

# Hancock County Annual Report 2020

## Putting Knowledge to Work!

The West Virginia University Extension Service works to provide solutions in your community through key programs and resources, including agriculture and natural resources; 4-H and youth development; food and nutrition; health and wellness; financial planning; and home gardening. These research-based programs and services are available to all Hancock County residents thanks to the tremendous support of our community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners, including the Board of Education and County Commission.

## Highlights

- Extension agents from Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel counties created the NOPAN Padlet Challenge to engage youths in 4-H activities. A total of 72 members participated in synchronous or asynchronous activities with more than 200 youth engagements recorded.
- Hancock County Extension agent continues as the statewide trainer on the LifeSkills training program, which is an evidence-based substance abuse prevention program. The workshop was provided to 20 individuals in Mercer and Wyoming counties.

## 4-H/Youth Development

### *Camping*

- Hancock Brooke Camp URLinked was held with 48 youths from Hancock and Brooke counties participating in 283 total activities.
- Hancock Brooke Camp URLinked's private Facebook page featured 326 photos and 17 videos generated by campers.

### *4-H School-based Programs*

- 11 8th grade students at St. Paul's School participated in the LifeSkills training program and Money Habitudes program.
- Six members of the Future Business Leaders of America club at Weir High School completed a My Dashboard strategic planning workshop for their cookie sales project to fund travel to the national FBLA conference. The My Dashboard program helped students set goals, identify stressors and stress management techniques, time management, etc.
- 10 students from Oak Glen High School took part in Build a Budget workshop and My Dashboard exercise.
- Six students from Hancock County Alternative Learning Center took part in Build a Budget workshop, where participants engaged in hands-on activities to build a budget. They learned the difference between wants vs. needs and gross pay vs. net pay, a process for building a budget and how to make a plan to live independently.

- 15 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at St. Joseph The Worker School took part in an Alcohol 101 workshop, which covered the risks and dangers of alcohol use particularly for youth.

### *Energy Express Program*

- 60 youths completed the Energy Express program. 360 take-home books were distributed during the summer, as well as 180 STEM projects and 180 healthy living projects.

### *Virtual 4-H Programs*

- Co-created and facilitated virtual 4-H project workshops in several areas, including Cloverbuds (Plants and Animals and Financial Management), Purr-fect Pals, Focus on Photography and Charting projects. In all, 81 youths were reached.
- Provided training to state faculty and staff on the revised Build a Budget workshop for use in a virtual setting.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Master Gardeners provided 419 hours of volunteer service and took part in 614 hours of education.
- Seven Master Gardeners completed Master Gardener program classes.

## Families and Health

- 306 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Weirton Elementary School took part in Family Nutrition Program programming.
- 150 community financial education resource packets were distributed throughout Hancock County.
- 20 members of the Community Educational Outreach Service volunteers provided 5,000 hours of volunteer service to the county.

## Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development

### *Workforce Development*

- 35 retail service employees successfully completed the TIPs training program, an evidence-based program for servers and sellers of alcoholic beverages. Participants learned proper service and sales procedures.
- 13 AmeriCorps members participated in workforce development activities during the Energy Express program.
- 30 business, civic and educational employees participated in two virtual Grant Writing 101 workshops.
- Facilitated a strategic planning workshop for the board of directors of Hilltop Horizons, LLC. The board established a capital campaign fund for an indoor riding arena, which would allow therapeutic horseback riding programming to expand to year-round.
- WVU Extension Service offices in Hancock and Brooke counties led the expansion of regional tourism in the Upper Ohio Valley Region by organizing a database of members and then coordinating regional meetings throughout the three-state region. The meetings were held every two months, and the host county site would provide meals and tours of their county.
- The Visit Upper Ohio Valley Regional Tourism Committee now has representation from West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania organizations, including convention and visitors bureaus, county tourist offices, bed and breakfast owners, lodging, park and recreation sites, local and state-elected officials. 14 counties from these three states met through Zoom

meetings to discuss tourism efforts during the pandemic and brainstorm ways to engage and begin to roll out tourism efforts in a safe manner.

- These 13 counties worked together to promote the Upper Ohio Valley regional tourism assets and increase tourism capacities. Regional tourism assets included various tourist destinations, such as parks, historic sites, eateries, recreation attractions, museums and much more.
- A website and social media presence were established to promote the collaborative tourism program. 3,500 people were reached through social media 86 posts for an average view of 41 people per post. The posts from tourism partners in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania helped educate and draw people to various tourist destinations in the three states.