report

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Macomb County 2023 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

This annual report is a summary of the work that MSU Extension has done in Macomb County to help people improve their lives through an educational process that brings the vast knowledge and resources of Michigan State University to local communities in southeast Michigan.

In the following pages, you will discover the stories of progress, resilience, and empowerment that have defined our engagement with individuals, families, and organizations across District 11North. From cultivating sustainable agriculture to improving the health of families and nurturing the potential of our youth through 4-H programs, each achievement is a testament to the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our communities.

We could not do this work without local partners in community government, local volunteers and supporters, or people who turn to us for the information and education that we provide. Please continue to use us as a resource for information and ask us questions.

Thank you for your support in 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kristi Evans

District 11North Director- Macomb & Oakland Counties

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Ask Extension

canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert

Food Safety Hotline

877-643-9882

Garden Hotline

888-678-3464

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH & NUTRITION

SUPPORTING WELLNESS

In 2023, **798** Macomb residents participated in MSU Extension's social-emotional health programs to learn how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families' and communities' understanding of and response to mental health crises. Residents participated in **160** programs including RELAX: Alternatives to Anger, Stress Less with Mindfulness, Mental Health First Aid, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and more.



25 Macomb County residents participated in Laughter is the Best Medicine at the Shelby Township Senior Center exploring the social, emotional, mental, and physical benefits of laughter.



Hosted at the Chaldean Community Foundation, **14** Macomb County residents learned how being an informal caregiver affects a person's mental and physical health, the importance of self-care, strategies for self-care, and resources for those providing care.

FOOD SAFETY

After participating in MSU Extension's food safety programming, **317** Macomb County residents learned how to reduce their risk of illness when preparing food and to preserve food safely; childcare providers learned how to reduce foodborne illnesses in the children they care for; and food service managers, workers and volunteers learned how to protect their customers' health and sell food products safely and legally.

"I'm going to try cooking again! Now that I know how to handle meat, I won't get sick!"
-Macomb County program participant

SUPPORTING HEALTHY HABITS

Through MSU Extension's nutrition and physical activity programming, Michigan adults, families, and children gain crucial knowledge about nutrition and healthy foods, increase their daily activity, and improve their food security. In 2023, **3,199** Macomb County residents participated in **386** health and nutrition programs.

Funded through the Farm Bill, MSU Extension offers two nutrition programs designed to reduce hunger and food security and promote healthy eating habits:

SNAP-Ed:

(Supplemental Nutrition Education Program)

provides SNAP-eligible individuals or families nutrition education, resources, and support to increase their likelihood of making healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles.

EFNEP:

(Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)

focuses on improving the dietary habits and overall health for limited-resource adults who are responsible for planning, shopping and preparing food for children in their household.

1,567

Macomb County residents attended **84** SNAP-Ed programs in 2023.

547

Macomb County residents attended **31** EFNEP programs in 2023.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURE, AGRIBUSINESS & CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

MSU Extension serves the agriculture and floriculture industries by engaging in research, education and outreach that enhances the quality of life of Michigan residents. This includes providing resources and information in areas that directly affect human health for those involved in these industries.

In 2023, **1,602** Macomb County residents participated in **140** programs related to:

- animal agriculture
- agribusiness management
- beekeeping
- consumer and ornamental horticulture
- field crops, fruit crops and vegetables.

SMART GARDENING

MSU Extension offers programs and resources to support residential and commercial gardeners at all levels of experience. In 2023, more than **600** Macomb County residents participated in gardening programs including 2023 Plant Quest, where participants learned about plants, breeding vegetables, and how to create a colorful garden filled with annuals, perennials, and shrubs; Dig In!, a year-long series of one-hour presentations on topics related to Michigan gardening; Foundations of Gardening, where participants learn about many aspects of gardening; and more.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

MSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are committed to improving the quality of life in Michigan through horticulture-based volunteerism and beautifying communities. **152** Active-Gold volunteers reside in Macomb County.



"I honestly cannot imagine what my life would be like without the Extension Master Gardener program in it. So many friends and acquaintances have come into my life because of it. I have mentored small children who have blossomed into beautiful, young adults. I have advocated with various municipalities, schools, and groups. I have attended local, state and national conferences. I have personally grown and blossomed in my own way. Even the prickly weeds that are removed have taught me valuable lessons about what belongs and should stay and what shouldn't."

-Jean P., Macomb Master Gardener

Dig In!

Dig In! is a free year-long series of one-hour presentations that features an educational Smart Gardening topic, discussion and sharing information to help gardeners stay connected while exploring new topics.

In 2023, **100** Macomb County residents participated in Dig In! and learned about native trees and shrubs to attract birds, how to not attract invasive species such as Spotted Lanternfly, where annual plants come from, dealing with pests and diseases, garden design for shoreline gardens, pollinators, and more.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Our natural resources programs improve public understanding, help landowners and communities use those assets for sustainable long-term social and economic development and conserve natural resources for future generations. In 2023, **548** Macomb County residents participated in natural resources programs including Introduction to Lakes, Michigan Conservation Stewards program, Conservation Conversations, Michigan Master Naturalist program, nature walks, and more.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY VITALITY

Thriving communities combine knowledgeable and engaged legislators, businesses, community groups, and residents. **100** Macomb County residents participated in **27** programs about leadership, planning and zoning, policy options, land use, and environmental issues.

PROMOTING FINANCIAL STABILITY

MSU Extension provides resources and education on money management, foreclosure prevention, buying a home, retirement planning and more to help residents and their families to become more financially healthy.

In 2023, **335** residents participated in financial homeownership education programs such as Homebuyer Education, How Much Home Can You Afford? Savvy Tips for Starting a Small Business, Surviving and Thriving on a Fixed Income, and more.

KEEPING MACOMB FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES

MSU Extension believes an educated customer will be more confident in making important decisions about foreclosure. Free foreclosure education and counseling is available to assist homeowners in understanding the process of foreclosure, to provide the education a homeowner must have to assess their situation and work with a lender to obtain a loan modification. In partnership with the Macomb County Treasurer's Office, **85** residents facing tax foreclosure received free financial coaching and budgeting education.



In partnership with Huron- Clinton Metropolitan Authority, MSU Extension, and Michigan Sea Grant, Summer Discovery Cruises returned in 2023.

13 cruises departed from Lake St. Clair Metropark with **more than 150** participants. During each two-hour cruise, participants learned from experts about the Great Lakes and efforts to conserve them.



MSHDATM
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MSU Extension- Macomb County assisted **130** Macomb County homeowners who were financially impacted by COVID-19 due to a decrease in income and/or increases in expenses apply for assistance with mortgages, land contracts, property taxes and utilities through the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund.

These funds were received in the form of a grant that homeowners will not have to pay back. The maximum any homeowner could receive was \$25,000. The total amount of assistance provided in Macomb County was \$894,715.66.

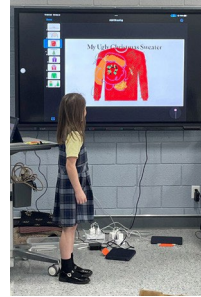


PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. While learning about the world around them, youth gain valuable life skills such as responsibility, citizenship, teamwork, and problem solving. In 2023, **1,917** Macomb County youth participated in **165** programs.



88 students at St. Augustine Catholic School practiced using technology for art and design by creating their own “ugly” Christmas sweaters.

INTRODUCING YOUTH TO NEW SKILLS

4-H offers limitless opportunities for friendship, growth, fun, and development. By engaging youth and adults in meaningful relationships, 4-H helps young people to reach their potential as competent, confident leaders of character who contribute and are connected to their communities.



131 K-7 students at St. Augustine Catholic School practiced coding and robotics- creating animations and emojis and giving their robots commands to follow.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ART, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)

The 4-H Clovers CODE (Creating Opportunities Designed for Everyone) program is designed to introduce youth to coding and creative arts through technology. Supported by Apple’s Community Education Initiative, **298** Macomb County youths were engaged in learning about coding, photography, drawing, and music.

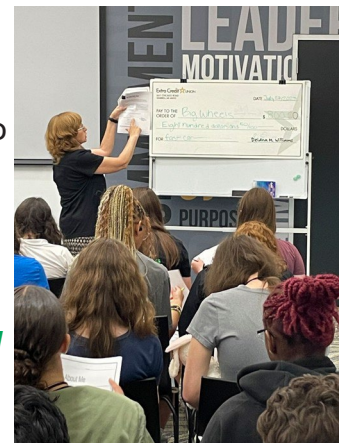
LIFE SKILLS

The goal of Michigan 4-H Youth Development is that every youth possesses the necessary skills to be successful. In 2023, **376** Macomb County youths participated in career and workforce development, leadership, and financial literacy programs.

Financial literacy teaches youths about the value of money and where it comes from, wants versus needs, costs of necessities such as medical insurance, how to save for a car, building and protecting credit, and much more.

“Over the course of the program, I have learned multiple things including credit knowledge as well as what to look for in a career. I will be able to use this knowledge to make an enjoyable and fulfilling life for myself and my future family.”

-Macomb County youth participant



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development vision for global and cultural education is having young people develop an understanding of themselves and other people; a sense of connection with, respect for and responsibility to the world; and an ability to serve and lead with wisdom, care and humility.



Hosted by the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council, **24** youths participated in a woodworking workshop.



One Macomb County youth, Jillian R., strengthened her global citizenship skills through the Michigan 4-H International Exchange program.

“I had so much fun on this trip to Japan! I got to reconnect with my sister I hosted in 2019. I had a wonderful time with her family and was given so many opportunities to try new things and experience their culture.”

-Jillian R., Macomb County 4-H'er

HELPING YOUTH FIND BELONGING

4-H Exploration Days is a pre-college program for youth ages 12-19 from across the state of Michigan designed to allow youths to try new things, gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning, and make friendships that can last a lifetime.

The 2023 4-H Exploration Days theme was around belonging and all the ways that youth can and do belong. **39** Macomb County youths attended 4-H Exploration Days in 2023.



“When I was at the MSU Exploration Days, I learned so much! One of my classes was about being a veterinary nurse. In that class, I learned about the different jobs in a veterinary office and also got to do a bandaging lab. In another class, I learned about forensic science and how to identify fingerprints. I was also able to collaborate with others to solve a mystery. In my last class, I was able to learn about how to care for puppies. I even got to make dog treats to take home!”

- Brooke B., Macomb County 4-H'er

CHILDHOOD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

MSU Extension provides early childhood and family development programs that help parents, caregivers, childcare providers, and other important adults in the lives of children from birth to age eight develop important skills. These programs focus on school readiness, social-emotional development, and positive life skill development. In 2023, **323** Macomb County residents participated in these programs.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

7,683

TOTAL MACOMB COUNTY RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN MSU EXTENSION PROGRAMMING IN 2023



872

PROGRAMS HOSTED IN MACOMB COUNTY



100

GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY VITALITY PARTICIPANTS



152

ACTIVE-GOLD MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



150

4-H VOLUNTEERS



1,917

4-H YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



118

YOUTH SCIENCE LITERACY PARTICIPANTS



548

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



335

FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



89

COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS PARTICIPANTS



798

HEALTH & WELLNESS PARTICIPANTS



317

FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



2,114

NUTRITION & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS



More than 322,000 people in Michigan visited our website last year. You may want to look here too!

canr.msu.edu/outreach
canr.msu.edu/macomb

