



Schoolcraft County 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



2 Extension professionals based in the county, 50+ providing educational opportunities



\$759,948 total economic impact in Schoolcraft County



388 youth involved in 4-H, early childhood or after school enrichment



1 affiliated clinical site



\$22,540 spending with local business



84 alumni (bachelor and graduate degree)



MSU disbursed \$160,173 in financial aid to county students

100+

MSU Extension serving Schoolcraft County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Once again I am delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Schoolcraft County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses, and communities.



MSU Extension offers a broad range of research-based educational services to county residents. Over this past year, we empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

In 2020 we welcomed Schoolcraft County residents into our online community: we offered online educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media, and provided a library of research-based resources they've browsed on our website.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Schoolcraft County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you'll be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

Erin Daines, District 2 Director



SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY

Additional MSU Extension Reach

- Michigan State University Extension staff have been actively serving the residents of Schoolcraft County.
- Services from across all reaches of Extension are accessible because of the Gold Standard commitment Schoolcraft County has made with Michigan State University Extension.
- Schoolcraft County residents are able to access services in the areas of Agriculture & Agribusiness; Children and Youth; Community, Food and Environment; and Health and Nutrition.

356

Schoolcraft County Residents Served

70

of Programs Schoolcraft County Residents Attended



SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY

MSU Extension Reach Breakdown 70

Programs Schoolcraft County
Residents Attended

13

Agriculture &
Agribusiness
Programs

22

Community, Food &
Environment
Programs

110

Children &
Youth
Programs

211

Health &
Nutrition
Programs

Program Highlights

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL PROGRAMMING

Tracie Abram, Extension educator, offered several programs to the students in Manistique before the pandemic in 2020.

Stress Less with Mindfulness, was a 5-session program that was offered to Manistique High School Health Class Students. The program was offered weekly for one hour from February 10 through March 9 with 24 students participating.

RELAX Alternatives To Anger was offered at the Jack Reque Alternative School in Manistique. Five one-hour sessions were held weekly beginning January 20 through February 17. Twenty students participated.



NOAA B-WET TEACHER WORKSHOP

This workshop was part of a large **NOAA grant** obtained by **Clear Lake Education Center**. Rob Wiener, Extension educator, was an integral partner on this project, which consisted of **multiple school visits** to the site in fall 2019. Rob conducted programming for these school groups.

The workshop was a follow-up session with just the teachers, where more in-depth information was shared to help them learn how to facilitate and build upon the activities in their classrooms.

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY VITALITY

Brad Neumann, Senior Extension educator, was asked by the **Schoolcraft County Planning Commission** to deliver a program on Marijuana in the Master Plan as it relates to the county master plan and zoning ordinance: size of potential work-force, likely planned expansions or improvements, infrastructure issues in addressing development of this industry, population (projections and issues), environmental, social and housing concerns were addressed.

This meeting was delivered via Zoom on March 2, 2020 at the **Schoolcraft County Courthouse with 10 participants**.

Brad serves as an educational resource for local and tribal governments across Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the areas of land use planning and zoning, community and economic development and general governance topics including effective meetings and civic engagement.

Program Highlights

NUTRITION EDUCATION

January 2020 started with a “**Show Me Nutrition**” 6-session series with all of the 1st-grade classroom at **Emerald Elementary**. Youth learned about the 5 different sections of MyPlate and the types of foods fitting into each category. At the young age of 6, kids are ready to **debate whether a tomato is a fruit of a vegetable**. Did you know, that aside from a strawberry, botanically speaking, fruits grow from a flower and keep their seed on the inside? So along with tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, pumpkins, etc. are all fruits? But who wants to put dice tomatoes or green peppers into their fruit salad? So culinary classifications do not match botanical classifications and sometimes nutrition classes delve into science topics, even in first grade.

Continuing with the success of offering programming on **½ days of school**, “**Learn to Cook with 4-H**” was offered on **two consecutive ½ days in January**. A **partnership with Manistique Area Schools** allowed the use of the kitchen labs in the home economics classroom. **Ten 5th-7th-grade students** came together for 6 hours of learning where they learned about kitchen and food safety and then practiced making 5 different recipes. When parents came to pick up their kids at the end of the second day, we were getting the last of the dishes washed which is an important skill to learn with cooking.

One 5th grader stopped what she was doing to pull her mom over to show her a serving of the three different recipes her group had made that afternoon. She was most proud of their hot grain bowl that included quinoa, chicken, and vegetables. One mom of one of our students volunteered her opinion saying,

"The kids really made this food on their own?" She was assured that Jill only provided supervision and answered questions. She said, "I've only let my daughter cook macaroni 'n' cheese cups in the microwave before." We have chicken defrosting at home for dinner so I think we'll stop and get quinoa and she can make this again tonight for us."

This is one example of how 4H makes a difference in the community of Schoolcraft County

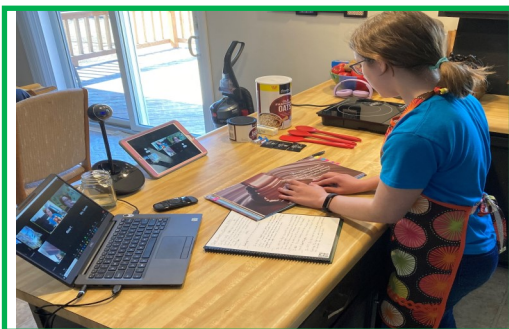


Program Highlights

REMOTE-DELIVERY PIVOT

When **Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer** announced schools in Michigan were to be closed to in-person instruction effective Monday, March 16th, due to the effects of the novel coronavirus, **a need arose for youth across the state.** A group of 4-H staff, including **Schoolcraft County 4-H Program Coordinator Jill Connin**, banded together and created a program to assist youth who now found themselves home alone. The **4-H Home Alone Safely** program was launched on **March 23, an online 4-H program that reached 422 youth from Michigan, 19 other states, and Ontario, Canada.**

Youth who enrolled in the **free program** were engaged in an interactive, online learning experience highlighting topics to keep them safe at home while their adults were gone at work or out doing essential errands such as grocery shopping. Topics covered during online zoom meetings included: **budgeting your time; first aid; home safety (fire safety, stranger danger); 911 (when to call, what to expect when you call, and a mock call demonstration); nutrition and food safety; physical activity; managing feelings (mindfulness); at-home science activities;** caring for younger siblings.



From a mom of a Schoolcraft County participant: *"I just wanted to tell you what the 4-H Home Alone Safely class did for us. My son wouldn't even be in the house alone. If we went outside and he realized we weren't there he would fly out of the house in a panic. He has done things that are unsafe in a panic because he thought he was alone. Now he keeps telling me how much that helped him and how he feels safe to be alone and we have had no issues and we don't even let him be home alone yet, 20 minutes max and only if his older sister is there also. I can't believe the difference, I had no expectations. Now this is real homeschooling."*

The team that created the program was selected to receive the **2020 Institute Team Award from Michigan State University Extension. Nominees for the MSU Extension Institute Team Award must possess the highest standards of integrity and character to positively reflect and enhance the reputation of MSU Extension.** *"We want to honor and recognize your outstanding work in quickly turning an in-person "Home Alone Safely Club" program into an online program,"* said Jeff Dwyer, MSU Extension Director. *"This rapid response during COVID-19 is commendable."*



Investing in Schoolcraft County Youth with 4-H & MSU Extension

According to research completed by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H'ers are **4X** more likely to make contributions to their communities, **2X** more likely to be civically active, and **2X** more likely to make healthier choices.



Achievement in Service Award for Michigan from National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals

Jill began her career with MSU Extension when the **Schoolcraft County office** was reopened in the **Spring of 2016 after a six-year closure**. During her **4 years on staff**, more than **215 youth** have held 4-H memberships. Through her 4-H and SNAP-Ed split role, she has reached **ALL Manistique Area School students** in first through ninth grades with at least 6 hours of programming. A highlight is the U.P. 4-H Camp that Jill and three other staff reimaged into a program serving 80 youth each year. Jill is willing to learn something new and grow in her role. She has served on numerous committees, including PC Onboarding, District 2 District Director Search, 2018 Fall Extension Conference, CYI Stewardship, ES-237 Verification, MAE4-HYS U.P. Regional Vice Chair and travel system pilot group. Jill has mentored three new staff members. A partnership was formed between **National 4-H, Michigan 4-H and the U.S. Soccer Foundation** and Jill was selected to attend the train-the-trainer event and was then invited by USSF to return as a session presenter the following year. Jill has attended NAE4-HYDP's national conference three times. In December 2019, Jill completed her Master's Degree in Family and Community Services from MSU. The high-level of professional development gained through her role in MSU Extension has afforded her the opportunity to share cutting-edge developments and best-practices in youth development with other youth-serving organizations in Schoolcraft County, especially advocating for grandparents raising grandchildren, families who are food insecure and families of low socioeconomic status.



Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY MSU EXTENSION STAFF

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