4-H Reaches 1349 Children in Owyhee County

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 program.

A 4-H Program Assistant, 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 these expanded 4-H activities.

Our Response
With funding provided by US Bank and the Extension Nutrition Program, two part time 4-H Youth Nutrition Advisors and a part time 4-H Program Assistant were hired to expand the program.

Traditional 4-H projects completed:
- Clothing
- The Total Look
- Modeling
- Teen Leader
- Child Care
- Etiquette
- Art
- Gardening

Join the Fitness Team
Fit It Altogether
Teens Entertain
Fun with Frozen Dough
International Foods
Self-Determined
Handwork from Our Heritage

Food and Nutrition School Enrichment Projects:
- Bread in a Bag
- Snackin’ Healthy
- Gifts of Gold
- Nutri-Kids Visit the Zoo
- Nutri-Kids Visit Goodeater Farm
- Nutri-Kids Create a Rainbow Garden
- Food Safety at Home and When Eating Out

Non-traditional 4-H Projects:
- Being Safe at Home
- Photography
- Energy Education
- Communicating with Friends

4-H Enrollments

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<tr>
<td>Traditional Clubs</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>307</td>
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<td>School enrichment,</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>1049</td>
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<td>special interest and</td>
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<td>camps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total enrollment</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>1349</td>
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<td>Percent increase</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>99%</td>
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Achievements
In 1999 4-H reached 1349 youth with the traditional and non-traditional 4-H projects. 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, 489 were Hispanic, an audience traditionally under served by the 4-H program.
In addition to the large increase in 4-H enrollment, over 600 4-H Nutrition projects from the non-traditional program, over 45 Photography storyboards, many traditional projects, and many birdhouses were exhibited at the county fair.

Envirosafe of Idaho Inc. funded the 4-H photography, energy and nutrition project supplies. Teens from the Marsing High School Family and Consumer Science Summer Group completed 54 traditional 4-H projects and 7 at-risk youth modeled at the county fashion show.

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 making snacks and helping with dinner. She demonstrated the proper way to carry knives while walking, standing, and talking. A few days later the 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 the nutrition advisor was approached by a mother. “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
US Bank
Envirosafe Services of Idaho, Inc.
Grand Public 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 & Consumer Science Prgm
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, 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 has been expanded to full time with funding being provided by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation.

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