

**Project:** Portage Area Hunger Prevention (11)

**Agency:** Portage Food Pantry, Portage

**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Expand food pantry capabilities by hiring staff to develop and conduct a survey on hunger needs in Portage area, develop policies to explore possibilities of future expansion of pantry facility and volunteer network and future plans to participate in federal food program. Anticipate project will serve an additional 470 households.

**Project Results:** The pantry installed a phone line and answering machine to provide information on pantry hours, assist clients, make referrals to other pantries, and arrange to collect donated food. This has improved community awareness of pantry services. A survey was administered to 127 households over a 6-month period. Feedback helped develop policies that better serve needy households. Clients revealed: their level of income (92% below poverty), the type of food most desired (tuna/meats, milk, cereal, fruit, vegetables, soup, and pasta), the need for regular pantry hours, an on-call system, and various reasons for utilizing the pantry. Fifty-seven households requested information on other resources.

*Hunger Prevention Council* - An 8 member council was formed to review policies, hire staff and seek funding. Policies were reviewed in light of the survey. The Council decided to become members of Second Harvest to increase access to nutritious, low cost foods. Food purchased is sufficient for about 225 households. Staff participated in World Food Day activities in Columbia County. Outreach efforts identified 15 new pantry volunteers who received training and orientation. From November to January the pantry served 63 households/month (66% increase).

*Increase Coordination/Referrals* - Contacts were made with 8 local food pantries to coordinate services, share policies, hours, and improve referral. Consulting with Extension has helped pantry staff assess the nutritional quality of inventory and improve food purchases. Referrals with Extension and WIC have increased. The pantry has conducted extensive outreach to local organizations that serve needy families and media efforts have also increased awareness. Contacts with food retailers have increased the variety of food that is donated or purchased at reduced cost. The pantry now provides bulletins on food, nutrition, parenting, child-rearing, health, abuse, and job services. The changes have improved pantry organization, increased the number of persons served and enhanced community involvement.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Council that was formed to guide the project no longer meets, but pantry changes and improvements implemented during the reorganization continue. Community donations enable the pantry to purchase food monthly from Second Harvest. They have sustained private sector connections with local food retailers and bulk purchasing. The pantry has continued regular and extended hours of operation and serves an increased number of clients each month (66 households) with a volunteer base of 35 persons. Pantry staff also refer clients to other community resources, like job placement or housing programs. With the help of 8 volunteers they also coordinate a community meals program once a month for 55-90 persons, which includes food pantry clients and elderly persons.

**Project:** Brown County Hunger Prevention Network (12)  
**Agency:** Brown County Hunger Task Force, Green Bay  
**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Develop a network/council of local providers and clients to assess, identify and address the community's nutritional needs. (1) Identify existing community resources and compile information into a comprehensive resource manual; (2) Identify existing nutrition education services for the council; (3) Develop a food pantry "buying club". Project to serve 60% of the 17,000 residents at poverty level in Brown county, 10,200 households.

**Project Results:** *Establish Hunger Network* - The 10 member Brown County Hunger Prevention Network met quarterly to connect providers, strengthen communication, and share information and resources.

*Surveys/resource directory:* Emergency food providers were interviewed. The information was compiled into a local food resource directory and distributed to all providers for referral. Providers expressed a desire for clients to be more accountable and responsible for their needs. Client surveys and focus groups were also conducted indicating clients were generally happy with emergency food services. Some expressed interest in community gardens, buying clubs or food cooperatives. A client representative joined the Network. Three quarters of members report they use the resource manual to make emergency food referrals. Information and donation sources have been shared and the exchange of resources among providers has begun.

*Identify nutrition education services* - Extension FNP served on the advisory board, made presentations and distributed information on nutrition education services. FNP's newsletter "Stepping Up", containing program information for low-income families, was distributed.

*Group purchasing by food pantries* - Second Harvest presented information at a Network meeting and the local Commission on Aging allotted \$10,000 in FEMA funds to establish accounts at Second Harvest for food purchases by Network members at reduced prices. A local trucking company donated transportation for a large group purchase just before Christmas.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Hunger Prevention Network continues to meet and develop local projects. The food resource information gathered by the project has been incorporated into a larger Extension Directory. The food pantry buying club has also continued and now includes 7 food pantries that purchase lower cost foods from Second Harvest. Individual members have continued leadership initiatives. The Network received CBHP funding in 1996 (#31) to establish a super cupboard to provide nutrition education and job search skills to frequent users of food pantries. It served 100 persons the first year and is being continued by Extension. In 1997, the Network received another CBHP grant (#44) to create a food policy council to carry out community initiatives. These included an expansion of community gardening, a micro-enterprise project, establishing a farmers market, and increasing SHARE sites. Extension has also just completed a hunger survey of 356 clients who use food assistance programs to serve as a baseline on the degree of food insecurity in Green Bay.

**Project:** Burnett Food SafetyNet Project (13)  
**Agency:** Burnett County Health Department, Siren  
**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Create local coalition to develop a needs assessment survey. Use results to determine strategies to serve unmet needs in community. Conduct outreach campaign for underserved populations to provide information on availability of existing programs, e.g., food stamp program, etc. Provide nutrition education training to persons using food pantries.

**Project Results:** *Food SafetyNet Project* - Local food pantries and food assistance programs (WIC, Aging, Social Services, Fare Share) had previously operated independently. Several meetings were held among six organizations to coordinate services, enhance referral, and discuss hunger strategies. A resource manual was created and distributed and in-service training was offered to improve customer service. The group also prepared a food security survey for local residents. In all 32 volunteers were involved in various grant related activities.

*Survey* - Staff surveyed the general population and persons using food assistance programs - 317 persons responded. The survey found 9% of respondents were hungry and 24% were at risk of hunger. Persons with disabilities and single parent households were at increased risk. Uncertainty about eligibility was the main reason given for not applying for food assistance.

*Outreach* - 3 of 4 food pantries created outreach posters and pamphlets for distribution and 2 received bulletin boards to display outreach materials. The Health Department developed a brochure that included WIC eligibility. The SafetyNet Project ran a newspaper ad publicizing county food programs. 44 low income persons requested information on food programs.

*Nutrition education* - A nutrition survey was distributed and returned by 17 persons. Responses indicated interest in learning more about gardening, food preservation, basic nutrition, and low-cost recipes and money management. Based on the survey food samples and recipes utilizing commodity foods were distributed at Indianhead Community Action Agency food pantry site. In addition a resource manual developed by public health, which included nutrition education information, was distributed to 10 public and private food assistance programs.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Food SafetyNet Project did not continue to meet after the initial grant period, but they continue to communicate on a regular basis. Posters and flyers advertising several local food pantries continue to be used and displayed around the county. The advertising campaign has increased awareness of food resources and use of commodities and food pantries. Nutrition education activities initiated by the grant were expanded in 1996 with subsequent CBHP funding (#34). The Health Department conducted 6 classes for 57 county residents to improve their food purchasing and preparation skills. Recipes and food samples were displayed at commodity food distributions. A food resource library was created. In 1997, Extension FNP and WIC took over many of the nutrition education activities, including 4 of the 6 classes, and commodity displays. WIC incorporated several food preparation workshops into its schedule.

**Project:** Comprehensive Hunger Prevention Network (14)

**Agency:** West Central CAA, Glenwood City

**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Provide outreach materials (such as food stamp information) to potentially eligible clients using public and private hunger prevention programs. Develop nutrition education activities for low-income individuals to increase awareness of the relationship between good diet and health. Form hunger coalition and involve the 60 families in the Full Circle Project.

**Project Results:** *Hunger Prevention Council:* Over 40 food pantries across West CAP's 7 county region were invited to join the Hunger Prevention Council. Food pantries and soup kitchens welcomed formation of a council to increase the food available to hungry families. Quarterly meetings were held in different locations throughout the region to facilitate pantry participation. There were approximately 30 regular participants. West CAP's food and nutrition coordinator made site visits and provided materials and information by mail and phone to service providers unable to attend meetings. The hunger council addressed issues facing food pantries, such as food safety, re-packaging, amount of food provided, nutrition, networking, senior issues, seasonal changes, migrant families, ability to meet demand, geographic boundaries, fund-raising and cultural sensitivity. Drop shipments of food directly to the food pantries were planned for spring 1996. A regional food drive was conducted during Thanksgiving and Christmas and 50 households received holiday food baskets.

*Needs Assessment:* 1,309 persons responded to a needs assessment conducted in September identifying food needs of low-income families. Sixteen percent indicated that at some time in the last year they did not have adequate income to meet their food needs. Information from the survey and input from field staff contributed to development of emergency, short and long term strategies to address food security.

*Nutrition Education:* Development of a child-centered education program for families was a goal of the project. West CAP purchased educational materials and sent 2 staff members to training at Elynn Satter Associates, a regional resource in food and nutrition for small children. They, in turn, trained 18 other staff in the basics of nutrition for families with small children. These staff worked directly with 60 families (150 persons) enrolled in Full Circle on food/nutrition issues.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** New families who enrolled in the Full Circle Project in 96, 97 and 98 received nutrition education and materials developed under the grant. The nutrition education curriculum and other nutrition information (such as menu planning and smart shopping) was distributed through food pantries and county fairs. In October 1997 West CAP received CBHP funding (#57) to establish coalitions in 5 counties to coordinate nutrition and housing services for the homeless and near-homeless. The grant also funded mobile food preparation units so local agencies without kitchen facilities could provide emergency food to homeless families throughout the 7 county region.

**Project:** Refugee Hunger/Malnutrition Project (15)

**Agency:** United Refugee Services, Madison

**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Develop and conduct hunger/malnutrition needs assessment in refugee community, survey 200 refugee families, provide outreach information and referral services to low-income clients and establish education program to purchase and prepare healthier foods. Translate results from survey into Hmong, Laotian and Cambodian for distribution to community offices assisting the refugee community.

**Project Results:** United Refugees developed a food and health survey to assess the needs of the Lao, Hmong and Cambodian community in Dane County. They interviewed 65 households, representing over 300 people, regarding whether they have enough food, how they obtain their food, what food programs they use or would be interested in, and general health and nutrition questions. Public health nurses who work with the refugee community were also interviewed. Results showed about 1/3 of each Ethnic group reported they run out of food, and 30%-40% said they don't get enough. Hmong reported using food assistance programs, but Lao and Cambodian generally did not. Up to 84% of Hmong wanted help getting enough food. Up to 50% of southeast Asians get some food through traditional methods such as gardening, fishing, and gathering. Public health nurses reported generally good health but a poor understanding of nutrition, what foods are healthy, and how to prepare certain foods. Some pregnant women were not accessing WIC early, and some who did participate did not always use all the food vouchers because of differences in food preferences. General health problems included a number of long lasting illnesses in Cambodians, especially mental illness related to the war. Laotians also reported chronic illness.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Results of the survey were shared with other agencies including the Wisconsin Nutrition Project and the Hunger Prevention Council of Dane County (HPC). WNP and URS co-wrote a grant to Share Our Strength to start a local refugee food assistance project based on the needs expressed in the survey. HPC members and the Community Action Coalition (CAC) became very active in the project throughout 1997 and successfully raised \$27,000 from private contributors, foundations, churches and County Social Services to purchase culturally appropriate foods. Purchased foods included 100 pound sacks of rice, frozen chicken and pork, and fresh produce. In all 7 food distributions were made between April and October 1998 that were attended by 55 to 160 refugee households each time. Over 70,000 pounds of rice, 10,000 pounds of produce and 4,000 pound of meat were distributed. The project benefited approximately 250-800 persons each month. Families have expressed appreciation and satisfaction with the food assistance. Overall, the project has strengthened refugee connections with URS. Local media coverage of the immigrant situation increased community awareness of both hunger and Southeast Asian refugees. The project utilized 10 volunteers each month to provide assistance, with URS providing translation services. Besides purchased food, donations of rice and produce have been received from several regional food distributors. HPC and URS are exploring a food buying club so low-income refugee families can purchase low-cost, culturally appropriate foods.

**Project:** Dane/Jefferson County Hunger Prevention Project (16)  
**Agency:** CAC for South Central Wisconsin, Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Provide an additional phone line for the Dane County "First Call For Help" information/referral system for clients. Establish a hotline help number in Jefferson County. Locate a central food storage/distribution center in Jefferson county to establish a food pantry network. Will serve an additional 2,586 households.

**Project Results:** *Phone line:* First Call For Help received funds to establish a third phone line. Additional funding from United Way enabled FCFH to install a state-of-the-art phone system to reduce the 7,000 busy signals they experienced. Three quarters of the 26,000 annual calls they receive result in a food assistance referral. Staff report improvement in access to FCFH services.

*Hunger Prevention Council* - CAC participated in HPC meetings to increase networking with other hunger-related agencies. Acting as a coalition HPC conducted a food survey of 175 organizations to assess current resources and problems. Focus groups were also conducted with low-income persons. CAC chaired the Food Resource Guidebook committee, which compiled a list of food pantries, WIC clinics, elderly meal sites, gardens, and other food assistance programs. The guidebook was distributed to community organizations. CAC participated in World Food Day and staffed a display table to distribute food and nutrition information.

*Jefferson County food pantry network* - CAC relocated its Jefferson office to a larger warehouse facility with more storage and obtained a used walk-in cooler. A food pantry network consisting of 6 pantries was established that met monthly to improve the availability of food. CAC set up a pantry with evening hours to serve farmers, elderly, and migrant workers, but this was discontinued because of low demand. Staff also recruited additional volunteers and provided cultural sensitivity training regarding the special needs of rural residents. A client survey was distributed in English and Spanish, which identified budget counseling and access to sufficient quantities of food as primary problems. Staff met with food pantries to determine their food requirements, then sponsored, collected and distributed 1,000 pounds from 3 food drives. CAC also engaged network pantries as distribution sites for federal commodities.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** HPC in Dane County continues to meet regularly to provide a forum for hunger-related concerns. In Jefferson County the food pantry network continues to meet on a quarterly basis to share information and discuss issues. The network has increased food sharing among the pantries, increased information to clients on food assistance programs and begun monthly reporting of data. In 1996 and 1997 CAC received a combined total of \$14,000 in federal FEMA funds to purchase food for Jefferson County pantries. CAC also established bulk food purchasing for Jefferson County pantries and receives food orders twice a year. Bulk purchase orders average \$7,000 annually and save pantries an estimated 35% on food costs. CAC continues to distribute thousands of dollars worth of federal commodities each year to food pantries in the network. CAC received a CBHP grant in 1996 to establish a food buying cooperative for low-income residents of Jefferson County (see #28).

**Project:** Expanded Meals on Wheels Services for Older Adults (17)  
**Agency:** Independent Living Inc., Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Expand current program for senior meal delivery services to rural Dane County, secure central location for preparation of meals for home delivery, provide educational materials to enhance self-sufficiency, train volunteers to identify clients at nutritional risk or health risks. Train volunteers on basics of eligibility requirements for food stamp program so they can provide outreach information to potentially eligible households.

**Project Results:** *Identifying Elderly at Nutritional Risk* - The project hired a part-time dietician who conducted training for 50 volunteers on nutritional risks. A handout was developed for all in-home care workers on warning signs that suggest nutritional problems and an article was prepared for a volunteer newsletter on the basic nutritional needs of the elderly. An in-service was conducted for 30 home health aids on identifying clients who may be undernourished.

*Meals-on Wheels* - Prior to the CBHP grant a local restaurant prepared supper meals each night for 50 Meals-On-Wheels clients. The project located a meal preparation facility in the McKee Park Apartments kitchen. The coordinator developed a 6 week cycle of menu items that included therapeutic food choices, which is being used at the kitchen and for Meals on Wheels clients. The McKee Park Apartments kitchen was opened for service in February 1996 and insulated containers were purchased for use with the Meals-On-Wheels program. Evening Meals-on-Wheels clients were surveyed and educational materials were then developed to enhance self-sufficiency. These materials were provided to all 50 evening clients. In order to eliminate the waiting list for Meals-On-Wheels, a driver was hired to help with deliveries. A plan was developed to implement Meals-On-Wheels programs in the rural areas of Fitchburg, Verona, and Oregon. The project received assistance from the Dietary Association, the UW and MATC.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Now that Meals-On-Wheels is preparing meals in their own kitchen and with their own staff they deliver 130 meals 5 days/week to clients - an increase of 160%. MOW has increased the level of federal reimbursements they receive because of the larger number of clientele. Twice a year Independent Living sends educational material to its 450 volunteers. Once a year 50 volunteers attend an in-service on elderly health and emotional issues. About 90 health aids and homemakers have one in-service annually. Growth in the program has revealed other nutritional needs such as home breakfast delivery. As a result they have received a grant to explore the feasibility of a breakfast Meals-On-Wheels Program for the fall of 1998.

**Project:** Oneida Food Distribution Delivery Service (18)

**Agency:** Oneida Tribe of Indians of WI, De Pere

**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Purchase an air-conditioned van for the Oneida Food Distribution Program (OFDP), a federally funded program (FCS/USDA) that provides food in lieu of food stamps. The van will be used to deliver food to clients' homes who can't get to the food distribution site.

**Project Results:** Oneida purchased a van to increase their capacity to deliver food to homes because so many clients have difficulty reaching the Oneida food distribution facility. Caseload has grown from 378 in October 1995 to 517 in April 1998 (37% increase). Deliveries have increased from 34 to 72 in April (112% increase). Two warehousemen make the deliveries. If people are not home they take the food into the kitchen and put perishable foods like butter, cheese and ground beef directly into the refrigerator.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Since the conclusion of the grant period the Oneida Food Distribution Program has moved into a new facility which has increased pride among program participants. The facility is used both for delivery of food to individual households as well as in collecting food donations. The addition of the van has increased the number of home deliveries from an average of 53 per month in 1995 to 69 per month in the year ending May 1998. OFDP feels the van and their new location has contributed to their capacity to serve more persons. Most recently the OFDP program served 740 persons in June of 1998, up from 381 in June of 1995 - an increase of 94%. OFDP has been able to leverage additional food resources from FCS/USDA in part because of the van. The estimated retail value of USDA food distributed by OFDP has grown from \$512,000 in 1995/96 to \$831,300 in 1997/98 (62% increase over 95/96). In addition the Oneida Nation contributes by paying insurance and providing fuel and maintenance at reduced prices. Oneida Public Works cleans the van at no charge.

OFDP involves both community volunteers and community organizations. In the past year OFDP has utilized 45 volunteers for a variety of reasons, including food donations. Private food donations have been delivered to community programs such as the Trails Program, Elderly Services, Oneida Nursing Home, Recreation Center, and Oneida Housing Authority Park activities, as well as to individual households that cannot come to the warehouse. The program also works with the United Amerindian Center in Green Bay, which facilitates outreach to eligible low-income families. OFDP is working on other infrastructure improvements and is planning a separate pantry and Disaster Food and Water Bank. These will be run by an all volunteer staff. They are in the process of planning a Volunteer Taskforce to help the most needy.



**Project:** Nutrition Education Program (19)  
**Agency:** The Salvation Army, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** The Salvation Army provides food assistance to 600 families per month. The grant objective was to develop a nutrition education program to include: preparing healthy food, cooking demonstrations, and children's classes on nutrition/food preparation. The goal is to educate at least 45 low-income families regarding the relationship between proper diet and health, school performance, etc. The project anticipates reaching 2% of the targeted low-income households in the area to be served.

**Project Results:** The project coordinator organized three 5 week nutrition education sessions for pantry clients that met twice a week. Topics included basic nutrition, cooking demonstrations, budgeting, SHARE, and grocery store visits to learn how to choose healthy, economical foods. Participants were recruited from food pantries, area agencies, and homeless shelters. Two sessions were held for participants and the most popular activities were the visits to the grocery stores and the cooking demonstrations. Unfortunately the sessions involved too many classes for clients and the goal of enrolling 45 families was not met. The third session was canceled due to lack of interest. The nutrition coordinator had planned to offer separate nutrition activities for the children who came with their parents, but these were not held because participating parents did not bring their children. Persons who did participate felt the classes were worthwhile and beneficial and they are trying to incorporate the nutritional information they learned into daily activities. Families remain in contact with the Salvation Army for additional assistance.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Salvation Army has established two new food pantries to serve additional clients since the grant period ended. The nutrition education classes are not currently being offered.

**Project:** Community-Based Hunger Prevention Project (20)  
**Agency:** Central Wisconsin CAC, Lake Delton  
**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Hire a specialist to conduct a comprehensive assessment of 75% of local provider agencies in 5 county area to identify problems related to nutrition/hunger issues. Survey will include participants in food stamp program, TEFAP, SHARE, etc. Develop a coalition of local hunger prevention providers in each county to coordinate services such as information/referral, nutrition education and private resources to complement federal food programs.

**Project Results:** *Needs Assessment* - A food program survey was mailed to 90 food program operators in a 5 county area with an invitation to attend a meeting in each county to establish a local hunger coalition. Responses were received from 31 programs. Initial meetings were attended by staff representing 42 programs, including CAC, UW Extension, SHARE, Commission on Aging, WIC, pantry representatives, County nurses, County Human Services, St. Vincent de Paul and county board supervisors. The survey results stressed the need for outreach, information sharing, increasing client participation and coordination.

*Activities of Local Hunger Councils* - The 5 local councils engaged in a variety of activities to address hunger, including publicity and food drives. Several counties distributed information on local food resources to providers and/or the public. Public awareness activities were planned including hunger month declarations by the Board of Supervisors in Adams and Juneau Counties. Dodge County held a "food service fair" for over 200 people at which local food programs like SHARE, Extension, PAVE, food pantries, and CAC presented information on services, collected food donations, and served samples of nutritious snacks. Columbia and Juneau Counties organized "Shopper's Challenges" to increase hunger awareness, in which participants had to purchase food for a family of four and meet the requirements of the food pyramid without exceeding the \$13/day food stamp allotment. Local celebrities participated including elected officials, service agencies, business owners, and community organizations. Juneau, Dodge and Adams Counties coordinated food drives for local food pantries. Adams County students succeeded in collecting 3,000 pounds of food. Local hunger councils coordinated significant media publicity and coverage of World Food Day activities. Nearly 70 organizations, businesses, service agencies and media outlets participated in one aspect or another of the local hunger councils. Agencies in the hunger prevention councils have been invited to join planning meetings of local service providers.

Central Wisconsin CAC has encouraged area food pantries to become members of the Second Harvest Food Bank in Madison to increase their access to wide variety of inexpensive, quality food. As a result more food pantries are accessing food banks and utilizing TEFAP commodities.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Two years after the grant the hunger councils in Juneau and Sauk continue to meet on a regular basis. Hunger-related activities continue in Adams, Columbia and Dodge Counties but are not centrally coordinated. In Juneau County the Hunger Task Force established a one week nutrition mini-camp during the summer involving Extension, CAC and food pantries. They are seeking funding for a community garden for children and

adults at a transitional homeless shelter. The Sauk County Hunger Task Force meets quarterly. They have distributed informational resources including nutritious recipes, parenting, and jobs, as well as elderly information. A member of the task force keeps several community planning groups informed on hunger issues.

Adams County Extension coordinated a local hunger survey in 1997 and hosted a statewide meeting of hunger councils organized by the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee in October 1997. Regular meetings of a children's council (CCC) provide a forum for hunger issues, but no group meets regularly solely on hunger issues. Columbia County Extension is continuing to teach nutrition classes at a JOBs center and provides input to the W-2 steering committee. In Dodge County the focus has been on food pantries and coordinating food drives. Informational tables have been set up at job fairs.

**Project:** Food Voucher Profile Project (21)

**Agency:** NOURISH, Racine

**Grant Period:** 1/95 to 12/95

**Description:** Form local hunger prevention taskforce. Create a computer registry to profile active users of emergency food network in Racine County, determine where there is duplication of services and provide more efficient method for determining overall needs of low-income households. Enable agency to ensure needs of all clients are met and that clients are referred to all available community resources.

**Project Results:** *Hunger Task Force* - A local hunger prevention task force was formed which met seven times. The Task Force made several informational visits to Waukesha Hunger Task Force and the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee (HTFM). Two meetings were held with a total of 18 service providers. An informational meeting was held for the community and an article appeared in the Racine Journal Times. NOURISH also attended a workshop organized by HTFM to increase leadership skills for local hunger councils. A federal grant for \$50,000 was obtained to expand the computer registry project.

*Computer Registry* - Referrals to local pantries came from various sources, including County Human Services, United Way and other agencies. A computerized registry of clients using 23 local food pantries was set up and client information from all the pantries was entered into the database. Approximately 10,000 visits were logged. The database enabled NOURISH to develop a profile of pantry clients, such as the size of households, number of children and adults served, the number of the unduplicated households, which pantries were used, how often people visited pantries, whether clients visited multiple pantries in a month. Results showed that families visited pantries 3-4 times per year, and that clients using more than one pantry was rare.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The computer registry project has evolved into a centralized referral network for clients needing emergency food. Most referrals to the 23 local food pantries now come through the Salvation Army Central Referral, which handles about 500 requests per month. The Referral was staffed by volunteers from community agencies but later utilized persons in W-2 Community Service Jobs. Staff was hired from the CSJ volunteers.

NOURISH has evolved into an incorporated non-profit and is the lead Racine agency participating in a national project to develop local hunger leaders and coalitions - known as the TAHL project (Transforming Anti-Hunger Leadership). The group has focused on several areas: (1) expanding school breakfast; and (2) increasing access and availability of nutritious food. They succeeded in establishing a school breakfast program at Winslow Elementary in May 1998, which averages 100 children/day. The group is working with other elementary schools and area parents to start additional Breakfast programs. NOURISH has met with Racine County Development Corporation to increase the number of grocery stores in the inner city. They are also seeking to expand farmers markets and would like to establish a WIC farmers market. Students from UW-Parkside are assisting with NOURISH's projects, including a community mapping project to determine the location of grocery stores and other food resources in the city. NOURISH has received \$1,500 in recent donations and grants, and in-kind contributions of office space and furniture from a local church.

**Project:** Superior Nutrition Access for South Madison Community (22)  
**Agency:** Madison Dept of Public Health, Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Utilize a nutritionist to conduct group and individual education to improve access to nutrition information and food resources by low income residents of South Madison area. The nutritionist will provide consultation to health and family service providers at the Center. The project will include client surveys on nutrition education; interactive nutrition education presentations (such as group discussions, counseling, EFNEP services, in home consultation); development of a food resource guide, and leveraging of community resources to promote nutrition education.

**Project Results:** *Outreach Workers and Referrals* - Nutrition education and food resource information was expanded to non-WIC clients through inclusion of resources in outreach services, the addition of nutrition services and collaboration with support agencies. Outreach workers were trained to assess the need for nutrition education and food assistance during home visits to families or at shelters. A food resources guide on available food resources was developed for distribution to clients. Outreach workers provided the pamphlet and outreach information about SNAC to 1,118 families during home visits, and to 30 families at homeless shelters. Physicians at South Madison Health and Family Center (SMHFC) and Wingra Clinic also referred patients to SNAC for nutrition counseling. In all 95 people were referred for nutrition counseling by SMHFC, area agencies and outreach workers.

*Nutrition Education* - A survey of SMHFC clients identified which nutrition topics were of greatest interest. A registered dietician (RD) provided nutrition education and conducted 7 group sessions with 64 persons and individual nutrition counseling with another 48 persons. A survey of persons receiving individual counseling showed that most found the education and food resource list very helpful. The group sessions were also well received. The RD consulted with other service providers who distributed 435 nutrition education brochures. Contacts by six parent-to-parent volunteers made an uncounted number of contacts with low-income residents. An Extension Family Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) program assistant provided peer-to-peer counseling on food preparation, budgeting and food safety. Barriers to nutrition education and food resources were reduced. Collaboration was enhanced between providers by integrating project activities into ongoing programming. Public Health is seeking to continue project activities by incorporating consultations between MA clients and registered dieticians into the contract between Public Health and HMOs, and seeking outside funding to continue group nutrition education meetings for uninsured clients.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Referrals to SNAC continued for six months after the funding ended. No additional funds were generated since Medical Assistance is reluctant to pay for Medical Nutrition Therapy. Most SNAC related services have ceased. Nevertheless, the Madison Community Health Center now has a volunteer registered dietician one day/week. Head Start has a class led by EFNEP once a month and Family Enhancement has a class led by EFNEP once a quarter.

**Project:** Summer Food Expansion Project (23)  
**Agency:** Wisconsin Nutrition Project, Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** The Summer Food Program provides federal reimbursements to sponsors for meals served to children in economically distressed areas during the summer. The project will identify a Summer Food sponsor in each of six high need counties, 3 urban counties (Outagamie, Manitowoc, Sheboygan) and 3 rural counties (Monroe, Vernon, Crawford). Obtain individual school data to identify eligible areas and focus on recruiting non-school sponsors. Encourage schools to take a facilitating role even if they are not sponsors. Extend food budgets by soliciting donations from businesses and explore purchasing food through local schools or Second Harvest Food Bank. Objective is to serve 600 children.

**Project Results:** *Identifying New Sponsors* - "Hidden Hunger" a guidebook to the Summer Food Program for potential sponsors was developed. 2,000 copies were distributed to schools and community organizations in target counties and in other high poverty areas. Extensive telephone follow-up and technical assistance was provided to numerous schools and organizations. The project identified 4 new sponsors in non-target counties: Menominee Tribal School, La Clinica de los Campesinos (Wild Rose), Eau Claire Salvation Army, and Bowler School District. Overall 13 new organizations in 7 counties will be participating, including public schools, Salvation Armies, Boys & Girls Clubs, churches, tribal governments and a migrant organization. These organizations served thousands of meals to an estimated 612 children at 14 sites in 1996. The project has brought an estimated \$54,000 in federal reimbursements to sponsors in 1996. CBHP funding contributed to a 29% increase in Summer Food sponsors in 1996. Total Summer Food meals served in Wisconsin increased by 121,375 meals over 1995. Although no organization in the target counties joined the program that year, 10 organizations expressed interest for 1997, 3 of them in the target counties.

*Outreach workshops/survey* - Sponsor workshops were held to increase community support and children's attendance with assistance from UW's Health Promotion Project, DPI and Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee. The workshops in Madison, Ladysmith, and Milwaukee were attended by 25 persons. Several thousand posters, pamphlets and door hangers developed by the Summer Food Working Group were distributed to attendees. WNP developed a survey that was distributed to 53 sponsors to get feedback on outreach materials, orientation sessions, and program operations. Comments helped guide sponsor orientation in 1997.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** 2 sponsors continued in 1997 and 1998; 2 others transferred the program to another organization in the local community serving the same children. Five organizations that received technical assistance during the grant period later became sponsors. These included: the Sun Prairie Food Pantry (Dane), the Salvation Army (Sheboygan), Flambeau School District (Rusk), Boys and Girls Club of Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac), and the La Court Oreilles Boys and Girls Club (Sawyer). DPI data show USDA reimbursements to these 9 sponsors from 1996 to 1998 totaled \$163,405. This is an 800% return on the \$20,000 CBHP grant. This amount continues to increase each year. These sponsors served an average of 703 low-income children each day during the last 3 summers. WNP obtained funding from Kraft to continue Summer Food outreach activities in 1997 and 1998.

**Project:** Food Pantry Coalition, Nutrition Education and Hunger Awareness (24)  
**Agency:** Western Dairyland EOC, Independence  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Assist food pantries in getting more food to meet increasing needs by establishing a food pantry coalition. Train pantry workers in safe food storage and how to sensitively deal with pantry clients. Inform the public about available food assistance resources, how to obtain help, make donations. Disseminate information about low-cost foods and menu planning. Establish a food pantry coalition and buying club, organize fundraisers and conduct a media campaign to provide food, nutrition and hunger awareness information to the public. Print and distribute nutrition education materials produced by Eau Claire Hunger Prevention staff.

**Project Results:** *Establish Food Pantry Network* - The project was successful in increasing the amount and quality of food available in area food pantries, including donations of chicken from Golden Plump, venison and produce. Seven food pantries increased their ability to assist needy families. Three trainings were provided and food pantry personnel had the opportunity to exchange information, including ideas for conducting food drives. Project staff provided individualized technical assistance. TEFAP food offerings were enhanced through coordination with Project staff. Staff reviewed pantry inventories, suggested nutritious foods, created a TEFAP pantry safety and storage checklist and assisted with TEFAP distributions.

*Outreach* - The project's outreach efforts increased awareness among low-income persons about available food resources and proper nutrition. Three local pantries benefited from fund raising and food drives facilitated by the project. Donations were encouraged through distribution of 4,500 flyers placed in customer grocery bags. 7,000 directories and brochures detailing available food resources were distributed. Nutrition education articles appeared in The Communicator, which was received by 3,500 people. The project raised awareness about hunger in the community through articles in print media, public access television, public forums and booths at community events.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The food pantry coalition has not continued to meet due to a lack of funding to support a coordinator. However, pantries continue to receive donations of meat from Golden Plump, donations of venison from hunters and fresh produce - all begun under the grant. Food pantries continue to implement food drive strategies discussed during training sessions. Food pantries that distribute federal TEFAP commodities receive regular technical assistance from Western Dairyland on nutrition and food safety matters. Local agencies and individuals continue to use the food resource guidebook developed for the multi-county area. Western Dairyland also informs the local media on issues relating to hunger and poverty.

**Project:** Dane County Seniors Nutrition Improvement Program (SNIP) (25)  
**Agency:** Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Focus on low-income elderly with emphasis on rural, isolated, homebound and minority elders. Establish a Dane County Elders Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee, train specialists, outreach workers and volunteers on outreach, eligibility and counseling assistance for food benefit programs, including food stamps, etc. Increase the capacities of local food pantries, produce and distribute materials explaining the link between good nutrition and good health, and thrifty food purchasing and preparation.

**Project Results:** CWAG believes SNIP was very successful. The Dane County Aging Network was thoroughly trained in the eligibility and benefits of the food stamp program, SSI and Patient Assistance Drug Programs. In addition, the project provided the Aging network with hundreds of consumer education brochures, and presentations were made at major nutrition sites and other locations where elderly gather. The project also prepared and distributed outreach materials on other food assistance programs like SHARE and Food Fair to encourage participation by low-income elderly. The media were engaged through radio, television and newsletter articles. Anecdotal accounts from Dane County Economic Support workers indicate they are receiving elderly food stamp applications. A guide to area food pantries, including their hours and access points, was prepared and distributed to the aging network. Lastly, the project researched, prepared and distributed consumer-friendly brochures about good nutrition, thrifty food purchasing and food preparation specifically for low-income elderly.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The local training projects accomplished its goals of increasing food assistance information to Dane County elderly and did not continue activities after the grant. The brochures on nutrition education and food assistance programs that were developed during the project were shared with Aging Network staff from 12 other counties in southern Wisconsin. CWAG's own attorneys, who provide legal back-up and training to benefit specialists in 40 Area Aging Agencies throughout Wisconsin, have gained a better understanding of food security benefits, especially food stamps. They have integrated this information into regular training workshops they conduct for elderly outreach workers throughout the state. Detailed information about the Food Stamp program has also been incorporated into the statewide Elder Rights and Benefits Booklet.



**Project:** Collaborative Nutrition Services In Waukesha County (26)  
**Agency:** Waukesha County Extension, Waukesha  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Increase networking and collaboration between providers, expand existing programs and identify new and emerging needs. The newly established county-wide Nutrition Coalition provides the foundation to increase collaboration, expand and establish services, and provides the organizational structure to address the nutrition needs of at risk households.

**Project Results: Information and Referral** - The grant has supported the activities of the Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition (WCNC) during its second year. WCNC developed, printed and distributed 10,000 copies of the Waukesha County Food Assistance Directory. 2,000 copies were printed in Spanish. In order to increase public awareness of the Coalition WCNC coordinated a logo contest and distributed 5,000 magnets with WCNC's imprinted logo. Production on a video about WCNC was also initiated. A resource library was assembled and coalition members attended educational programs on grant writing and strategic planning.

*Enhance volunteer participation* - A dozen agencies participated in the Adaptive Community Approach Program which sent 2,000 Food Assistance Directories to the area elderly. A core of volunteers have been trained and are available to participate in nutrition-related activities.

*Coordinating network* - WCNC sought to coordinate the activities of food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks and congregate meal facilities, with an emphasis on filling the gaps and reaching underserved pockets within the county. In this regard WCNC developed the *24 Hour Emergency Food Plan* to provide technical assistance to food assistance providers, and expanded the Meals-On-Wheels program to include 8 new clients in underserved New Berlin. WCNC also participated in the Mukwanago Chamber of Commerce Open House where 1,000 persons received nutrition education information. The Second Helpings Program distributed 2,000 pounds of food from area restaurants to county food pantries during the first year of operation. The Coalition was the primary contact for the distribution of 1,000 cases of surplus food.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Coalition meets regularly and has expanded membership to 25 agencies. They update the Food Assistance Directory annually. The Coalition video has been completed and is currently being distributed. It discusses hunger in Waukesha County and encourages community members to provide money and food or volunteer time to help the 10% of County residents who need food assistance. The Coalition also received \$11,000 in CDBG funding to implement several hunger projects including: (1) coordinating quarterly meetings of 13 local food pantries to discuss concerns and problems. Semi-annual food drives have generated 4,000 pounds of food; (2) A gleaning project collecting food from area restaurants; and (3) A community garden project distributing 200 pounds of excess produce weekly to local food pantries. The Coalition distributes a quarterly newsletter to agencies and clients. Coalition members collaborated with the School Board to develop and secure School Breakfast programs at 2 elementary schools. Coalition members also helped Salvation Army serve Thanksgiving meals to 125 families, and distributed holiday packages to 300 households through food pantries.

**Project:** Nutrition Advocacy & Hunger Prevention Project (27)  
**Agency:** Advocap, Inc., Fond Du Lac  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Establish a Community-Based Hunger Prevention Council in Winnebago County to assess local problems relating to hunger and nutrition, and evaluate existing community services. The Council will facilitate planning and responses to hunger and malnutrition, develop educational materials on food preparation and food buying for low-income households, conduct nutrition education for distributors of food. Assess computerized service network managed by public library to ensure food/nutrition education and service providers are included.

**Project Results:** *Hunger Coalition* - The Coalition created a quarterly forum for public debate and development of hunger solutions in Winnebago County involving 25 different organizations. The Coalition established several workgroups: special diets, food resource directory, and causes of hunger. (1) The Special Diets workgroup conducted surveys, fact-finding and received technical assistance from Coalition members on the special dietary needs of elderly and low-income persons. The final report, however, established that weekend food delivery for home-bound seniors was a greater need than special diets. The workgroup is now trying to resolve delivery obstacles. (2) A "Nutrition and Food Resource Guide" has been created, published and 3,000 copies distributed. The guide is updated twice yearly. The group reviewed computerized library services to ensure that food program information was included. Coalition surveys have identified food and nutrition needs.

*Improved Collaboration* - Health professionals and HTFM provided technical assistance and educational opportunities to local collaborating agencies. Networking and cooperation between local service providers has been enhanced, volunteer resources are being shared, and turf issues are being resolved through collaborative planning, joint funding applications and a refocusing on constituent needs. New partnerships have formed and the community as a whole is more responsive. The 1997 focus will be expanding home delivery of food to underserved and frail populations.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Coalition wrote grants in 1997 to continue their hunger focused collaboration but did not receive funding. The Coalition does not formally meet, but improved communication and collaboration have continued. In addition, several projects initiated by the group have also continued. (1) A weekend meal delivery pilot project was implemented in 1998 to test the feasibility of providing frozen meals on Saturday and Sunday to elderly persons participating in the Home-Delivered Meals Program. The meals are prepared at the Elderly Congregate Meal site on Friday, quick frozen and then delivered along with the Friday meal. When the delivery persons bring Monday's meals they check to see if the weekend meals were eaten. The additional costs are quite small. (2) The Nutrition and Food Resource Guide continues to be updated twice a year.

**Project:** Jefferson County Food Coop Purchasing Program (28)  
**Agency:** CAC for South Central Wisconsin, Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Collaborate with community organizations and private industry in Jefferson County to develop new Food Coop Purchasing Program for farm families, migrants and elderly so members can purchase low-cost nutritional food in bulk. Develop educational materials on food preparation, meal planning, food buying and nutritional recipes. Train volunteers and educate agencies on availability of emergency food programs and referral process. Develop and distribute materials on eligibility for food stamps and other food assistance programs.

**Project Results:** The project worked with a local bank to identify farm families in need and met with migrant workers at local work camps - to find those who might be interested in the buying club. Staff also met with Jefferson County community organizations to familiarize them with the buying club. A large number of audiences in Jefferson County were given information on nutritional self-sufficiency through buying clubs. Although the project was unable to interest farm or migrant families in the food buying club, about 70 elderly households were enrolled. Each month participants purchased food package through the buying club. Nutrition information was included with each package. Brochures were also developed with information on the food stamp program and this was distributed to low-income families through various methods, including food pantries and the buying club. Human service and health providers also use the pamphlets as part of their client outreach services.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The food buying club did not gain enough members in the time available to cover administrative costs of operating the program and services ended in the spring of 1997. CAC encouraged members to join "Food Fair", an alternate food buying club that CAC operates. Many did so. In 1997 Food Fair sold 1,424 food packages in Jefferson County (118/month), substantially more than the 327 food packages sold in 1996 (27/month). This is an increase of more than 300%. CAC continues to facilitate the food pantry network on a quarterly basis, coordinates bulk food purchasing for the pantries and provides program information.

**Project:** Breast Feeding Peer Counseling Project (29)

**Agency:** Nutrition Health Associates, Janesville

**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Increase breast-feeding among women of color and teenagers to improve the overall nutrition and health of both infants and mothers. The peer counselors will act as teachers, role models and support persons in the communities where clients live. Create an atmosphere, which allows for on-going learning and support for both clients and counselors. Incorporate the expertise of bilingual staff and the knowledge and experience of other service agencies. Women in the project will also gain confidence, work skills and self-esteem.

**Project Results:** *Peer Counselors* - Ten women completed the ten week training as peer counselors. These women then worked with about 50 women of color and teenagers to encourage breast-feeding. The client referral process began in October and new moms averaged two meetings with peer counselors. Resulting increases have been noted in the number of mothers initiating breastfeeding and in the number of teens breastfeeding after one month (increase from 14% to 32%). The number of infants breastfeeding at one month of age was increased for Hispanic, black and teenage mothers. The referral process for peer counselors is ongoing and dependent upon community women seeking WIC services.

*Educational Materials* - The project developed or purchased educational and promotional materials for black and Hispanic mothers. Educational materials were purchased for Hispanic mothers including a breast-feeding video. A booklet for teenagers was purchased that addressed myths and methods titled Breast-feeding: Something Special for Mother and Baby. A software program will be used on an on-going basis to translate materials for Hispanic mothers and can be used for a variety of languages. Peer counselors have been instrumental in evaluating potential educational materials and providing input for ongoing revisions of the peer counseling program to increase their effectiveness in supporting women - Mothers Helping Mothers. Peer counselors have required frequent encouragement to maintain contact with the program, which may be due in part to being volunteers and the life/family priorities they face as low-income women.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The breastfeeding peer counselor project has been discontinued as of 1998. The principle reason involved the unforeseen impact of W-2. Most peer counselors were mothers who were not working and wanted to help other moms. Of the 18 women trained as peer counselors all are back in the workforce and do not have the time to volunteer as counselors. On the other side it was difficult to match pregnant women with peer counselors due to work or school commitments. However, the training provided to the peer counselors has helped them be more successful and sure of themselves and they continue to provide the breastfeeding message to the community. Between 1996 and the present about 300 breastfeeding packets have been given out. The Rock County Breastfeeding Coalition has utilized some of the techniques and materials from the grant in their own programs and agencies.

**Project:** Polk County Best Start Nutrition Project (30)  
**Agency:** Polk County Health Dept, Balsam Lake  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Improve infant nutrition by providing timely lactation consultation services to women who are having breast-feeding problems. Establish a community-based lactation council whose purpose will be to develop an on-going lactation education program. Professional training on breast-feeding issues will be offered to health care providers upon assessment of needs. Outreach materials will be distributed to low-income breast-feeding mothers.

**Project Results:** The project goal met its goal of improving the nutritional status of infants by providing lactation counseling services to women having breast-feeding problems. The Best Start Nutrition Project (BSNP) developed a referral network involving 3 clinics and 3 OB units at local hospitals. Forms, outreach and educational materials were produced. Even with a delayed start 74 low-income women and their infants were served, exceeding the project goal of 60. The project continually gained momentum, indicating that a quality program had been established and that a need for lactation counseling services existed. The women served were very appreciative of the lactation counseling provided and often commented "how they may not have continued breast-feeding without this help". Two Breastfeeding Management Skills seminars and an in-service training were hosted for professionals in the community. These trainings were attended by 62 persons and will help in providing consistent messages to patients. The Lactation Council was not formally organized till later. BSNP staff and community members are seeking other funding sources to continue services.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** As a result of the CBHP project several local hospitals have implemented changes. One hospital now works closely with a lactation educator and has developed a breastfeeding program for mothers of newborns. A second hospital is in the process of developing programs and policies. Both utilize existing staff trained as lactation educators. Since the grant has ended these hospitals have provided breastfeeding support to scores of new mothers. Data from Polk County WIC shows that breastfeeding initiation rates have increased since the grant: from 46% in April 1995 to 54% in April 1998. Three-month continuation rates have increased from 23% in April 95 to 33% in April 1998. A mother/baby comfort station established at the county fair was very well received. A Breastfeeding Coalition was formed in 1998 with 8 members who meet quarterly.

**Project:** Super Cupboard Workshop Program (31)  
**Agency:** Brown County Task Force, Green Bay  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Incorporate food assistance with classes on practical living skills for frequent users of emergency food services. The basic course is an eight-week series of classes devoted to nutrition education, food/meal preparation, shopping information, menu planning, and cooking demonstrations. Integrate public and private community resources to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Establish a program that will enhance volunteer citizen participation in hunger prevention. Provide outreach and referrals to food programs and nutrition education. Coordinate food distribution with other community education.

**Project Results:** Partnerships were formed between Neighborhood Family Resource Centers, Brown County Extension FNP, the Family Preservation and Support Project, and a dozen other community agencies, to support the Super Cupboard project. Families were referred to the workshops by 6 area food pantries and 3 Family Resource Centers. In all, 29 families (101 persons) participated in the 8-week sessions held at the Resource Centers. This exceeded the goal by nearly 100%. The weekly 6-hour class covered topics on nutrition education, budget counseling, accessing community resources and job search skills for low-income families. Participation in the sessions has translated into healthier food choices, a greater variety of fresh foods and home prepared meals. Families report that more meals are eaten together, and there is greater participation in meal planning, preparation and serving. Other benefits included friendships, shared use of transportation, childcare, family activities, and a greater utilization of community resources. Community support was also reflected by in-kind donations including food, contributions of staff time to the workshops, and \$1,500 in monetary donations. In addition 15 volunteers provided assistance with childcare and other tasks while families attended workshops. Some low-income graduates from earlier sessions shared their experiences with those enrolled in later sessions. Overall, this collaborative effort has helped participating families to gain new skills which has led them to greater self-reliance and improved circumstances. The project demonstrated that this model - in which families receive intensive nutrition education integrated with other assistance over a longer period - is workable.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Super Cupboard Program was so successful in reaching targeted audiences that UW Extension FNP has continued to offer the program, in collaboration with the Family Resource Centers and the FAST program. Workshops are still 8 weeks but have been shortened to 2.5 hours/weekly. The focus remains on integrating nutrition education, budget counseling, and job-related skills into the workshop sessions. 12 eight-week sessions have been conducted with area families, with each session averaging about 8 families. The Task Force also received CBHP funding in 1997 to develop action groups to carry out projects, including a community garden/microenterprise initiative, starting a farmers market, expanding child nutrition programs, increasing SHARE sites and bringing a grocery store to the downtown region (see #43).

**Project:** Refugee Food Pantry Services Project (32)  
**Agency:** Hmong/American Friendship Association, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Form a partnership with Friedens Inner City Ministry with the goal of preventing hunger and providing adequate nutrition in Milwaukee's low income population. Establish a new food pantry project designed to impact refugees in Milwaukee. Collaborating agencies will meet monthly to coordinate efforts, plan and implement the joint aspects of the project.

**Project Results:** *Food Pantry* - The Refugee Food Pantry was established and is open every Wednesday for food distribution. The pantry has distributed food packages worth \$20-25 to 1,112 low-income families in Milwaukee (unduplicated). In total 28,430 pounds of food were distributed, primarily to Asian families. The project depends on 10 volunteers to help operate the food pantry, including persons from the Milwaukee GATE Program and other community members. HAFA networks with Second Harvest to purchase low-cost food. A total of \$3,696 was raised from Second Harvest, Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee and other private contributors to purchase the food in 1996. HTFM also donated canned goods to the pantry free of charge. Each week HAFA spent \$75 to \$80 dollars on food for 25 to 30 families.

*Workshops* - Eight workshops were conducted for 284 families on monthly family budget management and planning, nutrition and home safety. HAFA networked with UW-Extension staff to help conduct nutrition education sessions and worked with Wisconsin Gas Company to create a bilingual slide of "Home Safely". Many good responses were received from community members regarding the workshops. An Advisory Committee of 5 members was formed from the faith and Asian community who met on a quarterly basis to guide the direction of the food pantry. The food pantry will operate in 1997 with support from Second Harvest.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** HAFA's food pantry continues to operate. In 1997 a CBHP grant (see #49) helped to expand their food pantry and establish a farmers market. They served over 3,000 families and conducted 12 workshops for 850 heads of households on budget management, planning and nutrition. In 1998 HAFA relocated to a larger building. The 6-member food pantry advisory council meets there on a quarterly basis. HAFA was awarded a 1998 CBHP grant to (1) co-locate a farmers market and food pantry at the new location, (2) conduct farming workshops and (3) provide classes to refugees on using western foods commonly available at the pantry (see # 68).

**Project:** Community-Based Hunger Prevention Program (33)  
**Agency:** Barron County Office on Aging, Barron  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Establish a Hunger Prevention Council to assess local programs relating to hunger, and evaluate existing resources to determine strategies. In collaboration with FNP we will develop a nutrition education plan directed toward elderly, their family/caregivers, and the staff of agencies serving the elderly. This will include initiatives to increase community awareness of malnutrition among the elderly. Conduct nutrition lessons and demonstrations at meal sites and provide nutrition education materials to low income persons.

**Project Results:** *Hunger Council* - The Barron County Office on Aging contracted with a dietician and health promotions marketing specialist. The Hunger Prevention Council (HPC) was formed to assess local hunger programs and their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the community. The Council has 17 active members representing many professions. The group began an awareness campaign on elderly malnutrition and developed the first ever "*Barron County Food and Nutrition Resource Directory*". 1,700 copies have been distributed to date.

*Elderly Nutrition* - Focus groups conducted with 46 seniors revealed that many perceive the congregate meal program as a last resort and not as a means to promote independence. Public service announcements and nutrition related articles were developed and released to the media and brochure was developed to improve the program's image. A nutrition education plan was developed and implemented in collaboration with the FNP educator. A variety of topics specific to the nutrition-related concerns of seniors were presented to congregate meal participants and other groups of seniors. In addition, nutrition related articles were written, released and published in the local newspapers to educate seniors and the public about nutrition and its consequences. A series of informational flyers, table tents, and brochures were developed for use in the Nutrition Education Plan for 1997 and 1998. It also includes presentations, posters, recipes as well as a multi-faceted approach for providing nutrition education to home-delivered meal participants. The project received federal matching funds.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** HPC continues to meet and has 15 active members. Revisions are underway to the Resource Directory. The Office on Aging and UW Extension are implementing the senior nutrition education plan using the developed materials and reach about 400 persons each month. The plan includes presentations to groups of seniors, provides nutrition materials each month to congregate meal sites and senior centers, includes nutrition education for seniors receiving home-delivered meals, and nutrition ads in the press. A Coalition sponsored meeting on School Breakfast was the catalyst for a new program at Chetek Elementary. HPC also generated interest by Master Gardeners to begin a "Plant-A-Row" project that grows produce for food pantries. HPC is coordinating an hunger banquet for up to 100 youth to increase hunger awareness. Numerous volunteers are involved. Participants will receive packets with suggestions on becoming involved in hunger prevention. In 1997 HPC served in an advisory capacity to the Neighbor-to-Neighbor project (see # 38), which (1) links community members who have nutritional needs with volunteer neighbors, and (2) established a food pantry network.



**Project Name:** Community Education Start-Up, (34)  
**Agency:** Burnett County Health Department, Siren  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Establish a program of basic cooking classes, grocery store walk-through tours, food demonstrations, and information services to teach families the skills needed to eat healthily on a tight budget.

**Project Results:** The project included participation by 6 agencies, including the Health Department, Extension FNP, Indianhead CAP, and WIC. Community surveys in Burnett County suggested that rural, low-income residents generally have adequate kitchen facilities, but lack food purchasing and preparation skills, which results in making poor food choices with limited funds. The goal was to improve these skills by launching a program of basic food preparation classes, displays and informational services. 117 low-income residents were surveyed concerning educational interests and preferred learning styles. Based on the responses, nine group classes were offered and six were conducted. A total of 57 Burnett County residents participated, including 28 low-income persons. All classes comprised at least one third low-income participants, thereby exceeding our goal of at least 25%. Fifty-four percent of class members reported learning "an enormous amount", while the rest reported learning "at least a few things." At the local commodity distribution site, displays of food samples and recipes for commodity foods were offered nine times in 1996. 713 households visited the displays throughout the year, including a minimum of 121 unduplicated households. A nutritionist was present for individual contact with commodity food recipients. A library of videos and food preparation materials was created and advertised at food assistance programs and food pantries.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The major educational activities initiated through the Community-Based Hunger Prevention Grant are continuing with support from WIC and the newly appointed Extension FNP nutritionist. WIC has incorporated several food preparation workshops into their nutrition education schedule. Four of the 6 classes introduced with the CBHP grant continue to be offered. FNP has taken responsibility for continuing the food preparation displays and distributing food samples at the commodity sites. The freezing/canning class is offered jointly by FNP and WIC to 10-20 participants each year. A gardening workshop is taught to 5-10 participants annually. Food preparation classes have been included in the new community education program. Overall the project has fostered more educated consumers and has improved communications and collaboration between the health department, food pantries and social services.

**Project:** Identification of Causes for Food Insecurity in Older Adults (35)  
**Agency:** Pepin County Office of Aging, Durand  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Develop a survey instrument to identify the primary causes for hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity in older adults. The project will identify 5-6 major causes for food problems with elderly. The program will focus their efforts and therefore be more effective in attaining the outcome of reducing hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity.

**Project Results:** The grant objectives were met by designing a comprehensive survey instrument to evaluate the presence and prevalence of factors expected to contribute to hunger and malnutrition in older adults using the adult meal programs. The survey instrument was pre-tested and then used to survey meal program participants. The results of the survey instrument were detailed in a report to DHFS. There will be further information provided to the general public and food service professionals through future published articles. The results of the survey confirmed the existence of sixteen reasons for actual hunger/malnutrition in older persons. The next needed step is to provide actual intervention to remove the barriers that prevent older persons from obtaining the needed nutrients from food resources.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The results of the original research were recently published in the May 1998 issue of the American Dietetic Association Journal, a national publication. Researchers in other states have already cited the study. In 1997 the Office on Aging also presented the results of the research to a conference of the Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors, professionals who manage elderly nutrition programs. The Office on Aging has not yet sought additional funding to implement interventions to address these causes. Beginning this fall they will contract with a nutritionist to assess the nutritional needs of all home-bound seniors receiving the Home-Delivered Meals Program.

**Project:** Southwest Wisconsin Hunger Prevention Task Force Project (36)  
**Agency:** Southwest Wisconsin CAP, Dodgeville  
**Grant Period:** 1/96 to 12/96

**Description:** Establish community based hunger prevention task force group to assess local problems relating to hunger and malnutrition, and evaluate existing community services. The project will strengthen existing community based food distribution services network through coordinating of food resources to the food pantries. The project is designed to address the hunger and nutrition needs of low-income elderly, young children, rural, and homeless low-income working families.

**Project Results:** The major results of Southwest CAP's Hunger Prevention Task force Project include: establishing a Hunger prevention task force in Iowa and Grant Counties. Both task forces developed objectives for 1996 and met during the year to accomplish these objectives. Both hunger prevention task forces have developed work plans for 1997. Southwest CAP will continue to provide administrative support to the task forces. The Grant County Hunger Prevention Task Force developed and distributed a Hunger, Food and Nutrition Resource Guide. The Iowa County Hunger Prevention Task Force will be developing a guide in 1997. Both task forces participated in local CROP walks and food drives sponsored by churches and businesses. Members of the Grant County Hunger Task Force participated in the World Food Day Conference. Both task forces had newspaper articles published in local papers that stressed the financial and food donation needs of food pantries.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Both task forces continue to meet and Southwest CAP continues to provide staff support. The Iowa County group is especially active. The food resource guidebooks are updated on an annual basis and have been redistributed. Both taskforces support CROP Walk for Hunger activities to raise funds and coordinate food drives, especially with local churches. Some area businesses have contributed a percentage of the day's receipts or provided discounts to customers who participate in food drives.

The Task Forces have increased community food contributions beyond the traditional food drives during the winter holidays. In 1997 an estimated 11,000 pounds of food were collected for CAP food pantries. In addition Southwest CAP solicited and received over \$7,500 in funds from United Way, FEMA and the Salvation Army to purchase food and freezers for food storage. Southwest CAP has helped establish new food pantries in Hazel Green, Muscoda and Shullsburg and has increased the number of pantries that distribute federal commodities to needy families. All 4 of Southwest CAP's food pantries conduct a family needs assessment and refer clients as needed to approximately 25 local services. All food pantries are encouraged to provide information on SHARE to clients. Southwest also provided families with over \$2,800 in Salvation Army food vouchers to purchase special and/or perishable foods at local stores. In Grant County the Commission on Aging funds a nutrition coupon program that provides low-income elderly with several months of food coupons. Southwest also worked to establish School Breakfast Programs in Grant County.

**Project:** Kenosha County Field of Dreams (37)  
**Agency:** Kenosha County Extension, Bristol  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** The project will create an alliance of individuals and organizations to work together to develop creative solutions to hunger. One strategy will be to assess the status of food security in Kenosha County. Another will be to expand community gardens using community volunteers to grow and distribute fresh vegetables to food pantries. The vision behind the Field of Dreams is to involve the community of Kenosha County through hunger/poverty education, and inspire them to come together to raise fresh vegetables to be donated to food pantries.

**Project Results:** *Hunger Alliance* - The Kenosha Hunger Prevention Alliance was formed to serve as a forum on hunger issues. Representatives include local social service agencies, food pantry coordinators, Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, the Wisconsin State Senate, and the local Chamber of Commerce among others. A newsletter - "The Hungry Herald" has been created. A survey of 150 low-income families was conducted with technical support provided by UW-Parkside. The data will serve as a baseline for W-2 impacts.

*Community Garden* - The grant enabled the project to hire a garden coordinator. 400 volunteers assisted in growing vegetables on 15 acres of donated land which was then donated to local food pantries, soup kitchens, Meals on Wheels, community centers and nursing homes. Volunteers came from church groups, youth groups, and work release individuals from the County Jail. Excellent media coverage was provided. Some of the garden volunteers have been food pantry clients. 35 tons of vegetables were grown, totaling 250,000 servings of fresh produce. In addition, a group of 15 volunteers canned 95 quarts of tomatoes, froze 53 bags of tomato puree and 34 bags of grated zucchini that were distributed by the Salvation Army and Shalom Center. A rental garden program was started - 40 families now grow their own produce. Children in 2 schools received a 6-week curriculum related to hunger prevention including a field trip to the garden. All were very enthusiastic. The project has received awards from County Government.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Funding from UW-Madison (\$13,000) and a Palmer grant (\$19,000) permitted hiring 2 part-time coordinators in 1998. A wider variety of produce was planted for food pantries this year which are facing significant increases in demand. 95 families are now tilling 2 acres of rental gardens (an increase of 137%). Community support has been outstanding, and has included donations of equipment from the County, land from local Realtors, farmers who help with tilling, greenhouses and nurseries that donate seedlings, a \$400 grant for the freezing and canning project, and a \$500 grant to purchase a rototiller and other equipment, and other contributions from the business community. There has been substantial interest by local media and elected officials. The Hunger Prevention Alliance is working to establish a SHARE site in the inner city and address problems with automatic registration of low-income children in school meal programs. A "How-To" manual of the garden project for use by interested communities is being prepared for the fall. Last years survey of 150 families is being repeated to assess the impact from W-2. The project recently won the *Hometown Pride Award* from Midwest Living Magazine which honors exceptional volunteer projects that have made their communities a better place to live.

**Project:** Neighbor-To-Neighbor Program (38)  
**Agency:** Barron County Extension, Barron  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** - Extension will organize a new program in Barron County called the "Neighbor to Neighbor" Program to link volunteer leaders to those most at risk for malnutrition and in need of help and services. The project could create awareness about hunger in the community through the use of a hunger curriculum, which would educate and motivate individuals and agencies in the community about the problems of hunger and how to work together.

**Project Results:** *Nutritional Support* - In this project, training (3 3-hour sessions) was provided for 14 volunteer leaders. A public awareness campaign was directed to a number of groups who had the potential to make referrals of at-risk individuals. Referrals have been made by the township chairmen, postal carriers, mental health caseworkers, grocery store managers and food pantry directors,. Following a referral a volunteer visits the individual and makes an initial assessment of their needs. Volunteers provide assistance with transportation, low-cost nutritional shopping, budgeting, healthy cooking, recipe ideas, special diets, etc. During the grant 36 referrals were received - 25% declined participation, 25% were referred to other agencies and 50% were assigned to a volunteer neighbor. The Hunger Prevention Council, which is sustained by volunteers, has acted as an advisory committee to the project. A volunteer support group meets quarterly to discuss problems and share ideas. The project has attracted free publicity from the local electric cooperative, and the United Methodist Church has donated some funds. The project also included development of a set of presentations to build local hunger awareness.

*Food Pantry Network* - The coordinator also established a network of 9 local food pantry directors to discuss common problems and concerns. Previously pantries operated autonomously and knew little of one another's services. Pantry directors have opportunities to hear presentations from agencies and organizations like FNP and W-2. The network has increased food sharing among pantries, reduced territoriality, increased use of food vouchers by two additional pantries, improved pantry participation in FNP, increased distribution of food program information, increased referrals to other pantries and programs, increased community donations of food and grocery products, and benefited from media support for food drives. For instance, as a result of the network several additional pantries may begin postal food drives in their communities

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Neighbor-to-Neighbor program has continued to receive referrals from community organizations and to provide services to local residents. Recently a developmentally disabled man received help with weekly transportation to the grocery store, budgeting, preparing nutritional meals and shopping. Another volunteer has arranged for an area grocery store to provide weekly shopping transportation for 20-60 elderly residents. The program continues to provide support to county residents who have nutritional needs and depends on 15 volunteer neighbors. A volunteer support group meets quarterly with the coordinator. The network of 9 food pantry directors have continued to meet quarterly to share ideas and discuss problems. The Hunger Prevention Council, established earlier with a CBHP grant (see #33) has continued on a voluntary basis and remains very active.

**Project:** Great Lakes Tribal Family Nutrition Program Development (39)  
**Agency:** Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Lac du Flambeau  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** The Family Nutrition Program Development proposal is a plan to increase awareness of healthy food practices in Native American communities in Wisconsin. The long-term goals are to improve the health status and food security of tribal people through participation in the USDA Family Nutrition Program (FNP). 1997 is the first year for a Tribal FNP in Wisconsin and perhaps nationwide. This new program is the result of close collaboration between Tribes, Extension and GLITC. The program will hire and train tribal community members who will provide nutrition education to their people. The tribal FNP plan includes participation of the Bad River, St. Croix, Stockbridge-Munsee and Lac du Flambeau reservations and communities. This proposal will assist in implementation of the new program by expanding the program to Red Cliff and support the programs at the Bad River and St. Croix reservations.

**Project Results:** This project involved reaching additional tribal community members with informative, enjoyable, culturally appropriate messages related to food and nutrition. The project developed nutrition education displays, brochures and newspaper articles to increase awareness of healthy foods. Over 180 educational presentations were made, and approximately 1,300 individuals participated in these learning experiences. The grant support was very helpful in recruiting and keeping qualified nutrition educators who could provide more services to their community. This has enhanced the visibility of the Family Nutrition program among community members and groups and tribal government.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The project has arranged to have a consultant Registered Dietician available for technical support during 1998. The FNP expansion, which the grant made possible, helped secure private foundation funding in 1998. The project has continued with USDA and private funding. Further CBHP funding has also stimulated community gardening projects to increase availability of locally grown, less processed foods. Community gardening is now well underway in Lac du Flambeau and Bad River Reservations (see # 48).

**Project:** Intergenerational Abuelos Program (40)  
**Agency:** Centro de la Comunidad Unida, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** - The Centro de la Comunidad Unida/United Community Center (UCC), a community-based organization serving primarily the low-income Hispanic population on Milwaukee's near south side, proposes to undertake an "Intergenerational Abuelos " program. This program is a collaborative effort between UCC, La Guadalupe Senior Center and the Bruce-Guadalupe Community School (pre-K and kindergarten) located in a low-income area of Milwaukee. Our program will consist of elders functioning in the role of Abuelos to the young children with meals as a focal point for other activities. The Intergenerational Abuelos Program will consist of Nutrition, Reading, Art, Gardening, and social components. The program will improve children's self-esteem and personal development as well as provide senior center participants with a volunteer opportunity to increase their feeling of purpose and value. Nutritional snacks will be served as part of the weekly programs.

**Project Results:** Two orientations were held for senior volunteers and teachers to familiarize them with the project and underscore the importance of their participation. Thirty five seniors were involved in providing weekly gardening activities. They helped over 70 children to plant a variety of crops, including corn, tomatoes, beans, strawberries, cucumbers, green peppers, and others vegetables. One elderly volunteer shared that he "wanted the students to learn how to enjoy and get enthused about working with plants and all that is involved in gardening and the benefits derived from it". Seniors shared how to cook vegetables and use them to the best advantage. Fifty elderly volunteers were recruited to participate in the weekly reading program in which they read 3 books to the children. In all, 92 children participated. The weekly art classes involved the same number of children. In addition to the educational sessions all "Abuelos" and children shared a social community meal program at La Guadalupe Senior Center. During the social program Abuelos shared stories of their own life-experiences and talked to the children about Hispanic traditions and culture. The project has successfully incorporated nutrition education and gardening projects into a range of educational and social activities that have enhanced children's self-esteem, strengthened cultural awareness and created links between seniors and children. Ninety percent of the children and over 80% of the seniors involved in the project are low-income.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended** All aspects of the intergenerational program have continued at the Center. Several times a week children take turns visiting with seniors and engaging in classes on nutrition, gardening, reading, and art. These activities have been supported by school funds during the last year, but the Center is seeking private financing to support the ongoing intergenerational activities. Approximately 100 seniors and 100 children are involved on a regular basis. In addition to nutrition-related activities the intergenerational project served as the catalyst for a Bank One supported project in 1998 in which 7<sup>th</sup> graders meet weekly with seniors to document their history and prepare books on each senior's life. These activities have greatly strengthened connections between seniors and children, increased self-esteem and awareness of cultural history, as well as improved the nutritional health of participants.

**Project:** Second Harvest Kids Café (41)  
**Agency:** Second Harvest Food Bank, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** This proposal involves development of a Kid's Cafe - a charitable feeding program designed to meet the needs of children. Second Harvest Food Bank of Wisconsin, in collaboration with the Next Door Foundation, and Helwig Family Community Center will provide family-style meals to children and youth in a safe, accessible and child-friendly environment. County Extension will provide a nutrition educator through the Family Nutrition Program to teach good nutrition through food preparation demonstrations, gardening projects and presentation of a nutrition curriculum designed especially for children and youth. Kid's Cafe will be in operation one evening per week and serve 75-100 school children ages 7-12. The Next Door Foundation will coordinate the evening meal and recruit neighborhood church and corporate volunteers for meal preparation and serving. Second Harvest of Wisconsin will administer the grant, supply food products, coordinate public relations and marketing, and prepare new grant proposals for continued funding.

**Project Results:** This project has been successful in providing weekly nutrition education and materials to children and youth with the cooperation of UW-Extension, and serving nutritious meals to 1,560 children (duplicated). During the program Kids Cafe moved to a larger, refurbished multi-purpose room which has encouraged greater participation and more hands-on food preparation. Over 50 parents of participating children have been recruited as volunteers to assist in running the program, preparing and serving meals. The program is expected to expand through marketing and grant requests. Second Harvest Food-Bank of Wisconsin expects to open new Kids' Cafes in the next year.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Kids Cafe has continued in 1998 with \$10,000 funding from Kraft Foods. The project has moved to the Capital Christian Center which serves an evening meal once a week to between 30 and 45 children. In the past six months about 1,126 meals have been served, totaling about 4,000 pounds of food. Fifteen sessions on nutrition, lasting 30-45 minutes each, have been conducted with help from Extension nutrition educators. Besides these activities organizers have arranged a Kids Carnival, dunking tank, balloons, T-shirts and other fun activities. On Juneteenth Day, a citywide celebration commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation, the project served 600 children. Second Harvest is seeking additional funding for 1999 to continue the Kids Cafe and possibly expand it to additional sites.



**Project:** HTFM's Foodline Computerization (42)  
**Agency:** Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** The HTFM and the Milwaukee Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence plan to purchase computers and software for FOODLINE, an emergency food assistance referral service for low-income clients. Currently FOODLINE is the only emergency food assistance referral service operating in Milwaukee County. It is currently operated manually with no computer software systems in place to ensure the accuracy of information and facilitate services.

**Project Results:** FOODLINE is located at the Milwaukee Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence. The computerization project involved the purchase of 7 computer workstations, a printer and IRIS software needed to manage the database on 130 emergency food providers and maintain detailed records for thousands of clients. Ten people staff FOODLINE from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, including 6 volunteers, 2 paid staff and 2 W-2 workers. Americorps also provided several volunteers to help with operations. After-hours calls are handled by the HELP line, which temporarily refers callers to free meal sites. FOODLINE operators handled over 17,000 calls in 1997 in despite time required for training and data entry. FOODLINE operators now provide callers with information about individual pantry requirements. The IRIS software is also providing important information about demand for emergency food and the impact of welfare reform in this heavily populated area.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** FOODLINE continues to serve clients requiring emergency food assistance on a daily basis. In the first six months of 1998 FOODLINE served 6,974 persons. Currently one third of all persons who use the food pantry system in Milwaukee County receive a referral from FOODLINE. They have received United Way funding to help operate the program and continue to receive support from 6 volunteers and 4 paid staff. The data that IRIS is collecting provides important feedback on clients, on why they need emergency food services, when and where demand is greatest and what additional services are required.

**Project:** Families First - Nutritional Project (43)  
**Agency:** Wisconsin Coulee Region CAP, Westby  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** The Wisconsin Coulee Region Community Action Program, Inc. will set up a new program in Vernon County. The Families First Nutrition Project will draw together volunteers and volunteer services in the community to provide low-income families with training for both parents and children on good nutrition. The Families First Nutrition Project will address 3 goals: (1) increase awareness of nutritional needs and the relationship between proper diet and good health for low income families; (2) provide input to local planning efforts on nutritional health issues for low-income families; (3) enhance involvement of the broader community in hunger prevention activities. No similar program is available to low income families in Vernon County.

**Project Results:** *Nutrition Education and Parenting* - Nutrition was incorporated into parenting classes for 48 families as part of the Families First Resource Center, a service of the Community Action Program. The project offered 2 evening series of classes that utilized a "Positive Parenting" curriculum and 27 Wednesday afternoon sessions. In addition to more than 30 topics on parenting skills (communication, discipline, fun, etc.) the nutrition education topics covered included healthy eating, nutritional shopping, healthy food and weight, healthy eating on the run, low fat cooking, balanced diets, nutritious snacks, heart healthy recipes, teaching and tasting at the table and expanded food and nutrition education books. In all 93 families were served in 1997, involving 139 individuals. Middle and High School students volunteered during evening sessions to supervise children in activities focusing on good nutrition and recreation and supervised the children in the preparation of healthy snacks. Parents were encouraged to involve other family members in meal preparation and planning.

*Local Planning* - Discussions were held to identify local concerns regarding hunger and undernutrition, including food costs, budgeting and transportation. Families can request additional information on a range of topics.

*Increase Collaboration* - The Resource Center has an advisory committee that includes representatives from County Human Services, Health Services, Family and Children's Center, Head Start, area schools, health care facilities, mental health facilities, churches and parents. Members helped with a display booth of the Centers Activities at the County Fair. Extension, Birth to Three, and a high school youth group have assisted with the parenting sessions.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended** - Following conclusion of the CBHP grant Coulee CAP obtained a Family Preservation and Support grant to continue the activities of the resource center. The Center continues to incorporate nutrition education topics into parenting skills workshops. Over 80 evening and afternoon classes are offered annually. Between January and September 1998 46 families representing 87 people have been served. Considerable community involvement and volunteerism has continued through participating in the steering committee, child care, and presentations and workshops. Approximately 30 adult and youth volunteers are involved in all aspects of activities at the Resource Center.

**Project:** Food Policy and Action Groups (44)  
**Agency:** Brown County Hunger Task Force, Green Bay  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** The Brown County Task Force on Hunger will create a Food Policy Council and initiate Action Groups to implement community based hunger prevention strategies in Brown County. There were two overriding principles: (1) solutions must involve the largest number of people possible to ensure diverse views are well represented, and (2) there must be a mechanism to utilize individual and organizational strengths in creating these solutions. The Food Policy Council is a means of honoring the first, and the Action Groups provide a focus for the second.

**Project Results:** Five focus areas were identified by the action groups: (1) A study is in progress to investigate the feasibility of locating a new grocery store in an underserved area of downtown Green Bay. (2) The task force expanded an existing community garden that was serving 12 households. The coordinator located additional land, obtained equipment and other resources from the community, and identified 30 volunteers to help with plowing and cultivation. By summer 42 families were gardening, of which 2/3 were Southeast Asian refugees. A self-employment workshop was held for 14 garden participants which resulted in 3 people starting small food-related businesses - including producing salsa and pepper jelly, and a soul food catering project. (3) The group is also in the planning stages of establishing a farmers market and a possible year-round market. (4) Another project that involved encouraging school breakfast & lunch participation was not as successful. (5) The group worked with several neighborhood centers to set up 2 new SHARE sites, which serve 30-50 persons a month at each site. The Brown County group is part of the Transforming Anti-Hunger Leadership Project coordinated by the HTFM. The group participated in the October training.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Task Force continues to make significant strides toward food security: (1) A grocery outlet investigating the downtown site encountered financial problems which temporarily derailed development plans. However, the store has reorganized and is continuing efforts establish a downtown location. (2) In 1998 a \$4,000 grant was received from Extension's Urban Initiatives to hire a part-time community garden coordinator. The coordinator identified 2 new garden locations that enabled an additional 30 households to grow produce that year. Two more locations have already been identified in Green Bay for 1999. The Task Force also received \$2,000 in CDBG funding for Brown County gardens, and \$60,000 from Extension's Urban Initiatives for Extension to expand community gardens to a 5 county region in 1999. The gardeners who began small food-related businesses continue to grow produce and market their products. They are participating in a planning group that is exploring the feasibility of establishing a shared-use kitchen in Green Bay. (3) The child nutrition focus shifted from school meals to summer nutrition. The Task Force became the sponsor of the Summer Food program and established sites at 3 Family Resource Centers in high poverty areas of Green Bay. The 3 locations served 5,000 breakfasts to needy children in 1998. (4) Through Extension a farmers market was established in the summer of 1997 with 14 vendors who sell produce from July to October. The vendors have begun to market, promote, and purchase seeds together. They may move to a bigger, more visible location. (5) The 2 SHARE sites continue to serve a combined 80-100 persons each month.

**Project:** Seniors Improving the Nutrition of Children (45)  
**Agency:** Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** CWAG, in partnership with the Dane County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, developed this project to recruit and train senior volunteers. The volunteers were placed in 4 schools with large numbers of low-income children to engage in a series of activities designed to reduce hunger and improve nutrition in low-income children and their families. Activities included interactive games, and exercises about the importance of "5-A-DAY", food price comparisons, reading nutrition labels and food stamps. This project also tried to increase participation of low-income children in the Food Stamp and School Breakfast programs, empower children to be advocates for good nutrition amongst their peers and prepare materials for replication and distribution in the district and statewide.

**Project Results:** Originally the group had planned to have the seniors be "breakfast buddies". This didn't prove to be feasible because of difficulty recruiting volunteers to work so early in the day. Also, the amount of time available at breakfast was very limited. Instead volunteers worked during the "Safe Haven" program - an after school program. The program was successful and more volunteers were recruited to work at additional sites - a total of four locations. Overall the project involved 20 volunteers and reached approximately 60 children. The project involved collaboration between the Coalition of WI Aging Groups, the Madison Metropolitan School District, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Dane County and the Dane County Extension Office, which provided consultation on the development of the nutrition curriculum. Challenges included the type of space available and the support of the staff. One unexpected benefit was the nutrition information gained by the senior volunteers. The volunteers and children prepared and enjoyed over 300 nutritious snacks as part of the after-school curriculum. Many children tried healthy foods that they had never eaten before.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The after-school program did not continue after the grant period because the project was very time intensive and required an on-going source of funding. The nutrition curriculum, however, was shared with Consumer Science teachers in all Dane County school districts and also was presented during a workshop at the Wisconsin Intergenerational Network Conference in LaCrosse in March 1998.

**Project:** Food Accessibility Project (46)  
**Agency:** Wisconsin Nutrition Project, Madison  
**Grant Period:** 1/97 to 9/97

**Description:** The Hunger Prevention Council of Dane County (HPC) membership consists of 8-12 service providers and community advocates. Initial goals include facilitating open discussion and information sharing to improve the quality of services and increase awareness of food security issues with the public and policy makers. The project will continue to build partnerships and increase community capacity for accessing food. Access to food pantries and grocery stores ranked high as a need in the assessment of services. The next step is to identify solutions. Discussions with potential collaborators include improving transportation to food pantries and grocery stores. Other options include food buying clubs, and increased participation in SHARE and Food Fair. Asset mapping will identify community strengths and increase involvement.

**Project Results:** The Council met monthly to discuss issues of local concern. Students in a UW-Madison Urban and Regional Planning Class mapped available food access sites and conducted focus groups. The project coordinator also met with 20 individuals and organizations to identify problem areas. Primary concerns included a need for a nutrition educator and the absence of a major grocery store in the target area. A nutrition educator is now available through Extension and a new store has opened close to the target area. New bus routes will also improve access. Other actions included trying to interest residents of a housing project in Community Supported Agriculture and working with a service club of 7th & 8th graders. Strategic planning was conducted for the HPC and volunteers were recruited. A food security profile was prepared documenting levels of participation in major food assistance programs and active networking was undertaken. Members also planned a detailed survey of food pantry clients.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** HPC has continued to meet regularly. In October 1997 HPC released results of the first food security profile at a press conference at East Towne Mall. There was considerable media coverage of the event, which included the kick off of a food drive sponsored by the mall and coordinated by the Community Action Coalition. Several businesses and a media consultant donated funds and services. HPC also cosponsored Partner Shares in 1997 (see #58) to help low-income families obtain fresh, locally grown produce by participating in CSA farms. 180 low-income people received thousands of pounds of locally grown produce through the project. In the fall of 1997 HPC conducted a survey of 2,098 clients at 27 local food pantries. The data was analyzed and released in 1998 in conjunction with an updated hunger profile and press release. In addition, HPC coordinated 7 emergency food distributions for Southeast Asian refugee families in 1998. Member agencies raised \$27,000 from individuals, churches, foundations and government to purchase culturally appropriate foods for these families. In total about 70,000 pounds of rice, 4,000 pounds of frozen meat and 10,000 pounds of produce were distributed (see #15).

**Project:** Community-Based Hunger Prevention Program (47)  
**Agency:** Eau Claire Hmong MAA, Eau Claire  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** The Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA), in coordination with Extension FNP, St. Francis Pantry, and Feed My People Food Bank proposes a two part project. (1) Provide nutrition classes to teach low-income Hmong how to prepare affordable, nutritious meals that utilize food from community food assistance programs, and increase Hmong use of food programs. (2) Address service gaps through the Hunger Prevention Coalition to meet Hmong food needs, including translation and culturally appropriate foods.

**Project Results:** *Survey* - The project hired a bi-lingual assistant to coordinate the program. Several focus groups were held to identify concerns. Findings showed that Hmong didn't have enough money to buy nutritious food; didn't have skills to prepare the foods in pantries and SHARE boxes; were unaware of many food assistance programs; found that most emergency food was not culturally appropriate; and that seniors had barriers to using senior meals.

*Nutrition Workshops* - In conjunction with FNP 7 nutrition workshops were held on a variety of topics at different locations in the community. Classes served 311 people, nearly 200% more than the project goal. At the first two workshops 38 people learned about SHARE food boxes and 10 families received free sample SHARE boxes. Efforts to interest more families by providing reduced-price SHARE boxes for several months did not succeed because of a lack of culturally appropriate food and not enough money. At another workshop 52 people learned how to use the senior meal site, although acceptance of the food was mixed. Most said they liked at least some of the food. Currently 2 Hmong elders use the Center. Thirty-eight parents and children learned about making healthy snacks in the 4<sup>th</sup> workshop, and parents learned how to apply for Head Start, ESL classes, and other food programs. Eleven persons attended a workshop at a local soup kitchen, but unfortunately no families have yet returned. Eleven people at another workshop learned how to make American salads, which were served at a Hmong picnic the next day. Three hundred people there had the opportunity to try the salads. The last workshop at an elementary school looked at ways to meet food preferences of both Hmong children and adults and was attended by 90 people. Parents shared ideas and watched demonstrations on making Hmong and American foods. Feedback was very positive.

*Service Gaps* - A translator was at the St. Francis food pantry each week to assist Hmong clients. Through the efforts of HMAA, Western Dairyland and Feed My People, commodity rice was made available at the food pantry. Acceptance was mixed however because of the small amounts and unfamiliar brand. The Hunger Prevention Coalition also provided an forum to discuss the barriers and solutions to Hmong food security. The grant showed the difficulties of linking refugee families with established food assistance programs. Although significant obstacles remain considerable progress has occurred. The partnership with HMAA, has enabled WNEP to form a relationships with the Hmong community, generated excellent participation in nutrition classes and increased community dialog and commitment to finding workable solutions.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The impact of the nutrition education project remains with the participating families. The coalition is seeking other funding to continue the project.

**Project:** The Gitigaan Project ("The Garden") (48)  
**Agency:** Great Lake Inter-Tribal Council, Lac du Flambeau  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) project proposal is called "Gitigaan" or in Ojibwe, "the garden". GLITC sponsored a community garden for the people of Lac du Flambeau during the summer of 1996 with support from USDA, and expanded in 1997 with foundation funding. CBHP funding would hire a garden coordinator at LDF and Bad River.

**Project Results:** The project expanded the garden at Lac du Flambeau (LDF) and established a new community garden at Bad River.

*The LDF gardens:* Numerous tribal departments, businesses, agencies and community members contributed considerable time and resources to the project, including equipment, soil, alfalfa, fence posts, and lumber. JPTA hired 2 low-income students for 6 weeks to work on the garden and the Tribal Courts referred community service workers as volunteers. In addition to extensive vegetables and herbs Gitigaan also planted sweet grass and bergamot which Native Americans use for food, healing and spiritual purposes. Garden produce was distributed to elder nutrition sites and elders at their homes. Some youth had their own garden plots and through schools and youth groups garden produce was distributed to many community children. The school also sponsored a community feast using the produce. In early spring the coordinator tapped maple trees for syrup, then later held a breakfast meal for elders at which they distributed the syrup. Recipes for using and preserving the produce were widely distributed. In addition, Gitigaan started a pilot project in which WIC participants were given vouchers to pick fresh produce from the garden. Although only 3 new families used these vouchers other WIC families were already involved in the garden project. The project canned and distributed 38 quarts of tomatoes and 18 jars of jalapeno peppers. Gitigaan distributed produce to 50 families and 7 tribal businesses and school clubs. In all 260 persons were served by the garden - 18% of the LDF tribal community.

*At Bad River:* Prior to planting the garden Master Gardener classes were held for 8 interested community members. The garden coordinator identified community volunteers and tribal businesses to support the project. Three garden plots were started - at Old Odanah, Frank's Field and Birch Hill. Thirty student volunteers and about 20 elders planted, maintained and harvested the gardens. Produce was delivered to tribal elders, other community members and to the Elder Housing and Head Start Programs. At least 165 community members received food from the garden - about 12% of the tribal community. The FNP nutrition educator conducted nutrition classes for 33 WIC families on how to use zucchini and pumpkin.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Members of both communities have shown increased interest in gardening and many families plan to continue or begin gardening next year. Home gardens have also been started. The children loved gardening. A tribal member at Bad River commented "whether Great Lakes gets a grant to help pay for it or not, we're going to keep it [Gitigaan] going". Possible future directions include a grower/producer market, a shared kitchen, value-added products and a pick-your-own berry operation. Both communities will continue the gardens with support from tribal government, volunteers, and outside funding.

**Project:** The Inner City Farmer's Market and Food Pantry (49)  
**Agency:** Hmong American Friendship Association, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** The project has three components: 1) a farmers' market, 2) a food pantry, and 3) farming and nutrition education workshops. The project is a collaboration between the Hmong American Friendship Association's (HAFA) food pantry and Uptown Redevelopment Project's (URP) farmers' market. It is designed to promote jobs for English and non-English speakers as farmers' market vendors, provide affordable produce for low-income families in inner-city neighborhoods, and provide farming and nutrition education to families. HAFA will serve as the fiscal agent, but Uptown Redevelopment Project will be an equal partner. The project will build the self-esteem of the community by working together to prevent hunger and raise awareness.

**Project Results:** HAFA's market coordinator conducted a series of 5 vendor meetings to determine interest in HAFA's Uptown Farmers' Market and to discuss issues like land rental, transportation, and seed buying. A total of 67 people attended these meetings. 23 vendors signed up to sell produce at the market, which is open three days a week. 6,000 flyers advertising the market were distributed by 10 youth to community residents and 500 flyers were given to businesses in downtown Milwaukee. HAFA joined the newly formed Milwaukee Farmers' Market Association to promote the market in the greater Milwaukee area.

*The food pantry* - During the first 6 months HAFA distributed 1,812 units of food to 453 families (unduplicated), but still had a waiting list of families. Food pantry hours were then increased to 2 days/week and food was distributed to 60-100 families each week. The waiting list for pantry services has now declined. Vendors from the Uptown Farmer's Market donated 3,000 pounds of produce to the pantry. By the conclusion of the grant the pantry had distributed 7,977 units of food to 1,686 unduplicated persons. The Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee gave HAFA \$2,675 in federal FEMA funds to purchase culturally appropriate foods like rice, meat and produce. Second Harvest provided \$3,000 worth of food boxes and household goods.

*Workshops* - (1) HAFA conducted 10 farming workshops for 117 families on how to plow and cultivate land with a tractor, buy seeds and become a market vendor. Many families expressed interest in learning more about farming. Twelve families participated in a field trip to Fleet-Farm in Menominee Falls to learn where to buy tools and supplies and how to comparison-shop. 31 persons participated in 3 demonstrations on the effectiveness of a tractor compared to simple garden tools. (2) HAFA also conducted 18 nutrition education workshops for 264 families on nutrition, food preparation, and how to prepare the canned goods found in pantries. Other health topics included dental care, with help from Marquette University, and lead poisoning prevention. Overall 14 volunteers helped with different activities. HAFA has successfully networked with numerous community organizations to promote hunger-prevention programs in Milwaukee.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** HAFA received a CBHP grant to locate a farmer's market and expanded food pantry at their new, larger office site (see # 68). Workshops will be offered on using food pantry foods as well as how to pursue farming occupations. The farmers market will continue to operate with volunteers. It is scheduled to be open from April to November in 1999.



**Project:** The Milwaukee Public Marketplace/Kitchen Incubator (50)  
**Agency:** Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** HTFM's Milwaukee Public Marketplace/Kitchen Incubator is a community food enterprise project which addresses both food insecurity and poverty related issues (wages) for low-income people through job incubation and creation in Milwaukee's inner-city. Presently, no comparable enterprise exists in this target area. The public purpose goals are: (1) providing fresh, quality food and other products to the low-income public at affordable prices and (2) restoring a sense of "community" by serving as a focal point for public activity in which to gather, shop, seek training and enjoy special events in a safe, vibrant setting. The economic goals are providing a long-term, economically self-sustaining indoor, year-round food marketplace and commercial kitchen that will incubate small businesses, provide opportunities to entrepreneurs, and create jobs for the surrounding neighborhood and community. It will also contribute to the economic stability of the neighborhood and act as a catalyst for additional retail activity. The project will hire a coordinator, develop a feasibility study and business plan for a public marketplace, and identify "stakeholders" who will have the organizational and financial capability to team with HTFM.

**Project Results:** HTFM hired a Food System Campaign Coordinator in October 1997 and the Market Development team was convened in the third quarter of 1997. The Development Team's recommendations provided ample direction to HTFM on how to proceed. The Food System Advisory Council (FSAC), which had previously provided community input on the Market, as well as other local food security projects, has not been reconvened. The Project Director has made site visits to existing public markets in other states. In November the director visited several public markets in Los Angeles in conjunction with a training course on the development of markets. He later visited Pike Place and Granville Island Markets in Seattle and Vancouver during the 4th Int'l Public Market Conference. Visits are planned to the West Side Market in Cleveland and the Findlay Market in Cincinnati.

HTFM has become the lead partner along with Milwaukee City Development and the Milwaukee Area Technical College. These agencies intend to develop a new, separate non-profit corporation to own and operate the Food Center. The proposed project will be located at the site of Fondy Farmer's Market on Milwaukee's near north side, an open-air market operated by the Fondy Farmers' Market Cooperative. HTFM is generating funding to enclose the market into a year-round indoor market hall and attach a certified commercial kitchen facility to the project with MATC. American Design Architectural Services of Milwaukee is identifying hard costs. Although a separate business plan has not been developed, individual components are developed as needed, which is producing a more thorough market analysis and cost estimate for the market and kitchen. Early indications demonstrate both the need for and potential success of the project.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The project will likely continue in Milwaukee for many years. HTFM has applied for \$750,000 in additional funding to continue development of the project since receiving the CBHP grant. They have received additional planning grants to complete all pre-development tasks. Most recently the Food Center Project has been included in an application to the City of Milwaukee for empowerment zone funding.

**Project:** Community-Based Food Distribution Network (51)  
**Agency:** Pierce County Public Health, Ellsworth  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** Convene representatives of a diverse group of private and public food providers in Pierce County to enable them to coordinate services and form a community-based food distribution council and network. A qualified individual with training in public relations will be hired to work in conjunction with the Public Health Department and Cooperative Extension to achieve this goal. Some funds will be used to evaluate attitudes and beliefs of food program workers and clients, and subsequently to provide effective education to address identified needs. Program outreach to low income individuals will be initiated immediately supported by in-kind services from Pierce County Public Health and the FNP program. At the close of the grant year, a structure will be in place to effectively refer and assure food security for low-income families in Pierce County.

**Project Results:** A project coordinator was hired who began an assessment of existing community resources and met with emergency food program staff. The Pierce County Hunger Prevention Council was formed and included representatives from food pantries, WestCAP, clergy, CROPS, Fare For All, Human Services, Public Health, Extension, a women's shelter, and interested citizens. The Council has provided an opportunity to meet monthly to share resources and ideas, and communicate about programs and services. The Council collaborated with Master Gardeners in River Falls to establish 3 sites where extra produce from home gardens was made available to anyone who wanted it. As a result of the network pantries are now sharing provisions with each other and restocking each other when provisions are low. In Prescott the WIC clinic, the food pantry and the Family Resource Center share a common building and coordinate hours. Outreach efforts have been successful as evidenced by increased usage at all pantry locations.

Three surveys have been conducted: (1) one to assess and compare food pantry facilities and practices and; (2) a survey of pantry staff to determine attitudes and opinions regarding food shelf usage, rules and training needs; (3) a survey of 500 low-income residents in the county. The survey results were compiled and presented at a Hunger Council meeting. Based on survey responses in-service training opportunities were offered on Welfare Reform, volunteer recruitment, fund-raising, food selection, food safety and record keeping. Each in-service session was attended by a variety of food pantry workers and citizens.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** The Hunger Prevention Council will continue to meet monthly. They recently voted to incorporate as a non-profit organization in order to apply for grant funding to move forward with new goals. The future focus is on coordinating existing food drives, initiating new ones, organizing a volunteer bank to staff the pantries and establishing better hours for clients. Also finding ways to mentor low-income people and empower them to ensure their own food security.

**Project:** ABC Nutrition Project (52)  
**Agency:** Polk County Health Department, Balsam Lake  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** The ABC Nutrition Project will provide nutrition education sessions to low-income preschoolers, their parents and caregivers. Educational sessions will focus on linking the concept of good nutrition with life long good health. The sessions will be fun and interactive, involving a play approach for the preschoolers and hands-on, practical information for the parents and caregivers. Community preschool programs and day cares that serve low-income families have shown enthusiasm for the project and are willing to host sessions for their preschoolers or family groups. Outreach information on Polk County nutrition education programs and food resources will be provided to those who work with low-income families with preschoolers to help assure food security for these families. This project is unique in that it will involve preschoolers and their parents and caregivers community-wide in learning lifelong healthy nutritious habits. The project will continue by training service providers to implement the program.

**Project Results:** A nutrition educator was hired as a coordinator and a steering committee was formed to help guide the project. The project had a strong community component reflected in the broad make-up of the steering committee, which included the Family Living Agent, a meal program sponsor, 3 day care providers, 3 WIC participants, the nutrition educator, project director and agency director. Based on input from the steering committee the following children's topics were developed for the sessions: *I Try New Foods*; *Smart Snacks*; *I Can Grow A Garden*; and *Someone's In the Kitchen With Mommy*. Parent topics included: *Stretching Food Dollars* and *Menu Planning*. Materials chosen for use were Kid's Club by Barbara Mayfield and When You Work and Kid's Meal Times, both by UW Cooperative Extension.

Presentations were given at 19 daycares, 3 Early Childhood programs, Head Start, a pre-kindergarten program and WIC. In total 476 unduplicated children attended the sessions. This exceeded the project's goal of reaching 223 low-income pre-schoolers by 113%. The project also offered educational sessions targeted to parents and day care providers. This objective was more challenging because several programs discovered that working parents had less time or interest in attending additional sessions. In spite of these obstacles, 64 parents attended sessions at the WIC clinic, and 42 day care providers attended. In all 106 parents and child care providers participated - exceeding the project's goal (of 75) by 41%. Evaluation forms showed that 100% of participants enjoyed the sessions and felt the children did also. The project has developed a directory explaining Polk County nutrition education programs and food resources, which will be distributed to organizations and individuals that work with low-income families. Staff were pleased with the strong interest of participating teachers, parents, daycare providers and children.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Forty service providers (teachers and daycare providers) were trained on the use of the materials, in addition to the providers present during Kids Club sessions. All were enthusiastic about the materials and evaluations showed that they planned to use the materials. Two complete sets of Kid's Club materials were donated to the Polk County Library and are available for public use one month at a time. WIC will provide pre-school and adult nutrition education as funding allows.

**Project:** The Greens Project (53)  
**Agency:** Second Harvest Food Bank, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** The Greens Project is a collaborative effort of Second Harvest Food Bank of Wisconsin, Extension Nutrition Education, Will Allen Produce Farm and churches of the Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA. For the first time in this community, a collaborative effort will provide culturally preferred fresh produce to pantries, congregate meal programs and residential shelter clients through Second Harvest Food Bank of Wisconsin. The produce will be grown locally and distributed by the food bank.

The Extension Family Nutrition Program will train Food Stamp eligible individuals that utilize church pantry and meal programs to prepare and to preserve fresh produce. The training will take place at ELCA central city churches in the most impoverished areas in Milwaukee. Partner suburban ELCA congregations, and other interested volunteers, will be recruited to harvest produce at the farm on a weekly basis during the growing season. Family groups will be encouraged to join the harvest. This volunteer activity will be meaningful as well as productive for fellow ELCA church members. This proposal indeed recognizes "our mutuality and interdependence", and is a truly a unique endeavor for Milwaukee and an affirmation of people working in community to make a difference.

**Project Results:** Will Allen farms grew culturally diverse and preferred produce for the project, which included greens, apples, carrots, potatoes and tomatoes. Volunteers from ELCA congregations in the suburbs helped to harvest the produce on a weekly basis. In all 4,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed to families participating in the project. Second Harvest identified 24 food pantries, meal programs and shelters in the inner city to participate in the program. Sites included Reformation Lutheran, Sojourner Truth House, Hepatha Lutheran, YMCA-Transitional Living, and Meta House - Women & Children. On Wednesdays staff from UW Extension FNP conducted demonstrations for food stamp eligible persons at these locations on how to prepare and preserve the produce. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 65 and included African Americans, White, Hispanic, Asian and Native Americans. Approximately 12 participants attended each session, which included hands-on demonstrations and one-to-one assistance. In all 425 people participated in the project and took home the prepared or preserved produce they had made. Host sites and participants said the training sessions were very beneficial in promoting nutrition education for persons who would not otherwise receive it. The project effectively educated individuals on using fresh produce as a healthier alternative to canned products and strengthened collaborations between Second Harvest, area churches and agencies, Extension and Will Allen farms.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Second Harvest is investigating alternative sources of funding to continue the project.

**Project:** Beyond Charity (54)  
**Agency:** Sheboygan County Interfaith Org., Sheboygan  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization (SCIO) has a membership of 18 faith congregations. "Beyond Charity" seeks to bring people in need together with existing resources and volunteerism by providing a bridge where services are missing. The Nutrition Taskforce will identify low-income people in need of nutritional assistance; conduct a survey of pantry clients, provide food resource information, and train volunteer parish nurses to conduct nutritional assessments and make referrals to local food assistance programs.

**Project Results:** *Nutrition Screening:* Twenty-five parish nurses were trained to conduct nutritional assessments during home visits and now routinely refer clients to food pantries or other community food assistance programs. 12 glucose screenings and informational sessions on diabetes have been conducted. Out of 894 persons screened, 37 were referred for further testing.

*Survey -* Volunteers and parish nurses conducted a survey of food pantries and clients to assess needs. Responses received from 277 households (764 people) revealed that: uniform food pantry packages don't meet the needs of larger families; working families may need extended hours some evenings; 25% of pantry clients have restricted diets requiring special foods often unavailable in pantries; desirable and undesirable food items were identified; many clients do not have health insurance (43%) or dental insurance (66%). Client workshop interests included: cooking, budgeting, parenting and maintenance. Over 50% of clients are in 2-parent households.

*Food Pantries -* SCIO also responded to 2 urgent food pantry problems: (1) Demand at Random Lake Food Pantry doubled in the past year, which created a food shortage. A food drive was organized in response and raised over 120 cases of food. (2) Pastors made 2 donations to the Hmong Association totaling \$1,000 to start a food pantry. Congregations also ran campaigns to solicit non-food items for area food pantries. The Nutrition Taskforce conducted a workshop for food pantries on anticipated impacts from W-2.

*Resource Materials -* The taskforce also developed and distributed two publications: (1) 5,000 brochures providing a step by step guide to food, utility and housing assistance. (2) 1,000 copies of Cook, Eat, Enjoy, a cookbook including information on food resources, family meal traditions, cooking instruction, ingredient substitution for special diets, the food pyramid, and general and special diet recipes that will be distributed to families using food pantries.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** SCIO is committed to continuing efforts to improve community food security. This includes educating the public on which nutritious and complimentary foods to donate to food pantries so there will be sufficient quantities to meet the needs of various family sizes. SCIO is seeking to reorganize food pantry distribution so that (1) people have a choice about foods they receive; (2) larger families receive enough food to prepare a meal; (3) food packages contain complete meals so clients don't need to purchase additional items to prepare a meal; (4) people who have special dietary needs are better served. Cooking and budgeting classes will be offered this winter. Parish nurses will continue to assess the nutritional needs of the elderly, refer them to food pantries and offer nutrition education classes.

**Project:** Emergency Food Resource Expansion For Migrants (55)  
**Agency:** United Migrant Opportunity Services, Milwaukee  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** The project will reinforce the existing nutritional support program that UMOS provides to migrant farm and cannery workers in Wisconsin. This will be accomplished by solidifying linkages with existing food pantries, developing new food resources by making contacts with potential donors and utilizing existing relationships which UMOS has cultivated over the years, and by providing nutritional education to migrants about healthier alternatives that can be incorporated into their diets. UMOS programs have for many years provided emergency services for migrant workers who find themselves in need before the season begins. UMOS spends thousands each year to provide food vouchers and stock food pantries, yet resources are often scarce. UMOS seeks to generate more and healthier food for Wisconsin migrant workers.

**Project Results:** *Emergency Food* - The project was not able to hire staff until the beginning of the migrant season which meant a late start on project activities. Nevertheless additional food resources have been identified and nutrition education conducted. Three food drives added resources to Wautoma, Madison and Appleton offices. Churches made cash donations to the pantries totaling nearly \$500 and contacts were made with 15 area growers and canners late in the season for food. Follow-up is still being conducted with growers. The Appleton office is now a distribution site for federal commodities which significantly increases the amount of food for area families.

Through increased donations and the commodities program UMOS has increased the amount of food available to migrant families. In 1997 UMOS food pantries provided 2,019 individual pantry services. However, due to computer input problems the 1998 figures are not yet available. UMOS provides direct pantry services twice a year to migrant families and provides food vouchers with CSBG and FEMA funds when there is additional need. In 1998 513 food vouchers were given out, a 26% increase over 1997. UMOS has compiled a listing of additional food resources to be disseminated to migrant families, including information on food stamps, free meal sites, and area food pantries.

*Nutrition Education* - A clinical nurse practitioner trained in nutrition education provided 22 nutrition sessions at 11 migrant camps during July, August and September. 351 persons attended the sessions on food purchasing and preparation utilizing recipes emphasizing healthy choices within migrants' traditional diets. Recipes and nutrition information was distributed.

*Conferences* - UMOS participated in several hunger conferences, including the Midwest Farmworker Opportunity Programs Conference on Food and Nutrition, USDA's "Fighting Hunger at the Grassroots" conference and several conferences in Manitowoc and Milwaukee.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Many activities begun with this project are ongoing and will continue, such as the food pantry resource development, which has yet to reach its full potential. Staff with other UMOS projects will continue to offer nutrition education sessions. Relationships with Second Harvest and Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee will continue.

**Project:** Food, Fun & Fitness (56)  
**Agency:** Vilas County Extension, Eagle River  
**Grant Period:** 10/97 to 9/98

**Description:** This project will develop a summer feeding and nutrition youth program designed to meet the needs of low-income children in Eagle River and the surrounding community. The program will engage community-wide support to combine a Summer Food site and community garden with nutrition education. Extension Family Nutrition Program will administer the grant, provide the educational component and coordinate activities. Other collaborating agencies include the Vilas County Commission on Aging, Eagle River Memorial Hospital, the local Kiwanis, Northwoods Children's Museum and UW Extension Master Gardeners. The project will provide lunch, inter-generational nutrition education activities, and gardening experiences for children at a community park in a low-income neighborhood.

**Project Results:** *Summer Program* - Program planners canvassed the neighborhood around Miller's Park to meet parents and enroll children in the summer program. Flyers were also distributed by the elementary school. As a result of outreach efforts 50 children enrolled in the ten-week program. "Food, Fun & Fitness" operated from June through August, three times a week from 11:00 until 1:00. An average of 35 children a day participated in 40-minute sessions each of gardening, fitness, and nutrition, including lunch. The children got to sample garden vegetables and lunches often included salads made with lettuce, radishes, onions and tomatoes harvested from the garden. Each week interesting nutrition-related activities focused on different foods in the food pyramid. Material from the sessions was reinforced with field trips (grocery store, goat farm, chicken coop, and fast food restaurant). Children participated in various food-related projects like making coleslaw from garden cabbage.

*Community Support* - The project received considerable support from community organizations. Honey Rock Camp prepared nutritious lunches, which they delivered to the park. Local Kiwanis made the garden beds, installed fencing and did general park upkeep. The Master Gardeners Program designed the garden and coordinated senior volunteers and Master Gardeners who worked with youth in the garden. Activities included planting, weeding, measuring plant growth, watering and harvesting. Supplies were donated by local greenhouses & gardening centers. The Northwoods Children's Museum provided a place to meet during bad weather and also promoted the program in the community. Parents also helped with activities and field trips.

Parent evaluations showed the children were trying new foods, making healthier choices and had an increased awareness of good nutrition. A core group of youth gardeners are making preparations for next summer. Since more than half the children were from low-income families the project received federal reimbursements through the Summer Food Program for all the lunches served - receiving over \$1,400 for the 620 meals served. DPI's review of the Summer Food program called the project "outstanding" in its operation, activities and outreach efforts.

**Developments Since the Grant Ended:** Extension anticipates continuing the project through local support and other smaller grants. The local Kiwanis will help with funding and they have applied for a Youth Gardening Grant from the National Gardening Association. The Summer Food Program will continue to provide federal reimbursements for the meal component.