

Shiawassee County 4-H Leading the Way



The Shiawassee 4-H Program reached over 3,453 youth within the county this past year with 734 of them enrolled through community 4-H clubs and the others being reached through short-term educational programs. Enrollments through short-term educational events increased over 11% from last year. This increase in numbers also reflected at our volunteer level increasing our volunteers by 7% to total 208 4-H Adult volunteers throughout Shiawassee Co.

On top of our traditional 4-H programs that are held annually like the 4-H overnight camp, youth events at the fair, livestock shows, library summer programs, school enrichment programs, day camps and much more we started some new partnerships and programs this year. This was 4-H's first year at the Farm Safety Day hosted by Farm Bureau strengthening our current partnership with them, partnering with Toms Western Store to teach youth on field trips about animal science, having Owosso Community Players come teach our camp counselors all about confidence and leadership, and continuing to partner with Morrice School to help at a new Family Night teaching youth about 4-H Shooting Sports. 4 new community clubs were started in the area, 2 focusing on Shooting Sports, 1 Robotics club and 1 small animal club giving our local youth more options to join in on 4-H opportunities. 4-H was able to partner with Owosso and Byron Schools to teach 4-H Computer Science Curriculum to elementary and middle school youth with hands-on computer science kits. We were honored to have one of our 4-H youth be awarded as the Michigan 4-H Youth Animal Science Sportsmanship Winner and our county won an Excellence in 4-H Camping Award!



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Shiawassee County 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



\$24,691,316
economic impact



252
enrolled MSU students



\$2,385,787
spending with local businesses



2,545
MSU alumni in Shiawassee County



\$5,126,184
financial aid disbursed



3,453
youth in 4-H

Message from the District Director

Michigan State University (MSU) 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 our children to dream of a successful future.



With a presence in every Michigan county, Extension faculty and staff members provide tools to live and work better. From a personal meeting to information online, MSU Extension educators work every day to provide the most current information when people need it to ensure success – in the workplace, at home and in the community.

Whether it's helping grow Michigan's agriculture economy, capturing opportunities that use our natural resources in a sustainable way, controlling health care costs by giving individuals the information they need to manage chronic illness or preparing tomorrow's leaders, MSU Extension is creating opportunities and building communities that make Michigan strong, prosperous and a great place to live.

On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving your County, thank you for your continued support. I would also like to thank all of our partners, businesses, families and youth that we serve. It is a pleasure and honor to work with you and meet your needs in our community.

Mark Rankin, District Director



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MSUE Programming

Supporting Family Nutrition in Shiawassee County

Over the past year, MSU Extension's SNAP-Ed Community Nutrition Instructors from Shiawassee County have had the opportunity to collaborate with various partners teaching the benefits of nutrition and physical activity. Shiawassee County Instructors have reached 262 adults and 587 youth who participated in a 6-week series of educational sessions. These series are typically 6 sessions averaging between an hour or two each week. There were 1164 youth and 587 adult individuals that participated in one-time presentations.

With the goal of improving nutrition and physical activity Shiawassee County MSU Extension was able to reach 118 families through 3 childcare Policy, System and Environmental Initiatives (PSE's). These participants were both in-home child-care providers as well as public childcare settings. The providers determined the goals and policies which were obtained by helping the provider and the families they serve.

A New Face to Shiawassee County MSUE

In September 2019, Sean Knurek joined the Shiawassee County MSU Extension office.

Sean worked for MSU Extension as a Nutrition Program Instructor in Genesee County, teaching Cooking Matters and Cooking for One. His target audience reach included children aging out of foster care and consumers seeking mental health services in Flint and Genesee County.

In the Community

Sean also worked for five years as a Behavioral Support Specialist for ATTIC Correctional Services in Madison, Wisconsin, assisting males transitioning from incarceration to productive society.

Sean looks forward to working with Shiawassee area community partners in his role as a health educator focused on diabetes education, community behavioral health, and social-emotional learning across the lifespan.

In October, Sean led a Dining with Diabetes class at the Memorial Healthcare Community Wellness, Nutrition, and Diabetes center in Owosso. 15 people sampled diabetes-friendly recipes and learned more about managing this chronic condition in this 4-week series. He is looking forward to future service to our community.



Shiawassee 4-H and AmeriCorps Collaboration

Fall of 2019 brought an AmeriCorps Service Member Volunteer to our 4-H program. The member role is the sole purpose to create SPIN (short term, special interest) clubs for 4-H and Non 4-H youth based on the 4-H STEAM curriculum. STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, very non-traditional 4-H subjects. Our member is working diligently to develop partnerships with members of the community to help facilitate and promote these programs. The program goal is to offer these programs at little or no cost, having a direct concentration towards youth that come from a lower income homes in our community. We look forward to continued programming.



Area teens are participating in the Cooking Matters for Teens Series.



Our Teen Series was held in the beautiful the Memorial Healthcare Community Wellness, Nutrition and Diabetes Center in Owosso.



Sean Knurek comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Marquette University, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin, and a Master of Public Health degree from Michigan State University.



With our 4-H STEAM program anyone can be an explorer. No need for a farm or farm animals.