

# **IMPACT 2019**

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

### **Improving Children's Lives**

#### Children

In **Georgia**, 3,013 youth participated in *Promoting Positive Youth Development through Relationship Education*. Community volunteers read weekly to 4-year-olds in **Mississippi**'s *Fours & Family Literacy*, with 78% of parents noting this program encouraged their child to read.

"I had no idea how much she really loved books. I was buying her toys, and now I take her to the library." – **Mississippi** participant



"The stuff we learned is stuff that sometimes we don't really talk about in schools and at other places." – **Georgia** participant

In **Kentucky**'s *Preparing for Back to School*, students were taught life skills, including handwashing, food safety and money management. After participating in *Youth Safety Days*, 1,592 **Oklahoma** youth now know the safe steps to take if they find a gun. *Development/Sensory Screening* evaluated 7,200

**Arizona** children, referring 1,586 for services. In addition, *First Smiles* provided oral health services to 6,405 children. In **North Carolina** middle school students understand *Healthy Homes*.

## Daycare Providers/Teachers/School Food Service Staff/Other Professionals

Through *Understanding Cultural Competency and Poverty in Appalachia,* **West Virginians** have been able to increase their awareness of obstacles faced by children and families in poverty; 285 counselors, social workers, nurses, doctors, and nonprofits participated.

Childcare provider programs, partnering with the U.S. Department of Labor and the USDA, increase the quality of care and free up funds, enabling centers to spend on direct care of children, rather than costly professional development for staff. In **West Virginia**, Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist, in Indiana, I Am Moving, I Am Learning, and in Georgia, The Importance of Child Care Quality, were implemented.

"I learned a lot about dealing with disclosures of abuse. As a result of this class I will be more alert and listen to the children and what they say and how they play." – Georgia Childcare Provider

**New Jersey**'s Education for Food Service Directors, Staff and Teachers Improves Nutrition Intake, with 80% of whole fruit offered on the cafeteria line now consumed. Connect Mentoring Curriculum and Strong Parents, Stable Children in **Utah** provided education for child care facilities, parenting courses for families and incarcerated individuals, leadership teams within 4-H

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



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and other programs. In addition to 405 participants, the program was downloaded by 14 states and Bermuda and U.S. Army-Germany; 92% of 200 former participants report having used the tools.

"We are serving healthier fruits and vegetables to kids of all ages, Hooray!" - **New Jersey** participant

#### **Parents/Grandparents/Families**

In partnership with local health departments and hospitals, **Tennessee**'s *Girl Talk* brings mothers (or mother figures) and daughters together to learn about life changes, communication, family values, and decision making.

"A mother and her daughter had participated in *Girl Talk*. Recently, a relative in her family either attempted or actually carried out sexual abuse. The mother called to say that she truly felt that *Girl Talk* was the reason that her daughter was able to come forward and tell someone."

- Tennessee participant

Healthy Grandfamilies in **West Virginia** provides low income grandparents with knowledge and skills to improve their family's health. **Michigan**'s *BEES (Building Early Emotional Skills)* helps parents of children 0 to 3 learn positive attitudes about emotions and decreased rejection of negative emotions and parenting stress.

"I learned that children will feel angry/upset sometimes. That's normal and I have to help her navigate those feelings rather than try to stop her from being upset."

- Michigan participant

Montana used quarterly newsletters, emails, social media, and presentations to help 5,910 *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG)*. Additionally, the Brookdale Foundation, an MSU Extension GRG partner, provided funds to help Blackfeet Reservation GRG families pay for household costs during several "state of emergency" spring snow storms.

"I have been practicing the things that I learned during the classes and it works! My kids are listening better and responding to my coaching and I'm able to no longer lose my temper. - Participant in **Indiana**'s *Strengthening Families* 

Parenting in the Age of Overindulgence: An Online Parenting Course in **Minnesota** offers an accessible format for parental support.



In 8 short weeks, the activities of *Raising a Thinking Child* enabled families to be more empathetic, better able to handle problem situations when they arise."

- Wisconsin Elementary School Principal

**Oklahoma** addresses child abuse and divorce with *Active Parenting* and *Co-Parenting for Resilience*. According to a participant in **Washington**'s *Strengthening Families*, "I raised a compassionate, intellectual, and drug-free girl with excellent communication skills through my intentional use of the [SFP] program."

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