Paul was contacted by the executive director of Economic Development Washington County (EDWC) to help design and facilitate a board retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to build understanding of an evolved business model for the organization, increase board knowledge of market trends, identify strategic issues and establish strategic priorities. At the retreat, Matt Kures (UW-Extension Center for Community Economic Development) presented economic and market related trends. EDWC board members and staff presented investor viewpoints, real estate inventory analysis and economic development industry trends. Paul facilitated a discussion that analyzed data trends and identified strategic opportunities for the organization.

Through evaluation of the 19 retreat participants, 100% agreed that they had an increased understanding of economic and market trends, 90% agreed that the discussion assisted in the identification of core strategic priorities and 100% evaluated Paul’s facilitation as good or excellent. One participant commented, “Well planned event and good content.”
In partnership with Casa Guadalupe, Carol coordinated a series of workshops at the Hartford United Way Resource Center and Casa in West Bend. The first bilingual workshop provided an opportunity for families to explore food preservation as a safe way to preserve garden produce. Preserving foods through canning is not a familiar process for many Latino families. UW-Extension Volunteer Master Food Preserver Annette provided Extension-tested recipes and resources, explained steps to successful canning, and offered dilly bean samples for the 7 participants to taste.

The second workshop focused on dealing with a drop in income. The 12 participants learned that the first step is to assess their current spending habits. Approximately 83% of adult participants (in both locations) stated that they would track their expenses for at least a week to determine where their money is spent.

At the same time the parents were learning in the adult workshops, their children were engaged in a summer literacy program with the 4-H Summer Outreach Educator and youth volunteers.

FAMILY LIVING EDUCATION  
Carol Bralich  
262-335-4479

4-H Nature Investigators Explore the Environment: The Washington County 4-H Nature Investigators Special Interest Club is a youth development partnership between UW-Extension and Washington County Planning and Parks. Throughout the summer, youth have attended meetings at county parks and participated in outdoor learning activities. Youth collected insects from a prairie at Yahr County Park and practiced identifying them using insect classification guides. At Homestead Hollow County Park, the youth used digital tools to investigate a microclimate. The group also learned about decomposition and studied “The Case of the Disappearing Log” at Heritage Trails County Park.

This group is the first 4-H Special Interest (SPIN) Club in Washington County. This short-term, topic-focused youth development model has been highly successful in other states, and Wisconsin counties are just beginning to offer these programs. Youth participating in SPIN Clubs get a series hands-on learning experiences with an adult who has expertise on a topic. The Nature Investigators SPIN Club was supported by a UW-Extension East-Metro Regional Resource Grant.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
Brianna Stapleton Welch  
262-335-4478

Of the 5 agencies where Meggie Casey taught adults in Aug., we feature 2.

At The Threshold Inc., 22 adults participated in a series of programs; each session included a discussion topic, hands-on activity, and a tasting of a healthy food—a recipe easily replicated in their homes. Post-session evaluations revealed 88% of the learners rated the review of nutrition basics as helpful or very helpful; 64% intended to start, or to more often, measure amounts of food at home to enhance their portion awareness skills; and 74% committed to be more physically active in the short-term. Impact from this lesson series reveals that TTI learners are motivated to make small, meaningful steps toward healthier lifestyle choices, and to achieve or maintain a healthy weight.

Before mini-lessons, clients of the Sts. Boniface and Gabriel Community Pantry perceived it was difficult to consume the amount of fruits and vegetables recommended by MyPlate due to the high cost of produce. After receiving food prep ideas, shopping strategies, and community resource tips, 76% of learners planned to adopt 2 or more methods.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

YOUTH LIVESTOCK EDUCATION  
Steph Plaster  
262-335-4477

Carcass Judging Event & Educational Show: Stephanie coordinated and facilitated the carcass judging and educational show held at Kewaskum Frozen Foods. Youth entered 86 animals: 27 beef, 28 lambs, and 29 hogs. The judge commented, “I’m really impressed by the animals this year. They display high carcass quality overall.”

Carcass judging is an invaluable educational event for livestock youth. Throughout the year, youth learn how to produce a high quality animal which will enter the food supply and produce a profit. Youth choose their animal and spend months caring for and handling them. The live show at fair evaluates the predicted marketability of the meat animal while the carcass show is an opportunity for youth to see how the live traits of the animal compare to the carcass measurements and final value.

Youth also learn how the genetics of the animal, what the animal is fed, and how the animal is cared for all contribute to what the carcass looks like and ultimately how much they, as the producer, profit from the enterprise.

NUTRITION EDUCATION [SNAP-Ed/WNEP]  
Renee Vertin  
262-335-4841

Of the 5 agencies where Meggie Casey taught adults in Aug., we feature 2.