



CYFAR

Children, Youth and Families At Risk Program



07
Annual
Report



Cover photos: left to right; top to bottom

Virgin Islands—The after-school tutoring program at Croixville, St. Croix.

New York—CITY teen leaders from Cornell Cooperative Extension New York City host the “First-Ever Affordable Fashion Show” to highlight the impact of media on teen shopping behaviors.

North Dakota—Youth in Native American clothing.

Ohio—University of Dayton and Adventure Central teens work together on a scientific experiment as part of a joint service-learning project.

Nebraska—With help from UNL Master Gardeners, five after-school program sites in Nebraska help spruce up the landscape by adding plants at their schools.

Texas—Interacting hands-on learning. Youth explore entrepreneurship in a computer lab in Round Rock.

Arizona—Youth in the Douglas Arizona Spirit of the Sun project map the community using GIS technology.

Inside front cover photos: left to right

Hawaii—Honaunau Elementary students learn about nucleation and test their theories with a Mentos and Coke geyser.

Idaho—Face painting at the Lights on Afterschool Celebration (Coeur d’Alene Reservation site).

Iowa—Sharing the family crest—“what makes us a family”—an activity from the Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10 to 14.

A Year of Accomplishments

TO CYFAR Program Staff,

This 2007 CYFAR Report is a summary of the accomplishments of CYFAR community-based programs that bring Land Grant University Extension resources to those children, youth, and families who are at risk for not meeting basic needs or building the skills and competencies necessary for academic and career success and fulfilling and happy lives.

The CYFAR programs featured in this report illustrate the diversity of content, program models, and people reached by CYFAR efforts across the country. They highlight:

empowering teens to make positive changes in their communities, bridging the digital divide in public housing,

matching elder citizens and teens in gardening ventures,

involving youth in exciting business opportunities, and

reaching out to Latino youth and elderly Slavic immigrants.

While very different, these programs address the real needs of youth and/or adults in the communities and actively engage them in their own learning experiences. They build safe and welcoming environments where participants have opportunities to experience belonging under guidance of caring and competent adults. Participants are expected to take responsibility for positive outcomes for themselves and their communities. CYFAR staff work with participants to guide their skill development and apply learning in new circumstances. These programs represent strong collaborations with other organizations and integration into the work of Extension—both vital factors in sustainability beyond CSREES funding.

It is clear that this work continues to make a difference. Not only to the youth and families reached in the community programs and to the communities in which the programs are sustained, but to the LGU Extension System. CYFERnet has demonstrated not only the effectiveness of technology in learning but also the power of intellectual collaboration across universities to provide access to large quantities of high-quality research-based resources to every community program. The CYFAR Liaisons' continuous technical assistance to states and the professional development offered by the CYFAR Conference provide a solid base of support for both staff and participants in the community program sites.

CYFAR evaluations show success not only in sustaining CYFAR programs, but also in integrating this work and these audiences into the ongoing mission of Extension. These successes contribute to Extension's recognition as a critical player in responding rapidly to critical needs of children, youth, and families at risk. Descriptions of all CYFAR programs can be viewed at www.cyfernet.org/databases/cyfarreporting/public/.



Sharon KB Wright, National Program Leader
National 4-H Headquarters
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
US Department of Agriculture



Arizona
 Youth in the Douglas Arizona Spirit of the Sun project.

Arkansas
 Polk Teamwork Activity at Family Night Out.



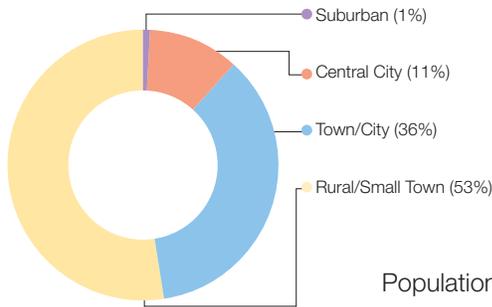
CYFAR Community Program Demographic Data 2007

In 2007, CYFAR projects in 40 states and territories supported community programs at 121 sites reaching 20,210 youth and 6,410 adults—a total of 26,620 participants. Of the participants, 1,268 (5%) are pre-K; 11,125 (42%) are in grades K–6; and 7,817 (29%) are in grades 7–12. Fifty-three percent (53%) of all participants are from rural areas and small towns, 36% from towns and cities, 11% from central cities, and less than 1% from suburbs. Of the youth, 78% live in poverty with percentages ranging up to 100% for some race/ethnicity groups.

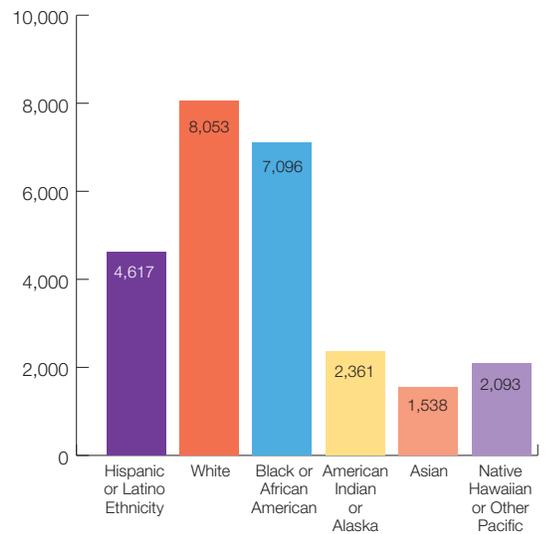
CYFAR projects employ 286 staff members to implement programs in communities. Adult (n=1,436) and youth (n=835) volunteers provided more than 111,000 volunteer hours to the programs and staff in 2007. The bar graphs show the diversity of youth and adults involved as participants, staff, and volunteers in CYFAR programs.

4-H club enrollment among CYFAR participants increased from 199 to 213 clubs and from 6,000 to 10,104 members in 2007. This is almost 50% of all CYFAR youth participants. 4-H membership is fairly evenly distributed in grades K–6 (4,689) and grades 7–12 (5,415). A total of 948 volunteers, 334 youth, and 614 adults worked with these 4-H clubs.

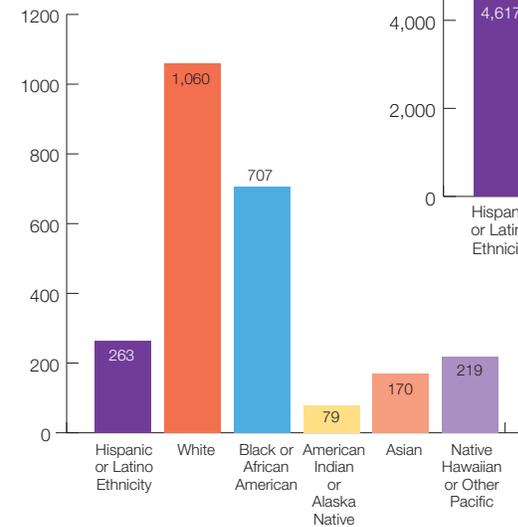
Population Served by Location



Population Served by Race/Ethnicity



Staff by Race/Ethnicity



Delaware
 Project SUCCESS members visit the aquarium.

Delaware
 Children made and decorated fishing hats in their 4-H after-school club.





California
 Teens 4 Teens Peer Leaders facilitating a teen health workshop on dating violence.

California
 4-H Bloco Drum and Dance participants performing in statewide Carnival event.

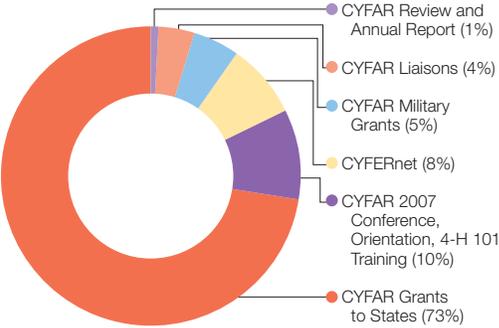


CYFAR Budget 2007

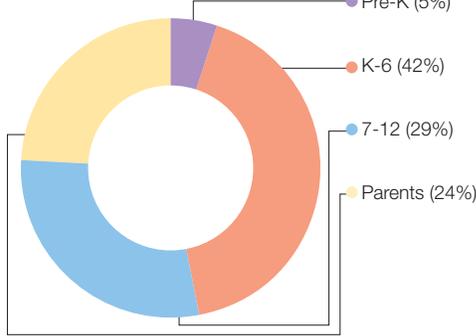
Of CYFAR’s \$7,344,691 program budget, 73% provided funding directly to universities for community programs. This included renewal of CYFAR New Communities Projects in 31 states/territories and nine new Sustainable Community Projects. States matched their CYFAR grants with a minimum of \$2,000,000. The CYFAR share of Military 4-H grants accounted for another \$335,000 that provided support to county 4-H professionals working with military youth programs in 31 states.

The remaining 22% of the 2007 CYFAR budget provided a wide range of technical assistance and support to CYFAR staff and programs. Eight percent of the CYFAR budget supported CYFERnet Program, Technology, and Evaluation. Professional development—the CYFAR conference, CYFAR orientation, and 4-H 101—accounted for 10% of the CYFAR budget. Four percent of the budget funded Cooperative Support Agreements with universities for six CYFAR Liaisons who provided technical assistance to all the CYFAR programs. The CYFAR peer review process and annual report accounted for the remaining 1%.

2007 CYFAR Budget Breakdown



Participants by Age



District of Columbia
 The mission of the “D.C. Reads” CYFAR project is to break the chain of illiteracy that ties people to poverty.

Hawaii
 Keaukaha Elementary student programming a LEGO NXT Robot for the statewide LEGO Robotics Competition.





Idaho
Teen staff crafting at the Cassia County site.

Illinois
U of I Extension Partners in Parenting staff work with small groups of parents, grandparents, and young children to increase knowledge of child development, confidence, and competence.



CYFAR Collaborations

While 1890 and 1994 institutions are not eligible to apply for CYFAR grants, 1862 institutions are encouraged to collaborate and subcontract with these institutions. In 2007, CYFAR projects included collaborative community programs in the following states:

- Auburn University—Tuskegee University
- Kansas State University—Haskell Indian Nations University
- University of Maryland—University of District of Columbia
- Montana State University—Rocky Boy Reservation
- North Dakota State University—Standing Rock Indian Reservation
- Oklahoma State University—The Cherokee Nation
- Clemson University—South Carolina State
- Texas A&M University—Prairie View A&M University

Featured CYFAR Programs

Maryland CYFAR Project

Cyber Town
Somerset County
Lisa Dennis, Community Project Director

Cyber Town at the Woodrow Wilson Community Center is an after-school program for 8- to 12-year-old residents of the Crisfield Housing Authority in Somerset County, Maryland. The goal for the project is to help young people bridge the digital divide by using computers to build both their literacy and technology skills.

More than 25 children attend 4-H Program Assistant Edith Hull's computer lab daily from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. They receive instruction in reading, help with homework, and assistance with research, and can engage in such recreational options such as interactive computer games, e-pals, and basketball.

Cyber Town's success in improving participants' reading comprehension was proven in evaluations. The first 45 participants completed an age-appropriate reading test when they entered the program and again one year later. Post-test results produced a mean score of 73% and a standard deviation of only 8%, indicating that program participants not only performed consistently well, but represented an increase of 21 percentage points from the pre-test and this success was evident in the satisfaction of its participants. "I like doing homework here because if Miss Hull doesn't know the answer she can always help us find it. She lets us do fun stuff to like print song lyrics and play computer games," said Dezi, age 10. "The computer lab is great because it gives me something to do. My mom doesn't fuss at me when she knows I am here after school until she gets off work," commented T.J., age 11.

In recognition of its value and importance to the community of Crisfield, Maryland Cyber Town was accepted as a National Program of Distinction in 2005 and is a 2007 Annie E. Casey 4-H Family Strengthening Award winner.



Louisiana
4-H teen leaders attend a workshop to prepare to serve as reading tutors with young children.

Maryland
Grantsville after-school students compare their field notes during the PhotoAdventures program.





Kansas
Participants in the Haskell “New Avenues” Project clean clay for use in making traditional southeastern pottery.

Kentucky
KaBoom Playground Design in Lawrence County, Kentucky. Middle school students put their ideas on paper.



The CITY Project: Community Improvement Through Youth

June P. Mead, State Project Director
Vicki Giarratano, Broome County Project Coordinator
Jamila Simon, New York City Project Coordinator

Community Improvement Through Youth—the CITY Project empowers 14- to 18-year-olds to make positive changes in two high-need urban sites of New York. The project draws on the national 4-H resource, *Public Adventures*, along with one of Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Signature Programs, Youth Community Action. Evaluation results from 2007 show significant gains for CITY Project youth in terms of civic engagement and workforce preparation.

Recently, the NAE4-HA Urban 4-H Programs Task Force announced that the CITY Project was selected for the 2007 NAE4-HA Directory of Successful Urban 4-H Programs. This is a special honor for the CITY Project as it represents the second consecutive year that a New York CYFAR project has received this designation. Once updated, the Directory of Successful Urban 4-H Programs will list both New York’s NCP and SCP projects.

In Broome County, the CITY Project partners include Binghamton Housing Authority’s Gang Prevention Program and Broome County Urban League. In New York City, the CITY Project collaborates with Henry Street Settlement and the Police Athletic League in Bedford Stuyvesant. At these four locations, 40 CITY Teen Leaders are working to make lasting changes in their communities. This past school year, the teens identified local issues through community mapping and the use of *Public Adventures*. As June Mead, CITY Project director and evaluator, explains, “The CITY Teen Leaders learn decision

making and grant writing, how to identify stakeholders, and how to develop a mission, vision, and action plan. They also take part in city council meetings and the local government.” CITY Projects include “Did Ya Know,” an interactive theater to help make the community more aware of the risk-taking behaviors; a Construction Academy and Horticulture Camp; Binghamton Farmers’ Market needs assessment survey project; and the First Ever Affordable Fashion Show in New York City to highlight the impact of media on teen shopping behaviors. CITY Project website: <http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/city>.

Oregon Outreach Project
Beverly Hobbs, Project Director
Reaching Out to Latino Youth in Oregon

The Oregon Outreach Project is a statewide effort to engage Latino youth in 4-H. Begun in 1997 with CYFAR funding, the project initially provided support for three counties to hire full-time bilingual, bicultural program assistants. Currently the project supports Latino outreach efforts in one-third of Oregon’s counties through a blending of CYFAR, state, and foundation funding.

Working with Latino audiences has challenged 4-H staff to apply new approaches to developing partnerships with community members and to entertain new perspectives of programming. As a result, the Oregon 4-H program has diversified its practice, and Latino youth and families have found 4-H welcoming and engaging.

Programs as diverse as technology, soccer, cultural dance, and exploration of natural resources have proven popular with Latino youth. All programming reinforces Latino identity and culture. This approach reflects the needs and interests of youth and parents—families want their children to fit into the mainstream without sacrificing the home



Maryland
Choosing a field journal for the PhotoAdventures module—an after-school program combining outdoor adventure and photography.

Massachusetts
Youth from the Boston New Communities Project participated in a Northeast Region “Serving Our Community, Saving Our Children” community service project. The project was funded by a grant from Cumberland Farms.





Massachusetts

North Adams GPS: The Probation officer and the Extension educator work with teens on using GPS hand-held devices to map the Historic Valley Campgrounds in North Adams, MA.

Mississippi

G.A.P. participants learn that expressive art is a way to express yourself. Pictured are two youth who participated in the G.A.P. fun night activities. Youth are taught that "It's okay to be You" and to have fun through 4-H.



culture. Latino parents are delighted when they realize that 4-H can help preserve their culture while offering educational programs that help youth develop valuable skills.

Beyond its own program efforts to engage Latino youth, the project has also assumed a responsibility to help other community-based organizations become more successful at serving Latino youth and families. In October 2008, the project will host a statewide conference focused on outreach to Latinos. The conference will offer participants an opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of Latino culture and will introduce successful strategies for outreach. Additionally, participants will have opportunities to network around issues of Latino outreach in hopes of building regional collaborative efforts.

Texas CYFAR Project Kids with Biz Ideaz: A New Generation of Possibilities

Montgomery County Young Entrepreneurs
Sheryl A. Nolen, Community Project Director

This year, the Conroe Young Entrepreneurs Program of Montgomery County, Texas, reached more than 400 at-risk middle schoolers in after-school programs at three urban sites, and approximately 3,000 youth at community events. YEP teaches entrepreneurship, leadership, and career exploration the 4-H way: Making the best better. It challenges youth to become positive, upstanding members of the Conroe community as well as contributors to the Texas economy.

YEP members learned the value of collaborating as business partners while building leadership skills, taking healthy risks, and using creative energy to launch a business viable in the Conroe economy. Lessons in the 15-week program include product development, finance, and marketing. YEP businesses produced leather goods,

smoothies, salsa, duct tape accessories, and custom-made T-shirts. Top Biz Honors were awarded by a panel of judges at the YEP Trade Show, and seven Conroe youth earned Texas Kidz Biz Entrepreneur Camp scholarships. E-campers from across the state gathered at the Texas 4-H Center where they launched an e-commerce website and toured several businesses.

4-H after-school teen teachers were integral to the success of the program. Six teen teachers contributed approximately 570 hours to YEP. They did more than teach lessons—they served as positive role models for younger participants while gaining valuable leadership and life experiences. 4-H teen teachers also established the VIP 4-H entrepreneurship club at an after-school program site.

Washington CYFAR Cultivating Community Strengths Together Project

Spokane County Slavic Gardening Project
Tatyana Bistrevsky, Community Project Director

The Washington State University Spokane County Extension's Cultivating Community Strengths Together (CCST) Project, funded by CYFAR, uses community gardening as a conduit for communication and inclusion. Since 1989, about 28,000 Russian-speaking people have immigrated from the former Soviet republics to the Spokane area. Many are elderly. While their children now have jobs, these seniors often don't have much in common with their now very American grandchildren.

Realizing that these seniors were isolated not only by their English language skills, but also by social barriers and a lack of transport and social programs, Tatyana Bistrevsky, WSU Extension program assistant, and colleagues at WSU Spokane County Extension developed a pilot community gardening project as a bridge between elderly Slavic



Nevada

Bootstraps crew chainsaw maintenance training, summer/fall 2007.

New Hampshire

Seacoast Techno-Team youth paint remote control cars before heading to the RC Maximus raceway, a business volunteering its expertise and resources.





Mississippi

Pictured is a G.A.P. member participating in the Health Rocks! Pin The Disease on The Body activity.

Nebraska

Using "Lego" Mindstorms Robotics Kits, students assemble and program robotic cars in the after-school program.



immigrants, Slavic youth, and the larger community. Ten youth took two plots. "It was their first experience with gardening," Bistrevsky said. Response from the seniors was even more enthusiastic, with about 100 taking the remaining 53 plots. "They brought lots of experience," Bistrevsky said. Through the process, Bistrevsky could see a change in attitude from the seniors. Not only did they enjoy the gardening, but they also began to enjoy being with the youth, even competing to water the plots for the youth when they had to be away during final exams.

By August, all of the gardeners were interacting regularly, and the larger community was becoming aware of the project as it grew. Curious families from the nearby soccer fields stopped by to find out more. The first-ever Slavic Harvest Festival in September was a big success, with about 200 people attending, hearing traditional music, and enjoying traditional food. Free health screenings were offered, including diabetes and cholesterol checks. Bistrevsky has received funding from the Community Health Education Foundation of Seattle, Washington, to continue with "Gardening to Health," a nutritional education program for gardeners and others. There will be classes in Russian twice per year for people who want to improve their health through better eating, especially with their garden produce.

National 4-H Headquarters Programs of Distinction

Programs of Distinction is a peer-reviewed process designed to recognize outstanding Extension youth development programs and to provide opportunities for scholarship for Extension educators and specialists. Program manuscripts are accepted on a continual basis and are reviewed independently by three trained peer reviewers.

Eight CYFAR-funded programs have received this distinction: 4-H Afterschool Adventure of New Jersey; 4-H LIFE-Living Interactive Family Education Program, Missouri; 4-H Mentoring: Youth and Families with Promise, Utah; 4-H Tech Wizards, Oregon; Cyber Town at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Maryland; Family Camp: Strengthening At-Risk Families Through Adventure-Based Initiatives, New Jersey; Project SOAR: 4-H Mentoring Program, Arizona; and Seeds to Success Youth Farmstand Project of New Jersey. 4-H LIFE and Seeds to Success were featured in a 2007 CSREES Partners Video magazine, "Our Children," which can be seen at: www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/partners/partners_18.html.

Several of the programs have also won 4-H Families Count: Family Strengthening Awards from National 4-H Council. Cyber Town at the Woodrow Wilson Center is a 2007 4-H Families Count award winner. With funding support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, five \$15,000 awards are given each year. For more information, please visit www.fourhcouncil.edu/4HFamiliesProgram.aspx.

This national program is managed by Dr. Suzanne Le Menestrel, National Program Leader, Youth Development Research, and Maria Arnold, Program Specialist, National 4-H Headquarters.



New Hampshire

Seacoast Youth Leadership Project youth visited a cornfield maze as part of their leadership program.

New Jersey

Youth learn about food and nutrition using a hands-on game.





New York

CITY teen leaders from Cornell Cooperative Extension Broome County complete the “Construction Academy 2007” and donate three sheds they built to needy local agencies.

North Dakota

Home on the Range youth learn about making paper.



Technical Assistance to CYFAR Programs

CYFERnet—Technology

Project Director: Trudy Dunham
University of Minnesota

Collaborating Universities:

- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- University of Missouri
- University of Nebraska
- New Mexico State University
- North Carolina State University

This year, the CYFERnet technology team continued to deliver the message that technology is useful and fun for youth, families, program leaders, and evaluators. The team encouraged the use of technology through face-to-face demonstrations and expanded website content and interactivity.

CYFAR 2007 Conference participants had a chance to try out Wii, dance pads, EyeToy, and online multi-player games in the educational gaming arcade. The team also provided training in Web 2.0 technologies that can enhance collaboration and professional development, such as mobile Internet devices; collaborative tools; digital video and photography; and computer gaming.

The CYFERnet website expanded its content in 2007. In addition to hosting the CYFAR Conference website, a repository of the conference proceedings, CYFERnet.org now offers monthly articles on successful local and state programs and new research, highlighting ideas and information for improving CYFAR programs. Mission

of the Month provides original lesson plans and activities that incorporate the use of technology in one or more of the National 4-H Mission Mandates. Technology Trends highlights relevant uses of new technologies for all CYFAR groups. Monthly research articles continue the Extension mission of transferring Land Grant University knowledge to a broader audience.

The technology team also hosted seven live online trainings, created wiki (collaboration) and Joomla (website building) infrastructures to support CYFAR site development of program websites and virtual teams. The “back office” of CYFAR online was also improved, with updated connectivity specifications for CYFAR sites.

Website users responded positively to the enhancements—usage was up to 14,000 unique visitors per month, for a total of 1.46 million visits. The content database was searched nearly 9 million times during the year.

The technology team worked with eXtension to support development of the Teen Second Life property as an area for education and interaction for teens, participated in the national 4-H GIS-GPS Leadership Team, and in the eXtension Community of Practice “SET for Life” to develop online resources for youth.

CYFERnet—Evaluation

Project Director: Donna Peterson
University of Arizona

Collaborating University: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

The CYFERnet Evaluation Team worked with the Sustainable Community Project (SCP) Task Force to develop a national SCP Evaluation Plan. Following a



South Dakota

South Dakota 4-H after-school youth learn to read nutrition fact labels and think about what they are drinking.

Texas

Interacting hands-on learning. Youth explore entrepreneurship in a computer lab in Round Rock, Texas.





Ohio

Youth build a fort as part of nature play and healthy lifestyles initiatives at Adventure Central in Dayton, Ohio.

Oregon

Making a house blessing and learning fiber art traditions from the Purepecha Indians of Mexico.



review of logic models and evaluation plans, the team clustered SCPs based on commonalities and developed a performance monitoring framework to guide program evaluations and to make it possible to gather common data in the future.

In a study of 14 states that had completed five years of CYFAR New Communities Project funding, the CYFERnet Evaluation Team found that almost all CYFAR-funded programs continue one and two years after CSREES funding has expired. Only one of the 14 states did not sustain its efforts. The majority of active projects maintained or expanded their programs; more than two-thirds completely sustained and meet the needs of at-risk children, youth, or families. Findings revealed a strong ongoing commitment of Extension to serving at-risk youth and families beyond CYFAR funding. This commitment is supported by provision of resources to support, conduct, and direct these programs as well as integration of the majority of these programs within the Extension system and within the community. Ten of 13 projects reported that a 4-H club is part of their program. Extension provides leadership to five projects, shares leadership with collaborators for three projects, serves in an advisory/resource role to four projects, and has no present involvement in only one project. In addition, Extension is committed to serving at-risk audiences—working on these projects is a part of ongoing work plans, and serving at-risk audiences is an expectation of the organization.

CYFERnet Program

Project Directors: Janet Kurzynske, Wendy Stivers
University of Kentucky

Collaborating Universities:

- Iowa State University
- University of Idaho
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Cornell University
- North Carolina State University
- University of Minnesota
- University of Arizona

From January to September 2007, there were 822,710 hits to the website and 100,398 different users on CYFERnet. The most heavily searched content areas were child care, health, parent/family, and youth resources. Editorial boards solicited, reviewed, and posted 856 new resources from land-grant universities and 729 were accepted and posted to CYFERnet—an 85% acceptance rate. There are currently 7,905 resources in the database.

The Early Childhood editorial board focused on increasing resources and training opportunities in infant and toddler care and emergency preparedness for child care centers. They also worked on the eXtension “Child Care Advisor” and “Just in Time Parenting” advisory teams. The School Age editorial board facilitated the CYFAR 2007 Preconference on school violence and gathered Extension resources on school violence and prevention for posting on CYFERnet immediately after the VA Tech shootings. The Teen editorial board identified, reviewed, and modified new resources for the “Teens R It” website. The Teen editor participated in the National Youth Database Project, chaired by America’s Promise, to create a national database of youth resources. The Parent/Family editorial



Texas

El Paso youths/adults at 2007 E-Tour/Camp working together to accomplish great things!

Virgin Islands

Group participating in the Carnival Parade in St. Thomas.





Washington

Parents and their children participate in a teamwork activity in the Strengthening Families Program offered by CCST staff in Mason County, Washington.

board identified professional development and training needs of parent/family Extension educators and used CYFERnet to provide electronic trainings and web-based programming tools. The Community editorial board supported community building as a focus at the CYFAR 2007 conference through speaker recommendations and by facilitating a preconference on community building approaches. 2007 web-based trainings by CYFERnet Editorial Boards included:

- Parent Involvement in Schools
- Every Child, Every Promise: Turning Failure into Action
- My Pyramid for Kids 101
- Child Trends: Data Collection and Measurement
- Building Strong Marriages
- Systems Change
- Positive Behavior Support
- Infant and Toddler Care
- Participatory Evaluation with Young People
- Balancing Work and Family.



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AT RISK CONFERENCE 2007

HYATT REGENCY
McCORMICK PLACE

On May 2, Cathann Kress, Director, Youth Development, National 4-H Headquarters, USDA, welcomed 950 Land Grant University and county extension faculty, CYFAR community program staff, and other youth and family organization partners to CYFAR 2007 in Chicago. The conference committee was lead by conference chairs Gerri Peeples, Al Zwillling, and Aaron Ebata, University of Illinois, and Willene Buffett, Cook County Extension Director.

Cynthia Duncan, from the University of New Hampshire, presented the second annual 4-H Family Strengthening Distinguished Lecture, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Donald Floyd, President and CEO, National 4-H Council, presented the 2006 4-H Family Strengthening Award winners. Marc Prensky, author of *Don't Bother Me Mom—I'm Learning*, spoke about the “digital native” generation, who use computers and video games to prepare for life in the 21st century. Lateefah Simon, Director of Re-entry Services in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, inspired listeners with her message of transformation for troubled youth.

Research by Linda Burton, of Duke University; Reed Larson, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Wendy Williams of Cornell University included topics of high interest to CYFAR programmers. CYFAR 2007 also offered 135 peer-reviewed workshops, computer labs, and poster sessions on children, youth, and family issues. The Program Showcase displayed 75 different CYFAR programs and provided opportunities to share great programs. Adults explored educational gaming and interactive technologies and tried Dance Dance Revolution, Nintendo Wii, and Second Life to experience how young people learn.

In a high-energy, one-day building blitz, 250 volunteers from the CYFAR Conference, Illinois Extension, Cook County 4-H, and the community transformed an empty lot into a safe and healthy playground on the grounds of Posen-Robins School District 143 ½, a historically rich but economically depressed area just outside of Chicago.

Project directors in Arkansas, Arizona, Delaware, Minnesota, Montana, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin were recognized by Sharon Wright and Janice Clark of National 4-H Headquarters with CSREES certificates of appreciation for successfully completing five-year CYFAR New Communities Projects.

Alabama

“Beginning Education Early and Healthy: Strengthening Rural Alabama Families”

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Alaska

“Community Collaborations for Children, Youth, and Families of Alaska’s Military Services”

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Arkansas

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“Project PITCH—Partners Investing in Teens’ and Children’s Health”

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Carole MacNeil

Colorado

“Colorado Organizing for Children, Youth, and Families at Risk”

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Connecticut

“Connecticut Sustainable Community Project”

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Guam

“Pacific Island Communities Building (STEPS) Sustainable Teen Entrepreneur Programs”

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Hawaii

“NCP—Networking, Collaborating, and Partnering for Effective Family and Community Programs”

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Illinois

“Partners in Parenting: Couples, Communities, and University”

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Iowa

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“New Communities Project—Kansas Teen Leadership for Physically Active Lifestyles”

Elaine Johannes

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Carol Fink

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Back cover photos: left to right; top to bottom

Idaho—Children in a relay race at the Lights On After-School celebration (Coeur d'Alene reservation site).

Maryland—The Sagner PAL Center 4-H Technology Club provides informal instruction to youth on software applications, educational computer games, and activities outside of the lab, such as gardening, cooking, sewing, and reading.

North Dakota—Paper teepees.

Virgin Islands—Young woman participating in the Carnival Parade in St. Thomas.

Oregon—Summer Latino Day Camp: Exploring traditional crafts.

Texas—Conroe Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) members go into the salsa business with 4-H After-School Teen Teachers standing ready to help.

Nebraska—Using "Eco-Wonders" 4-H curriculum, students measure and weigh earthworms in the after-school program.

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