



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARQUETTE COUNTY



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



# Extension-Helping to Build a Stronger Wisconsin

The UW–Madison Division of Extension embodies the Wisconsin Idea to extend university knowledge to every corner of the state, administering programming through six institutes: Positive Youth Development (including 4-H); Human Development & Relationships; Health & Well-Being (including FoodWise); Agriculture; Community Development; and Natural Resources. Extension’s statewide network delivers services to communities and tribes across Wisconsin through partnerships and relationships to adapt the practical applications of research and inform studies with community input. In 2025, the Marquette County Extension team included educators in 4-H-Positive Youth Development; Human Development and Relationships; FoodWise; Agriculture; and AmeriCorps.

Extension’s outreach creates key connection points for families, communities, businesses, non-profit organizations, government, and more. We support local volunteers and leaders to take action and serve as role models in their communities, and we make sure Wisconsinites have the latest research, best practices, and educational opportunities. With a presence in every county in Wisconsin and in partnership with First Nations we are: supporting positive youth development; promoting healthy relationships; fostering civic and economic leadership; empowering health and well-being; supporting Wisconsin’s agriculture industry; and enhancing resilient natural resource systems.

For more details, stop by our office in the Services Center or visit us on the web: the UW-Madison Division of Wisconsin website at <https://extension.wisc.edu/about-us/> and the Extension Marquette County website at <https://marquette.extension.wisc.edu/>

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### UW Extension Marquette County

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# Human Development & Relationships

Hannah Zellmer, Human Development and Relationships Educator

## Promoting Healthy Relationships >>

We embrace the philosophy that each stage of life is unique, exciting and filled with potential. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness into everyday use.

In 2025, Marquette County Human Development & Relationships Extension programming focused on prevention & family stability, delivering evidence based education while strengthening local systems that support children and families. Hannah's work reflects a balance of direct education, community partnerships, coalition leadership, program development, and evaluation, all anchored in locally identified needs. The impact of this work led to national recognition through my receipt of the National ESP Early Career Service Award.



A significant portion of my workload centered on delivering evidence based education directly to county residents. Core programming included Triple P, Parents Forever™, Resilient Co-Parenting, Strong Couples and Parent Cafés. These programs supported parents and caregivers of children from infancy through adolescence, as well as adults navigating family transitions.

Educational delivery occurred through in person classes, virtual sessions, small groups, library partnerships, and school collaborations. Repeated offerings throughout the year reflect intentional relationship building with families and partner agencies, resulting in strong retention and measurable behavior change.

Seasonal community events such as Family Adventure Day, Block Parties, Touch-a-Truck, and Literacy/Library program demonstrate my role in meeting families where they already gather.



### Triple P: Positive Parenting Programs

The Triple P: Positive Parenting Program provided caregivers with practical tools to reduce stress, strengthen relationships, and promote positive child behavior. Offerings in 2025 included Triple P 0–12, Triple P Teen, and Triple P FearLess, which supported families with children experiencing moderate to high anxiety.

*For our family, this has been so helpful and for us it was life changing... it's truly helped with her anxiety, confidence, and resilience.*

*~FearLess Class Participant*

Triple P FearLess, which supports families with children experiencing moderate to high anxiety, programming was offered both to community members and in partnership with schools. Parent feedback documented increased confidence, improved child coping skills, and successful application of strategies during real life challenges, reinforcing Extension's role in early intervention and prevention.

## Co Parenting and Family Transitions

In partnership with Marquette County Family Court, I delivered Parents Forever™ co parenting education for families experiencing separation, divorce, or custody changes. In 2025, eight classes served 49 participants through both virtual and in person formats.

- 98% reported learning new ways to handle conflict with a co parent
- 94% reported increased cooperation on parenting issues
- 98% felt more confident keeping children out of adult conflict

Additionally, I facilitated Resilient Co-Parenting classes, creating safe spaces for caregivers to share experiences and learn strategies specific to co parenting topics. This work helps reduce family conflict, supports children's emotional wellbeing, and complements county efforts to stabilize families during times of transition.

## Supporting Early Care and Education (ECE)



Supporting the early childhood workforce remained a major focus throughout 2025. As a Wisconsin Registry Certified Trainer, I provided continuing education that supports workforce quality and retention. I also continued to work on developing in person workshops for ECE professionals that will be offered in 2026.

As the co-leader of the Marquette County Child Care Team, I supported the administration \$2,500 in ARPA funds to reduce training barriers for childcare providers. This investment supported 23 educators across three facilities and funded more than 50 trainings, including CPR/AED, infant and toddler care, and classroom management. These efforts directly supported childcare stability for working families.

## Parent Cafés

Parent Cafés were a key prevention strategy in 2025, strengthening social connection and resilience through the Five Protective Factors Framework. A total of 9 Parent Cafés were held (3 virtual, 6 in person), engaging 134 participants.

Evaluation results showed 99% of participants gained skills or insights applicable to current parenting challenges, with qualitative feedback highlighting increased empathy, confidence, and peer connection.

Language interpretation services supported Spanish speaking families, helping ensure full access and engagement.

*Very educational. In depth conversations without any judgements. Safe and secure atmosphere. ~Parent Cafe Participant*





# Positive Youth Development

Christa Van Treeck, 4-H Youth Development Educator

## Supporting Positive Youth Development >>

Our research-based youth enrichment programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to grow into the global leaders of tomorrow. From youth governance to Wisconsin 4-H clubs, we provide diverse educational opportunities to prepare youth for success in Wisconsin and beyond.



## Direct Programming for Youth Across Ages

Throughout the year, I provided and supported hands-on educational experiences for youth at all developmental stages. Programming included:

- Early childhood and Cloverbud programming focused on social skills, curiosity, and belonging.
- Elementary and middle school 4-H programs emphasizing exploration, leadership, and life skills.
- Teen Court and restorative practices programming that promotes accountability, skill-building, and community connection.
- Career readiness, leadership development, and youth voice activities delivered in partnership with schools and community organizations.

These programs featured not only in-person and virtual delivery, but also curriculum development, coordination with partners, preparation, follow-up, and evaluation. Many activities took place outside standard work hours to meet youth and families where they are.

## Marquette County Extension – Youth Development

In 2025, my role as Positive Youth Development and 4-H Educator focused on strengthening the systems, relationships, and experiences that support young people across Marquette County. The work spans **direct programming, volunteer and staff leadership, countywide collaboration, and program infrastructure**, ensuring that youth—from early childhood through early adulthood—have access to safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate opportunities.

Rather than operating as individual programs, Youth Development in Marquette County functions as a **connected system**, linking schools, families, community organizations, and county priorities. My efforts reflect this integrated approach, requiring daily work across multiple communities, age groups, and focus areas.



## Leadership of Youth-Serving Systems

A significant portion of my work focuses on ensuring youth programs are **well-managed, compliant, and sustainable**. In 2025, this included:

- Ongoing supervision, training, and support of AmeriCorps members.
- Administrative oversight such as approvals, reporting, budgeting, compliance filings, and documentation.
- Regular evaluation work through Thriving Evaluation, the PYD Institute, and other reporting requirements.
- Maintenance of program systems including 4HOnline, chartering, record keeping, and data tracking

This “invisible work” is essential to maintaining public trust, securing funding, ensuring programs meet state and federal requirements.



## Collaboration and Countywide Impact

Youth Development work is inherently collaborative. Throughout 2025, I actively engaged with:

- School districts across the county
- County departments and advisory committees
- Nonprofit boards, community coalitions, and other organizations
- Regional and statewide Extension professional networks

I regularly participated in regional meetings, professional development, and conferences to bring current research-based practices back to Marquette County. This ensures local youth benefit from **statewide innovation while programming remains community-driven**.



## Support Adults Who Support Youth

Long-term youth impact depends on strong adult leaders. My work included:

- Recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers and club leaders
- Providing coaching and resources for educators and community partners
- Communicating with families through newsletters, meetings, and events
- Building leadership capacity among staff, AmeriCorps members, and volunteers

By investing in adults, we expand youth access to safe, meaningful experiences far beyond what one educator could deliver alone.

Youth Development is not a single program, but a **network of relationships, responsibilities, and outcomes**. My work balances direct service with leadership, planning with responsiveness, and individual youth needs with countywide strategy. This integrated approach ensures Marquette County youth are supported not only today, but are prepared with the skills, confidence, and connections needed for the future.



# Health & Well Being

*Laci Monroe, FoodWise Nutrition Educator- Jan-Sep, 2025  
Marquette, Green Lake and Waushara Counties*

## Empowering Health & Well-Being >>

We provide individuals, families, and communities the tools and guidance they need to reduce stress, improve nutrition, and support physical activity. We work with community partners to increase access to healthy affordable food, create environments that promote well-being, and address access to quality health care.



FoodWise in Marquette County taught practical, evidence-based skills in nutrition education, meal planning, food safety, and food resource management. Programming helped people stretch food dollars and make healthier choices. This was done by working with schools, food pantries, farmers markets, and community centers. With local strengths, staff supported healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for central Wisconsin residents experiencing limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.

The FoodWise program was federally funded by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed). Staff time and program materials were covered by this federal funding. However, that funding ended due to the congressional budget reconciliation bill signed into law on July 4, 2025 which ended federal SNAP-Ed funding effective September 30, 2025.



# Agriculture

*Natasha Paris, Regional Crops Educator- January-March, 2025  
Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara, and Adams Counties*

## Supporting Wisconsin's Agriculture Industry >>

Whether on the farm or in the field, we're on the front lines of modern agriculture, helping producers build stronger and more productive food systems. From managing livestock to crops to strategic financial planning for farms, our educators and researchers help solve challenges that Wisconsin producers face.

### Research

Planning for on-farm research projects in January and February and working with growers to apply for Nutrient Optimization Pilot Program grants. These projects are farmer-driven and the goal is to answer a question that they have.

### Crops Education

- Trainings and Grower Meetings
- On-Farm Research
- News Articles/Publications
- Producer Calls/Visits
- Producer/Public Inquires
- Statewide Efforts



# MARQUETTE COUNTY Community Needs Forum Summary Report

On July 9th, 2025, UW Extension Educators hosted a community needs forum. The purpose of this session was to bring community voice, gather information, and identify and prioritize community needs that will inform the work of Extension and other local efforts. Extension may not be able to act on all topics or needs assessed; therefore, some needs determined may be addressed by community partners.

## Top Prioritized Community Needs

- Housing
- Childcare
- Communication & Outreach
- Youth Career Development
- Healthcare Access
- Transportation
- Support for Aging Population
- Community Partnerships
- Economic Development
- Inclusion & Accessibility

## Positive Youth Development (PYD) Priorities

1. Youth-voice, Leadership & Career Awareness/Readiness
2. Communication & Awareness of County Resources for youth
3. Accessibility to Programming
4. Rebuilding Trust & Visibility of Extension

## Human Development & Relationships (HDR) Priorities

1. Childcare Quality, Access & Early Childhood Development
2. Communication & Awareness of County Resources for Families
3. Support for Families in Transition
4. Support Parents & Caregivers of Adolescents
5. Rebuilding Trust & Visibility of Extension



For the complete report, use the link or scan the QR code.  
<https://go.wisc.edu/y3e4lg>

You can also request a copy at the Extension office.



## OUR TEAM



**Pat Wagner**  
Area 12  
Extension  
Director



**Hannah Zellmer**  
Human Development &  
Relationships Educator



**Christa Van Treeck**  
Positive Youth  
Development  
Educator



**Laci Monroe**  
FoodWise  
Coordinator



**Natasha Paris**  
Regional Crops  
Educator



**April Hughes**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Anna Steuck**  
WI 4-H AmeriCorps  
Member, Marquette  
County



**Olivia Zuehls**  
WI 4-H AmeriCorps  
Member, Marquette  
County



**Haddie Pfile**  
WI 4-H AmeriCorps  
Member, Marquette  
County



## OUR COLLABORATORS

Adams County Electric Cooperative (ACEC)  
 Brakebush Family Foundation  
 Building Blocks Childcare LLC  
 CAP Services, Inc./ Head Start  
 Childcaring, Inc  
 Country Visions Cooperative  
 Endeavor Elementary  
 Family Health La Clinica/WIC  
 Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Coalition (HCHY)  
 Home and Community Educators (HCE)  
 Hope House of South-Central Wisconsin  
 Inter-County Coordination Committee  
 Marquette County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)  
 Marquette County Economic Development Corporation  
 Marquette County Youth Organization, Inc.  
 Marquette County Farm Bureau  
 Marquette County Health Department  
 Marquette County Clinical Services Unit  
 Marquette County Court  
 Marquette County Human Services

Marquette County Law Enforcement  
 Marquette County Land & Water  
 Marquette County Libraries  
 Marquette County Parks & Rural Planning  
 Marquette County Sheriff's Office  
 Marquette County Gardeners  
 Marquette County Treatment Court  
 Marquette County Visitors Bureau  
 Marquette County Towns Association  
 Marquette County Tribune  
 Montello School District  
 Municipalities in Marquette County  
 Oxford VFW  
 Smart Start Day Care  
 Tri-County Tourism Alliance  
 Westfield School District  
 Wisconsin Child Abuse Prevention Board  
 Wisconsin Dells School District  
 Wisconsin Teen Court Association