



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Christian County

2023

Annual Report



1701-B West Jackson Street
PO Box 1390
Ozark, MO 65721
417-581-355



Extension

University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT
108 Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
EMAIL: cchiggins@missouri.edu

December 2023

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

Thank you for your important partnership with the University of Missouri Extension this past year.

I want to highlight three areas that address needs you helped us identify.

You may recall that the FY 23 state budget provided a one-time \$5 million infusion to MU Extension for growth. Of that, we allocated about \$3 million for field faculty in the areas of agriculture, 4-H, health/human development and business and community development.

Through a dedicated hiring effort, and thanks to that allocation, we have hired 168 new employees since November 2022. That includes 72 academic/faculty members, most of whom are field specialists in a priority area noted above, and 96 staff members (e.g., office administrators, youth and food and nutrition associates, etc.).

We also returned more faculty to local program delivery that best serves your county's needs, while preserving the partnership and relationship building work you value. Our extension and engagement specialists focus full-time on that work as they serve their assigned multi-county groups. Currently, 19 have been hired, with two more in the pipeline.

Finally, we are prioritizing our work with county extension councils. In the new role of partnership and council development director, Lorin Fahrmeier focuses on strengthening council representation and governance. This role will build stronger links with regional, educational and campus leadership to better identify and address local priorities.

At the UM System level, our engagement work across four universities and with leaders across the state makes a difference in areas of greatest need: broadband, workforce development, health access, food security and healthy futures for our youth.

Your county annual report shows what we are accomplishing together as we Serve Missouri and Deliver Mizzou. We look forward to strengthening that partnership with county commissioners and community stakeholders in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Chad Higgins, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Kyle Whittaker
Agricultural Business



Jenni Nevatt
Nutrition and Health Education



Brooke Brauneis
Nutrition Program Associate



Michelle Rogers
4-H Youth Program Associate



Candice Cover
Administrative Assistant



Kayla Cunningham
Administrative Assistant Sub

Council members

Andrew Mills, Chairman
Stephen Short, Vice-chairman, Farm Bureau
Dennis Baker, Treasurer
Patsy Briggs, Secretary
Echo Alexzander
Shelby Austin
Charles Cameron
Craig Carson
Mark Jenkins
Robert Klug
Lynn Morris, Presiding Commissioner
Cindy Robbins, City of Nixa
Arianna Russell, City of Ozark
Chris Russell



County commissioners

Lynn Morris, Presiding Commissioner
Hosea Bilyeu, Western District Commissioner
Bradley Jackson, Eastern District Commissioner

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations

82,175

Total Income

82,175

Expenses

Events and Training

388.12

Salaries/Benefits

48,860.91

Payroll Expenses

2,132.18

Travel

2,045.58

Telephone

2,168.81

Office Supplies/Service

4,784.77

Rent/Lease Space

16,200

Utilities

3,461.45

Insurance

2,053

Extension Council Election

195.84

Total Expenses

82,290.66

Net Balance

-115.66

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The Christian County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the Christian County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Christian County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

County Impacts

198

Soil samples submitted to the
MU Soil and Plant testing
laboratory for analysis

23

Forage samples submitted to Custom Labs for analysis

4

Canner Gauges tested in Extension office

22

Johnson Grass Nitrate Testing done in Extension office

Testing/services offered in Christian County include:

- ◆ Soil Testing
- ◆ Canner Gauge Testing
- ◆ Hay Testing
- ◆ Plant/Insect Identification
- ◆ Plant Disease Diagnosis
- ◆ Small Business Development Assistance: Transforming Missouri Businesses— MU Extension business specialists provide assistance to those wanting to start, maintain or expand a business through the Missouri Small Business Development Centers and via Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- ◆ Distance Education Test Proctoring—MU Extension proctors tests for students enrolled in Mizzou Online courses.
- ◆ Publications—MU Extension has a variety of publications available. Prices vary.



To learn more about any of our programs or services visit our website: <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/christian>

<https://www.facebook.com/Christian-County-MU-Extension-104129067790327/>



Christian County

UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

306 students

- 234 Undergraduates
- 72 Graduate and professional students
- 221 Full-time students
- 85 Part-time students
- 53 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



County employees and retirees

48 people employed by UM

- 43 Campuses
- 5 MU Health Care

25 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$3.0 million

UM state tax revenue: \$104,531

UM federal tax revenue: \$608,303



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 52 Medicine
- 108 Nursing
- 95 Health Professions
- 37 Dentistry
- 64 Pharmacy
- 10 Optometry
- 33 Veterinary Medicine
- 120 Agriculture
- 298 Engineering
- 74 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 44 teachers
- 3.7% of all district teachers
- 2 principals and administrators
- 3.0% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 161 students
- 902 alumni
- 35 employees

UMKC

- 43 students
- 270 alumni
- 6 employees

Missouri S&T

- 81 students
- 284 alumni
- 2 employees

UMSL

- 21 students
- 82 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Christian County



County population: 87,824



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 361 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$599,588 of uncompensated care
- 11 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$43.61 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 339 visits to 167 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

- 446 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 100 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 346 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development



Christian County

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In 2022, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 81,645 jobs.



\$3.1
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY17 and FY22, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.46 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY23, UM System was issued 33 patents and filed 61 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY23, the UM System awarded 805 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$279.2 million in the state.



In FY23, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 18,381 hrs of case-based instruction to 2,938 learners located in 112 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



41,992 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2022)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 174,692 farmers and related businesses (2022)



311,749 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2022)

Education Highlights

FY23 Financial Aid Awards

In FY23, 67.3% of the UM System's 80,702 students received financial aid totaling \$973.7 million

MU

UMKC

27,256

\$536.0M

11,859

\$217.3M

students receiving financial aid

financial aid awarded

students receiving financial aid

financial aid awarded

Missouri S&T

UMSL

6,748

\$117.7M

8,489

\$102.8M

students receiving financial aid

financial aid awarded

students receiving financial aid

financial aid awarded



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 485 K-12 school districts (832,000 students) and 132 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2022.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 32,098 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2022-23.
- UM System awarded 36.6% of the 1,935 research doctorates and 26.9% of the 3,593 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2022-23.
- In FY23, UM System's \$37.9 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 88.3% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2023, over 10,900 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure. MU Extension also supported residents in making individual challenges to the FCC that resulted in \$810,000 in additional funding for the state of Missouri.

Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



CHRISTIAN COUNTY

Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Agricultural Economics

Leading Agricultural Products

Total Commodity Sales: \$28,859,000



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#), 2017.

Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$1,208,000 in 2017, an average of \$1,034 per farm. This is below the statewide average farm income of \$29,485.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Christian	1,169	\$1,034
Missouri	95,320	\$29,485

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#), 2017.

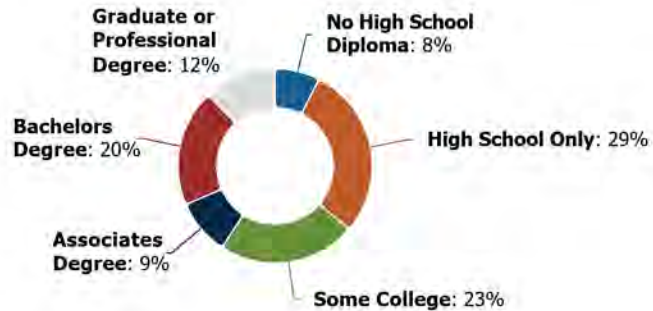


CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Educational Attainment*

Adult Educational Attainment

Educational attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an estimated average for the period from 2017 to 2021.

In the report area, 22.9% of adults have at least some college education and 28.8% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 28.8% stopped their formal educational attainment after completing high school, and 7.5% of adults did not complete high school.



No High School Diploma

7.50%

Missouri 9.02%

Christian

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21.



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Aging*

Fall Injuries

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related fatality and hospitalization among older adults in the United States. Between 2019 and 2021, adults over age 65 in the report area had 1,946 hospital or emergency room admissions for fall and jump-related injuries. The rate of these injuries was 4,406 per 100,000 population, which is lower than the state rate of 5,396. Falls hospitalizations have increased since the 2013-15 time period when the rate was 3,892.

Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population, and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 38 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 13,671 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 360:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 360 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 242:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

Rate per 100,000, 2019-2021

4,406

Missouri 5,396 😞

Christian



Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services](#). 2019-2021.

Ratio (Population to Providers)

360:1

Missouri 242:1

Christian

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#). December 2023.

CHALLENGE 4: Agriculture: *Value Added from Agriculture*

Value-added agriculture refers to production or manufacturing processes, marketing, or services that increase the value of primary agricultural commodities. In 2021, the total value-added derived from agriculture, forestry and related economic activity was an estimated \$34.9 billion. Meat processing, food processing, animal and pet food manufacturing, and crop production and related industries are Missouri's top value-added products: \$9.5 billion and 155,425 jobs from livestock production and related industries alone. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact.](#)

Percent of Total Value Added from Agriculture

6.20

Christian

Missouri

21.98

Data Source: Missouri Department of Agriculture, [Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority](#). 2021.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs

employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



A **SPIN club** focuses on a specific topic led by an expert in the field. While community clubs may meet over the full 4-H program year, SPIN clubs meet for set periods, typically from several weeks to a couple months. SPIN clubs can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Christian County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact



Christian County Poultry Chain Program is a fun and exciting program for the 4-H members to raise chicks into hens! The members learn how to take care of brand-new baby chicks and watch them grow into beautiful hens that will give their family fresh eggs to enjoy. They have to bring 3 hens to the livestock show to auction off to provide funds to keep the project going strong.

The Clever Clovers are learning about freshwater fish.



Christian County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



Bright and Bold Regional Energizer is a fun day camp for 4-H members and their families to learn through hands on sessions.



Camp Smokey is such a fun time where the members get to spend a week of overnight camping away from their parents.

4-H offers many group activities throughout the community. Here we are teaching a goat care class to summer homeschoolers in Ozark.





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
 through credible statewide programs
Agriculture and Environment



MU Extension specialists

play an important role in addressing emergencies and disasters. MU Extension specialists swiftly distribute information so farmers and ranchers can make timely decisions that safeguard their enterprises.



The Missouri Master Gardener program

enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and then apply what they've learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



In 2022, almost 4,000 Missouri Master Gardeners completed over 133,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.



The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program,

funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for 30-plus years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems.

The MU Soil Testing Program delivers research-based nutrient and lime recommendations to more than 32,500 customers annually.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Christian County

2023 FARM AWARDS

Missouri Century Farms & MO Farm Family

Century Farms

The Christian County University of Missouri Extension recognized the 2023 Missouri Century Farms program inductees from Christian County, the Clayman and Wiggins families, on Sept. 21st at the MU Extension Annual Farm Celebration. The event was hosted by the Christian County MU Extension Council and was held at the First Baptist Church of Ozark. The evening included a meal provided by Lambert's café and special recognitions for the Century Farm families.

The Clayman Century Farm is owned by Jack Clayman and consists of 280 acres in Highlandville that were originally purchased in 1911 by W. Seymour Chapman, Jack's great grandfather.

The Gary and Kristin Wiggins Century farm consists of 40 acres in Sparta that were originally purchased in 1903 by M.B and Stacy Davidson, Gary's paternal great-great grandparents.

The Centennial Farm project was initiated in Missouri in 1976, it awarded certificates to those individuals owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. In 1986, the University of Missouri Extension and the MU College of Agriculture created the annual Century Farm program and recognition. Missouri Farm Bureau became a co-sponsor in 2008. Since the program started in 1976, more than 8,000 Missouri farms have received the Century Farm designation.



Christian County Farm Family 2023 – Stephen and Lauren Short Family

Stephen and Lauren Short and family of Highlandville were selected as the Christian County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Christian County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Stephen, Lauren, Mary Alice, Massey, and Cade Short.

Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA.

The Short family operates a 50-acre livestock, tree farm and cut flower operation. The entire family is involved in the day-to-day operations of the farm.

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: the Missouri Farm Bureau; the Missouri Department of Agriculture; the Missouri State Fair Commissioners; the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and MU Extension.





Christian County Master Gardeners

2023 was a growth year for Christian County Master Gardeners. We moved our monthly member meeting location to a new more accessible modern facility at CCAD Ozark. We added several new members, increased our social media presence, and enjoyed a record plant sale in May. We committed to new projects and expanded and improved existing community gardens. We took on the nationwide master gardener initiative challenge to donate excess produce to our community.

We are proud of the achievements of our members in 2023. This year, one member received the Emeritus Member award and another member received Master Gardener of the Year small chapter from MOMGA. We currently have 32 active members, 4 Emeritus and 4 Advanced Trained Master Gardeners. We awarded four scholarships to new members who completed the Core Training in the 2023 year.



Community Outreach

- Plant Propagation with Robert Balek, Horticulturist, MU Extension
 - Our first public seminar in three years due to past COVID restrictions was held in March, 35 people attended
- Fall Gardening in the Ozarks with Kelly McGowan, Horticulturist, MU Extension
- Growing Mushrooms, hands on education with Patrick Byers, Horticulturist, MU Extension
- Walmart Spring Garden Opening – several days event. CCMG presence offering education to shoppers on gardening and starting their gardens for the spring
- Christian County Library, Ozark Branch – We participated in their first annual Volunteer Fair, three master gardeners were available to speak to the public, approximated 25 contacts. We distributed free trees from the Department of Conservation.



Board Members

Ed Kucab – President
Linda Smith – Vice President
Patty Baker – Secretary
Sue Helms – Treasurer
13 Project Chairs

Statistics

- Social Media
 - 1,618 followers, net followers increased by 23.4%
 - Complete Views up by 178%
- Member Volunteer Hours
 - Total hours 2,314
 - Education hours 393 and Advanced education hours 58
- Hotline (open, but working remotely)
 - Total 39 calls, total contacts of 46, at home visits 4
- Least of These Produce Donations
 - Donated over 700 pounds of produce
- Annual May Plant Sale
 - Over 500 attendees and approximately 2,000 plants donated



Christian County Master Gardeners

New Community Projects

- Daffodil Project – 2000 daffodil bulbs planted in 25 custom boxes
 - Seven master gardeners partnered with the Ozark Historical Society and the FFA program at Ozark schools
 - We will continue to maintain the boxes, adding spring wildflowers after the daffodils bloom, weeding, and general maintenance
- New Nixa Chamber of Commerce Facilities
 - Cleaned up existing beds, worked with Chamber employees to brainstorm best plant options, solicited volunteers, and had a planting day to freshen up their new facilities with anchor and color plants
- Sparta Community Gardens
 - Board approved partnering with the Parks Department and citizens of Sparta to develop this garden for the community.
 - Met with the core group spearheading the project. We will be assisting with the initial planning, building and ongoing maintenance of the gardens once they are developed in the spring of 2024



Existing Community Projects

- Gardens at Woodfield in Nixa
- Nixa X Center
- Clever City Park
- Christian County Library, Ozark Branch
 - Expanded the gardens to include native plants with markers for education
- Nixa Rotary Garden
 - Teaming with Parks and Recreation to expand the existing walking paths



Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



There were 19 participants who attended the **Christian County Field and Freezer Program** in November. This was a cooperative program with the Missouri Department of Conservation. The MDC provided instruction on scoring deer antlers using the Boone & Crockett and Pope & Young scoring methods, each attendee practiced scoring actual whitetail deer antlers. MU Extension faculty provided instruction on making summer sausage with your deer harvest, each participant left with 2 pounds of summer sausage to cook at home. Deer hunting has a long tradition in Missouri, processing your own deer and making further processed products from your deer harvest can result in a major cost savings.

Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



There were 56 participants who attended the **Christian County Livestock and Forage Conference** in March. Topics covered included a discussion on resetting the cow herd following drought, assessing and rebuilding pastures following drought and getting the most out of your fertilizer investment. Christian County farm producers are an economic generator for the local economy. When they suffer economically, their farm product suppliers (feed and fertilizer dealers, hardware stores, fuel suppliers, seed dealers, etc) also suffer. Their economic situation can tie directly to food costs in grocery stores. This program addressed ways this sector in the county economy can remain viable.

“A great experience. Thank you” *“These conferences are invaluable for new producers”*
“Great speakers, very informative, thank you”



A free **Pesticide Waste Pick Up** was offered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with MU Extension. This was the only regional opportunity to dispose of waste pesticides offered in Southwest Missouri in 2023. It was held in May in Crane. This was an outstanding effort toward environmental protection since the products gathered were legally incinerated without harm to the environment and will never be found in groundwater or create a human health risk in the future.



Haymaking was the topic for discussion at the **Richwood Valley OTC Ag Class** in November, offered by Tim Schnakenberg. Several MU Extension ag specialists have assisted in teaching 3-hour classes this year at OTC. This is a great way for two learning institutions to team up for the common goal of educating future leaders in agriculture.

Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



There were 341 participants who attended the **Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings** offered by Tim Schnakenberg. Trainings occurred in Cassville, Springfield, Galena, Clever, Mt. Vernon, Fair View, Taneyville and Point Lookout. Pesticide applicators also benefited from a 1.5-hour prerecorded Zoom session that was used for training statewide. Several other classes were offered virtually across the state. This training has direct impact on environmental safety, human safety and the safety of the American food supply. Farmers are retrained every five years in order to maintain a private pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides.

“Very informative program that is great for gaining knowledge about pesticides.” “I think the program was well thought out and interactive.” “I like the examples and stories you share to relate info to the real world.”



Regional Drought Assessments were conducted by Tim Schnakenberg, Micha Doubledee and Hunter Lovewell for Farm Service Agencies in 13 counties. These extensive reviews of the 2023 drought helped the state FSA office and county committees to determine financial assistance for landowners who had signed up for drought insurance programs.



Thirty-five local farm producers participated in the **Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop** in Mt. Vernon in March. Other events were offered in Virginia and Georgia this year. This program is sponsored by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal program that involves many extension specialists. In addition, Tim Schnakenberg assisted in a nationwide Zoom training for farm government employees and extension employees. There were 105 participants across the Eastern US, including many from Missouri.

Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Missouri Grazing Schools provide the most in-depth training on how to be successful with Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) practices. These three-day schools are unique to Missouri and have set a standard for teaching and demonstrating the newest grazing concepts. Schools were offered in 2023 in Christian, Greene, Newton, Dade and Lawrence counties. The schools allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. There were 131 livestock producers who attended the sessions from many counties. Numerous presentations were offered along with on-farm field trips to evaluate pasture grazing systems.



This year's **Ozark Empire Fair Hay Show** had outstanding participation with 39 entries submitted from eight counties. Several ag specialists traveled to 23 farms to collect samples of the entries. This was a great opportunity to help producers better educate themselves on hay quality. Counties represented this year included Greene, Vernon, Lawrence, Christian, Webster, Stone, Pettis and Barry counties. The highest-testing entry and champion dry hay came from Charles Kruger of Verona. It was a third cutting alfalfa hay entry that was harvested on June 27. It produced a 277 Relative Forage Quality (RFQ). The champion haylage was entered by Groves-McDonald of Billings, Missouri. It's cutting date was June 21 and the RFQ was 223. The show has occurred since 1985. Tim Schnakenberg and Reagan Bluel served as Superintendents for this show.



Farm Fest at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield is the largest gathering of the farm community in Southwest Missouri. MU Extension ag specialists staff a booth at this event throughout the entire weekend in October. This year there was an emphasis on native warm season grasses. Thousands of visitors streamed by the booth and hundreds stopped in to visit with regional specialists.

Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



There were 370 farmers and ranchers from across Southwest Missouri who attended the 39th annual **Spring Forage Conference** this year in Springfield. This is the largest conference and trade show offered to the livestock community in the region. There were sixteen concurrent sessions were held throughout the day on a variety of topics of interest to most grass producers. This event is a partnership between University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri State University.



Career Exploration Field Day is a large gathering of high school agriculture students from sixty-one communities in Southwest Missouri. The picture shows about a half-mile of school buses in the parking lot. Most MU Extension regional specialists were involved in this effort at the Southwest Research, Extension and Education Center at Mt. Vernon in September. Each provided a booth and an agricultural topic to discuss for about 20 minutes. They also took time to discuss career options for these youth to consider in agriculture. Over 1600 students along with volunteers, extension and MU faculty and businesses made the Career Exploration Field Day successful!



Building Resilience in the Beef Industry events were offered in Mt. Vernon and Clever in August to assist livestock producers who were directly affected by the drought. There were 56 participants from nine counties who attended. There were six field and state specialists who provided presentations on topics such as assessing the price of stored forages, market outlook, culling tips, early weaning, forage renovation and irrigation options.

Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories



Sheep & Goat Production Management Workshop

Fifty-four (54) producers attended the course April 6th in Mt. Vernon, MO. Participants learned about different ways to manage their sheep and goat farms.

Participants learned about nutrition and body condition scoring, selecting replacements and culls, managing grazing and pasture rotation, and creating year-round forages.

“Very good information, I’m glad I came and learned!”



Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Career Exploration Day

1600 area youth came to the SW Research, Education, and Extension Center in Mt. Vernon on September 21st to learn about careers in agriculture. Chloe Collins spoke to students about careers in the cattle industry and all about the rumen, the largest stomach, of the cow.



Christian County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Artificial Insemination Schools

Elizabeth Picking Livestock Specialist, Reagan Bluel Dairy Specialist, and Chloe Collins Dairy Specialist taught artificial insemination schools in March and November of 2023 in partnership with Kent Daniels from Select Sires, the MU Southwest Research, Extension, and Education Center, American Foods Group, and Joplin Regional Stockyards.



This multi-day school combined classroom learning about estrous synchronization, reproductive anatomy, and management strategies to increase AI success with hands-on learning. Attendees were able to get hands on practice artificially inseminating cows and handling and thawing semen. These attendees became certified to artificially inseminate cattle.



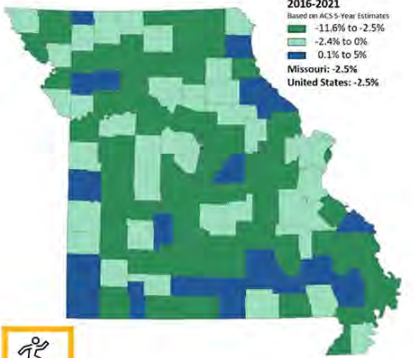
MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



The **Neighborhood Leadership Academy** provides in-depth leadership training that emphasizes community-building principles, project planning, organizational leadership and personal leadership skills.

“The overall knowledge that I have gained through this course has been amazing. From how to engage stakeholders in the community, to planning events and hosting meetings, these are all tools that I will fully utilize going forward.”

2022 NLA graduate



The **Missouri Economy Indicators (MEI)** series explores business, industry and workforce topics that affect Missouri’s economy. The data is shared through newsletters and on social media. MU Extension faculty and staff receive talking points and collateral to share with local stakeholders.

In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES. Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.

AMERICA'S SBDC MISSOURI CLIENT HIGHLIGHT



LOGS
— OF —
GLORY

The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small businesses across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 MILLION.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Christian County

Business and Community

Local Impact

MU Extension Labor and Workforce Development is dedicated to advancing the skilled workforce of Missouri through a comprehensive approach to applied research and teaching. Through our commitment to research-based solutions, we are able to provide cutting-edge strategies that are tailored to the specific needs of the workforce actors we partner with across the state. By working together, we can build a skilled and sustainable workforce that will drive Missouri's economic growth and prosperity.

Building Workforce Capacity

AgriProspects a national collaboration with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Extension Foundation to form a robust network of public and private entities across every U.S. region and 112 Land Grant Universities to build the nation's capacity to respond to the changing needs in the food and agriculture sector.

A preliminary Workforce Development Assessment identified 113 Workforce Development programs in Cooperative Extension and identified ongoing workforce challenges.



Heroes to Hives, Workforce Development for Veterans and their Allies



Heroes to Hives seeks to address the financial and personal wellness of veterans through professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. This project is funded by United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Enhancing Agriculture Opportunities for Military Veterans grant.

24 year military veteran reports, "MU Extension programs are a godsend. I benefit from the amazing, high-quality learning opportunities that University of Missouri Extension continually provides, not only to veterans but many other diverse groups that are interested in learning and potentially pursuing new careers."

Missouri Farm and Ranch Stress



The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance program provides mental health assistance and suicide prevention services. The program served 3,173 farm community members in 114 of 114 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis. In 2023, the total value of mental and behavioral health services totals \$411,976. Through MU Extension's Farm and Ranch Stress programs and five different field-tested workshops, rural participants are equipped with tools to improve their mental health, are connected to useful mental health resources, and participants gain access to free one-on-one telepsychology sessions.

2023

2501

ANNUAL REPORT

Amber Allen & Amy Patillo, team members

PROJECT GOALS

- Assist socially disadvantaged/veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and operating successful farms and ranches.
- Increase participation among socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA programs.
- Build relationships between beginning farmers and USDA's local, state, regional, and national offices.
- Provide innovative training and technical assistance techniques.

USDA's 2501 Program supports the development of socially disadvantaged and veterans (SDV) who want to start or grow their own farm or ranch.

MU Extension's multidisciplinary team collaborated by utilizing a culturally appropriate experiential learning model of formal education. Activities include Farm WalkABOUTs, Value-Added Product Classes, Value-Producer Accredited Program, (North Sarah) and Team-to-One Coaching.

The project team identified an interest in food security and self-sufficiency among urban farmers, with an interest in poultry production.

"Empowering Missourians is the goal of poultry processing education. Teaching the process of safely preparing chickens for consumption empowers participants to take control of their personal food supply."

~Jennifer Lutes



Christian County

Business and Community

Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and in addition a was online. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, penalties and defenses, form 4797 sales of property, retirement tax issues, like-kind exchange issues. The schools were approved for 8 and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,336 hours.



The teaching teams included a CPA and former IRS stakeholder liaison, an IRS certified retired ag economics professor, an attorney, Missouri Department of Revenue and extension ag business specialists.

The trainings received positive evaluations and planning is underway to offer trainings in 2024. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge, which benefits their clients and communities. The tax schools are a program of the ag business and policy program of MU Extension, coordinated by Mary Sobba with help from a team of ag business specialists throughout the state.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, the National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

The 2023 school attendance totaled three hundred twenty-seven people. The participants were from throughout Missouri.

Christian County

Business and Community

Local Impact

MU Extension Community Development Specialists (CDS) help build Civic Muscle, which is the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. CD specialists coach communities to build Civic Muscle in four key "Muscle Groups."



BELONGING

Neighboring 101 is offered monthly on Zoom and features nationally known practitioners of neighboring, like Maxwell King (at left), author of "The Good Neighbor" on Mister Rogers. **Christian County** has 14 individuals in this class.

Media Outreach & Podcasts on Neighboring featuring David Bmton reached over 75,000 people in **Christian County** this year.



CONTRIBUTION

Missouri Good Neighbor Week- statewide we document 19,582 acts of neighbor between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4. **Christian County** had 522 acts reported.

Neighborhood Lab- Conducted two of these with neighborhoods in the county. **Christian County** reached 36 people with these events.

Wont You Be My Neighbor Day - Has become a national effort to celebrate Mister Roger's birthday. We had 32 participants from **Christian County**.



LEADERSHIP

Neighborhood Leadership Academy-The Southwest Missouri cohort had 12 participants this year.

Being a thought leader - Presented a workshop on neighboring at the Neighbors USA conference and won the Best Neighboring Program of the Year. Research and writing led to individual coaching calls on this the subject of neighbors and neighboring from 14 individuals in **Christian County**.



VITALITY

Engaged Neighbor Pledge-A commitment to pursue the Engaged Neighbor principles. In **Christian County**, 6 people have taken the pledge.

Engaged Neighbor newsletter - 12 subscribers in **Christian County**.

Coming in 2024 - Neighborhood Exploration Teams, Neighborhood Labs and Show-Me Neighborhood Alt Week are being introduced in 2024.



Economic Opportunity

Serving: Christian County

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University (MSU) provides support to Christian County entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training. Over the course of 2023, our office met with clients to discuss a wide range of topics including:

- Starting a business
- Business financing
- Business expansion and relocation
- Financial planning & cash flow management
- Marketing strategy
- Course projects with MSU students
- Purchasing a business
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization

Through leveraging regional partnerships, several programs geared toward small businesses and enhancing the local workforce were offered through an initiative called Innovate SOMO. This collaborative effort led by Codefi and efactory at MSU aims to unlock the full potential of entrepreneurship and innovation to transform communities in the southernmost 47 counties in Missouri. Programs include:

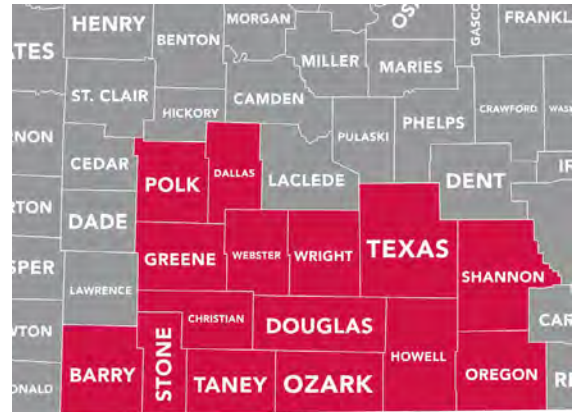
- Early-Stage Business Boot Camp
- 120 Day Tech Startup
- Code Labs
- Youth Coding League

KEY OUTCOMES IN CHRISTIAN COUNTY

- ✓ **84** Business owners in the County received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses.
- ✓ **4** New businesses started
- ✓ **558** Jobs retained
- ✓ **347** Attendees from Christian County joined our business and professional development training programs.



Missouri State UNIVERSITY



The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University serves 15 counties in southwest Missouri (highlighted).

Learn more about our latest programs and training

sbdc@missouristate.edu

417-837-2617

sbdc.missouristate.edu

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$86,365,454

Increase in sales for client companies through the assistance of the SBDC

\$100,580,145

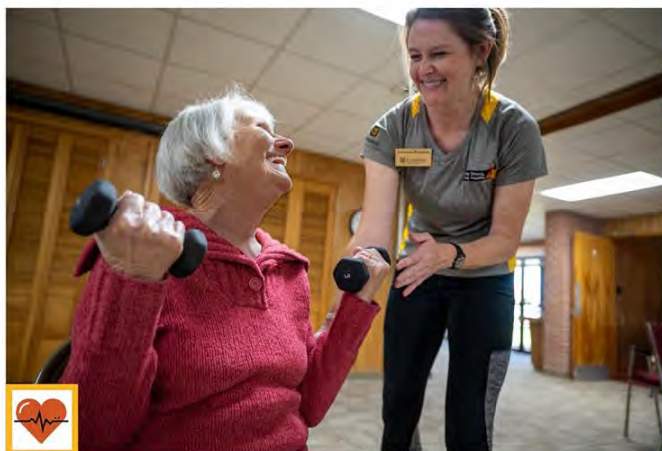
Government contracts secured through the assistance of APEX (formerly MO PTAC)

\$33,490,877

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Health and Human Sciences**



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy teaches older adults easy yet powerful exercises to boost strength, balance and daily life capabilities. Participants also gain insights into nutrition for healthy aging and active living.

After eight weeks, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy participants significantly IMPROVED their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.



Cooking Matters teaches shopping strategies, using nutrition information to make healthier choices and to learn how to cook delicious, affordable meals at home.

“We prepared barley jambalaya in class and one participant mentioned she had never tried barley before. She tried the jambalaya and really enjoyed it. A few days later she excitedly said she made the recipe at home and her whole family enjoyed it!”

Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant



A Matter of Balance helps older adults overcome their fear of falling, increase their activity levels and reduce their risk of falls. In eight classes, participants learn fall-prevention strategies, develop personal prevention plans, acquire balance-improving exercises and make lifestyle changes to minimize their fear of falling.

“I have cleaned my house of clutter for safety, put non-slip stickers on my tub floor, I’m getting much more regular exercise and I’m feeling stronger.”

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



Jenni Nevatt
 Nutrition and Health Field Specialist
 JNevatt@Missouri.edu

Christian County

Health and Human Sciences

Move More & Feel Better in partnership with **Ozark School District**

This professional development workshop provided Ozark faculty an opportunity to learn more about the types and benefits of physical activities, practice different types and intensities of physical activities, and learn tips for success and information on an upcoming walking program.



Partnership with **Missouri State University Dietetic Program**

As a preceptor, Jenni exposes graduate students to MU Extension, provides opportunities to observe, create, and implement nutrition and health education products and activities. For most interns, this is their first exposure to education concepts as well as MU Extension.

Healthy Aging Learning Series in collaboration with Human Development Specialist, Amber Allen, and in partnership with **Sparta Community Branch Library**

Workshops like these provide opportunities for the public to learn strategies for healthy aging. Nutrition and Health topics included:

Nutrition and Aging: Healthy Eating for Older Adults

- **Objectives:** review dietary recommendations and share tools and strategies to help older adults meet their special dietary needs to ensure their optimal health

Fall Prevention

- **Objectives:** learn how to reduce falls and about local fall prevention programs

"I appreciate that these programs are specific to us (older adults)."



Policy, Systems, & Environmental Change *Improving community health by making the healthy choice the easy choice.*

Jenni is a member of the **Nixa School Health Advisory Council (SHAC)** which implements accessible events to provide families opportunities to be physically active and experience healthy foods together. This year's activities included the Gobble Gallop fun run and Culinary World Showcase cooking competition. Together these events reached over 150 people.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
 through credible statewide programs
Health and Human Sciences



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy teaches older adults easy yet powerful exercises to boost strength, balance and daily life capabilities. Participants also gain insights into nutrition for healthy aging and active living.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy
 in partnership with
Nixa Community Branch Library

After eight weeks, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy participants significantly IMPROVED their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.

\$9,216
 in estimated annual
 medical cost savings

**"My severe nerve pain is now gone. If I had been this strong months ago, I wouldn't have injured my back"
 "I see definite improvement when carrying boxes and going up and down stairs"**

Healthy Eating on a Budget Workshops in partnership with
 Family Nutrition Education Program, **Nixa Community Branch Library** and
 the **Christian County MU Extension Center**

These workshops provide participants with basic nutrition information, strategies for reducing food expenses, and hands-on cooking and tasting experiences.

"This class will save me so much money at the grocery store!"



\$250
 in estimated
 annual
 medical cost
 savings

Legend:



Health & Well-Being

Jenni Nevatt, Nutrition & Health Field Specialist, JNevatt@Missouri.edu



Christian County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

In 2023, Amber Allen's engagement extended across educational programming, conference presentations, outreach efforts, and media involvement. Amber had educational contact with 3,396 participants through 108 educational sessions through 80 programs in areas of aging well, parenting and families, professional development, and mental health. Amber's impact was also shared at the national and state levels this year through six posters, seven statewide conference sessions, three national webinars, and two breakout sessions at national conferences. Amber was recognized this year with the following three awards: National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Science Ambassador Award for Poster Excellence, 3rd Place Human Development/Family Relationships Award, and 2nd Place honor at the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Science Central Region.

Amber was also involved in various other opportunities in 2023 for community impact. She actively engaged in multiple workgroups and local coalitions focused on childcare professional development and early childhood education initiatives. She also was accepted into the University of Missouri Extension Fellows program to further her work on the Sowing and Growing Hope Program. Amber also held leadership roles, actively participated in other professional organizations, workgroups, and local coalitions, and collaborated with various media outlets. Educating, creating, and connecting in 2023 has provided a great path to create impact, foster community engagement, increase community collaboration, and shift community and social norms in 2024.

Program Highlights & Snapshot of Results



A Matter of Balance-Greene County



Keep Your Keys-Jasper County

Aging Well

Programs done this year to promote aging well included A Matter of Balance, Keep Your Keys, Wits Workout, and Alzheimer's programming. These various programs contacted 471 Missourians. The impact of these included:

"The camaraderie in this group has been wonderful. I am, by nature, an introvert, quiet, and private, and like being with myself. But this gathering, thanks to the two coaches, has helped to foster my confidence in the group and my ability/willingness to share. Thank you, Jenni and Amber!"-Matter of Balance Participant, Greene County, 4/20/23

"Now I can move my leg into the car and over curbs and stairs easier." -Matter of Balance Participant, Greene County, 4/20/23

"A friend noticed I am walking with more confidence. Also, I moved a chair into the living room to do the balance exercises." - Matter of Balance Participant, Greene County, 4/20/23

"Wits Workout has made me realize how important brain health and training is especially as we age. Thanks, so much to Amber for hosting this wonderful program."-Wits Workout Participant, Greene County, 6/7/23

Christian County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Profiles and Stories

Childcare Professional Development

Childcare programming by Human Development and Family Science Field Specialists in-person and virtually was completed statewide. The childcare programming provides statewide clock hours for professional development for childcare providers who are required to obtain 12 hours each year. In 2023, 610 childcare providers attended across the state of Missouri through 36 sessions amounting to 1,220 clock hours provided for professional development. This program served 32% of Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis.



Mental Health and Well-Being

Programs done this year to promote mental health and well-being included Taking Care of You, self-care programming, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Adult Mental Health First Aid, and other mental health events. These various programs impacted 1,825 Missourians. The economic impact of providing the Youth Mental Health First Aid and Adult Mental Health First Aid programs amounted to an economic impact of \$23,460.



"This was very informative. Some of the strategies have been used/shared before, but much was a fresh take on coping with stress in our lives. I am very appreciated of the opportunity to participate in this training."- Taking Care of You Participant, Barry County, 8/7/23

"Although I wasn't in all classes, the resources we discussed opened my eyes to attitudes and behaviors I had been ignoring."-Taking Care of You Participant, Barry County, 8/7/23



Parenting and Families

Programs done this year to promote parenting and families included Focus on Kids and Building Strong Families. These various programs impacted 394 Missourians. The impact of these included:

"I learned a lot during this class and am using these skills on a daily basis. Thank you all for your time and helping us learn positive coping skills to make our homes happy and safe for our children." Building Strong Families, April Participant, Virtual

"I think this class will help me in the future with co-parenting."- Focus on Kids Participants, Polk County, 2/20/23



Sowing and Growing Hope

Sowing and Growing Hope continued to be piloted. This program focuses on learning the science behind hope, creating a culture of hope, and how to create a personal foundation of hope. These various programs contacted 306 individuals statewide and nationally. The impact of these included:

I'm going to be more focused about having hope for others! -Participant, Virtual, 1/25/23

"From this course, I will start considering "Hope" as a protective factor with the families I serve."of the Young Years Participant, 3/10/23, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo

"As a 30 year breast cancer survivor, who was given two years to live, I love the topic of Hope. was my first training in Hope and the protective factors were new. I also loved the sliding.com word for Hope survey."-Participant, Virtual, 10/13/23

"This was a great presentation. I had never really thought about hope as it related to work and education, but I definitely see the correlation. has also caused me to be more aware of the state of hope of those around me."-Participant, Virtual, 11/19/23

Christian County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Profiles and Stories

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$10,874,798 in federal funds to Missouri. During FY2023, Missouri's SNAP-Ed program reached over 78,000 Missourians through direct classroom education. Each person participated in an average of 6 hours of education totaling over 15,000 hours. In addition, an additional 760,135 persons participated in indirect education. Direct and indirect education resulted in over 1.8 million total contacts with Missourians.

A total of 14,091 participants were from Christian County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan. This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

Schools/Agencies served:

Chadwick Elementary School
Sparta Elementary
Fullbright Early Childcare Center
Shady Dell Early Childcare Center
Morning Star Daycare
Least of These
OACAC
Ozark Finley Farms Farmers Market
Ozark Food Harvest (with Sherri)
Boyd Elementary
KC Stepping Stone (with Jenni Nevatt, Nutrition & Health Specialist)



Brooke Brauneis, Nutrition Program Associate, also shared these success stories from Christian County:

- One of my students, in fourth grade, stopped me in the hallway before class to tell me that he had been trying to eat more fruits and vegetables. In one of our lessons, we had touched on the importance of eating fruits and vegetables and all the nutrients that help to keep our bodies healthy. He realized that he was not eating enough fruits and vegetables and decided to make a change to start eating more fruits and vegetables. He also was very excited to tell me that he also wanted to start exercising more so he could be healthier, because we had talked about the MyActivity Pyramid and realized he needed to implement more lifestyle activities, as well as aerobic activities and weight bearing exercises.
- At my food pantry, I had a mom stop to thank me for the nutrition information and recipe cards I had been passing out to go along with the SMNED poster. She told me that her son was severely autistic and has a hard time trying new foods and she has a hard time cooking up some healthy options for him to try. She took a chance and tried the recipe I had included and to her surprise, her son really enjoyed it! She was so excited because she has been trying to help him eat more vegetables and it has been so difficult for her, but with the nutrition handout and recipe card she was able to try something new and help her son implement a new vegetable into his daily routine.



Extension

University of Missouri

Our job is to partner with communities to find solutions with credible, science-based information that will help you:

- **Grow safe and healthy food**
- **Build and grow profitable businesses**
- **Improve your health and relationships**
- **Increase agricultural production**
- **Update professional training in business, health and safety**
- **Engage youth as valued, contributing citizens**

Explore the MU Extension website and the Christian county page to discover how MU Extension can enhance your life.

Christian County Extension Center

1701-B West Jackson Street,

PO Box 1390

Ozark, MO 65721

Phone: 417-581-3558

E-mail: christianco@missouri.edu

Web: <https://extension.missouri.edu/christian>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Christian-County-MU-Extension>

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 8 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Thursday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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