The Situation
According to Idaho Kids Count, data gathered by Mountain States Group, Inc., 79% of Owyhee County women with children under 18 work outside of the home. Because of the number of parents in the work force, there are fewer available volunteers for youth programs. Forming partnerships with other agencies and schools is necessary to expand the 4-H program.

Our Response
With funding provided by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation and the Extension Nutrition Program, a 4-H Program Assistant and two part-time 4-H Youth Nutrition Advisors and were hired to expand the program. The 4-H Program Assistant and Extension Nutrition Advisors, along with 4-H volunteers, are reaching increased numbers of youth with non-traditional, special interest, school enrichment, and the traditional 4-H programs. The Extension Nutrition Program through its youth component is reaching an increased number of youth with nutrition education. Youth from diverse audiences and at-risk youth are learning life skills through the following expanded 4-H activities.

Traditional 4-H projects
Clothing
The Total Look
Modeling
Teen Leader
Child Care
Join the Fitness Team
Fit It Altogether
Teens Entertain
Fun with Frozen Dough
International Foods

Food and Nutrition School Enrichment projects
Bread in a Bag
Snackin’ Healthy
Gifts of Gold
Captain 5-A-Day
Pyramid Café
Food for All Seasons
Nutri-Kids Visit the Zoo
Nutri-Kids Visit Goodeater Farm
Nutri-Kids Create a Rainbow Garden
Food Safety at Home and When Eating Out

Food and Nutrition School Enrichment projects
Etiquette
Art
Gardening
Etiquette
Self-Determined
Handwork from Our Heritage
Cloverbuds

Non-traditional 4-H projects
Being Safe at Home
Energy Education
Leather craft
Pebble Pups
Safety
Presidential Challenge
Cake Decorating
Photography
Communicating with Friends
Dance
Cheerleading
Water Awareness WET
Presidential Fitness

Achievements
In 2000, 4-H reached 1965 youth with the traditional and non-traditional 4-H projects. These youth completed an average of 7 lessons for each project. Youth in longer series completed as many as 29 lessons, and shorter series were 3 lessons in length. Of these youth, 740 were Hispanic, an audience traditionally underserved by the 4-H program.
Sixth graders from the Duck Valley Elementary School participated in a field trip to Water Awareness in Boise and the WET program at their school. The Homedale Junior High dance and cheerleading group enjoyed a field trip to a Nampa Dance Studio and received special dance instruction while expanding their career horizons. Workforce preparation skills were practiced by teens at Homedale and Rimrock High School while attending a special “Auditions” workshop presented by movie producer, Michael McGuire.

In addition to the large increase in 4-H enrollment, over 750 4-H Nutrition projects from the non-traditional program and many traditional projects were exhibited at the county fair. The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation funded many of the 4-H project supplies, special activities, and field trips.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Clubs</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>302</td>
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<tr>
<td>School enrichment, special interest and camps</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>1049</td>
<td>1663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total enrollment</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>1349</td>
<td>1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent increase</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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Youth in nutrition programs learned good eating habits and kitchen safety. During a lesson on making a fruit salad, the nutrition advisor talked with the students about knife safety when cooking at home. She demonstrated the proper way to carry knives while walking, standing, and talking. A few days later, a young boy approached her and told her that all week he had been practicing the safe way to hold and carry a knife, and he told everyone else in his family how to do it right, too!

On another occasion, a mother asked the nutrition advisor, “Are you the one responsible for the fruit salad we had last night?” She explained that her son had brought home the recipe last night and insisted that they make it for their supper that evening because he liked it so well. The mother admitted that the whole family enjoyed the salad and thanked the advisor for teaching her son about nutrition in school.

**Cooperators**

The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation  
US Bank  
Grand View Library Reading Program  
Grand View Elementary School  
Homedale Elementary  

**Homedale Summer Camps**  
Marsing After School Program  
Marsing Elementary School  
Marsing High School Athletics Program  
Marsing High School Family and Consumer Science Program  
Marsing Resource Coalition  
Marsing Summer Camps  

USDA Food and Nutrition Services in cooperation with the Idaho Food Stamp Program, Department of Health and Welfare provide funding in support of the Extension Nutrition Program.

**The Future**

Considering the success of the non-traditional program—project completion by diverse and at-risk audiences—the potential to reach an even greater number of youth exists.

Partnerships with Marsing, Homedale, and Grand View Schools are in place, and the potential for expanding programs is evident with a 4-H program assistant in place. Partnerships with Bruneau Elementary School, Rimrock High School, Pleasant Valley Schools, and Homedale High School will be developed over the next three years to expand 4-H.

The 4-H Program Assistant position continues with funding being provided by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation.

**For More Information**

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