To Our Valued Members,

Since our last newsletter, we have been busy preparing for our fundraising dinner and auction to be held on February 29, 2020. Save the date! Newsletters are our way of keeping you informed of our activities and to thank you for supporting the Education Foundation.

-Larry Justice

Membership Drive Kick-off

The Education Foundation’s 2020 membership drive is now underway.

We have already met with the Advisory Board for the Extension Master Gardeners, made a presentation to EMGs at the September “Advanced Training” session and have gone to several of the EMG demonstration gardens.

We have plans to meet with the Extension Master Food Volunteers, the Extension Master Naturalists, the Family and Consumer Education group and the 4-H shooting sports volunteers in the near future.

We had an information table at the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival on October 12 and 13.

A letter was sent to existing members in October asking them to please renew their memberships. We are preparing ways to be visible to the Johnson County community, both individuals and businesses, with hopes of obtaining additional members. One of the benefits of membership is a ticket to our very popular February Dinner and Auction.

Renew online by visiting: www.johnson.k-state.edu
Click on Education Foundation
See “Pay online”

We appreciate your continued support!

JCEEF helps 4-H Project Auction

For the first time the Foundation in partnership with the Johnson County Fair Board Association helped facilitate the 4-H project (non-livestock) auction at the 2019 Johnson County Fair. Members of the Foundation Board were on hand to receive applications from the 4-H members' entries into the auction on Wednesday and Thursday at the fair. The projects included items such as baked goods, art work, photography and woodworking. At the event on Friday night, 72 projects were auctioned. The winning bidders made payment to the Foundation for the project and the Foundation processed the payments by issuing checks to the 4-H participants by Tuesday of the following week.
The JCEF’s mission is to create awareness and provide financial support for Johnson County K-State Research and Extension programs to improve the lives of Johnson County residents. One of the ways this was accomplished in 2019 was to be the main sponsor of a community survey. For the first time in Extensions 102 years of providing services in Johnson County, we embarked in a community wide survey to find a baseline around awareness and usage of Extension programs and services. JCEF provided the majority of funding to support a survey which was implemented by ETC Institute during May and June 2019. The survey was administered by mail and online to a random sample of 502 residents in the county. All six Board of County Commissioner Districts were represented. The results for the random sample of 502 respondents have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 4.4%.

- 47% of respondents state they were “very familiar” or “somewhat familiar” with Extension.
- 40% of respondents stated they were “very aware” or “somewhat aware” of Extension’s Low to No Cost Classes.
- 24% of respondents surveyed have used Extension services or classes.

The information and conclusions from the survey will better equip the Extension Office to determine the future course of action to better serve the community.

The 4-H Comet Club received a grant for $1500 for the purchase of computers & robotic kits.

The Garden Gallery: A teaching garden adjacent to the Extension Office is an Extension Master Gardeners’ demonstration garden. The Garden Gallery received a $1950 grant for two obelisks.

The Extension Master Gardeners demonstration garden received a grant for the purchase of two benches.

The Garden Gallery: A teaching garden adjacent to the Extension Office is an Extension Master Gardeners’ demonstration garden. The Garden Gallery received a $1950 grant for two obelisks.
Steph Metcalf, EMFV, tells us about the Extension Master Food Volunteers:

“It was an exciting 2019 for the volunteers of the Extension Master Food Volunteer program. We donated 8,832 hours (a new record) in 2019 that equaled 4.5 full time employees. This year’s celebration of our achievements was held at KC Wine Company in Olathe. The program currently has 9 new members going through 40 hours of training at the K-State Olathe Campus. These new members will gain insight to food safety, knife skills, cooking methods and the ability to move into several volunteer opportunities throughout the Johnson County area.

Some of the programs include Kids in the Kitchen (once a month), Book and Bites (our Preschool age program) as well as several Adult classes held each month.

The EMFVs recently started helping with the Jo Co E.A.T.S. project. This is geared toward testing easy, healthy, budget friendly recipes. The recipes tested will be used for demos at local food pantries. All test tastings are open to the public and take place at the Jo Co Extension Office each month.

Recent adult classes have included, The Dash Diet, Freezer & Meal Planning, Vegan and Vegetarian, Summer Pies and we even tackled the ever so popular Electric Pressure Cooker. Our kids have made Tacos, Lunch Box Cuisine and Pasta dishes. Some of our upcoming classes for kids will include Gingerbread and Holiday cookie decorating, Adult classes for Cast Iron and Soups and Stews (Kick the Can!).

JCEEF GRANTS to EMFV’S

The JCEEF granted the EMFV program $850 to purchase a 3 tier cart for moving items from vehicles to our kitchen, the replacement of 4 Immersion Blenders and table setting decorations for our Adult Class presentations. These items were used to improve the quality and ease of our demonstrations and to give a uniform and professional appearance to the room when guests arrive.

In 2019, the Foundation granted us $2700 which was used to purchase a new camera and big screen TV to be used in room 1060. Our video quality was always something the public critiqued us on during Adult Class evaluations. The camera and TV allow demonstrations to be seen clearly by all and look professional. Since the replacement we have had nothing but positive comments on the improvement! This has increased quality for anyone who uses the room for programs. Our sincere thanks to JCEEF for your support through the grant program.

Visit our website for dates and more about our classes and programs! We look forward to serving you!

JCEEF at the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival

The Foundation Board members acquainted fair-goers about the important mission of the Foundation and how it supports Johnson County Extension programs.

Calling All Members

Save the Date: February 29, 2020.

We have lots in store for you at our annual evening fundraising gala. Beth Graham & Barbara Willson have been busy securing items for the live and silent auctions and the balloon pop (a favorite). If you would like to donate an item, contact the Extension Office. The table centerpiece design contest is a go, also. So, be thinking about your entry!

Calling All Members

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I have been involved with Johnson County Extension office since I joined 4-H as a child. The County Fair was always my favorite week of summer.

When I went to work as the District Manager of Johnson County Conservation District that bond was renewed as I worked on several projects with Extension as a partner. Some of those were the Key Banker Award which recognizes Farms with Conservation Plans that have been implemented and followed. We also worked on the creation of a wetland near Gardner to help clean water draining into Hillsdale Lake.

My favorite project that I work closely with each year is the Slice of Agriculture which is a two day education for 4th grade students about where the ingredients for their pizza comes from. These projects and many more work with people of all ages and walks of life, which certainly enriches my life as well.

Eventually with the closing of the office supporting local farming in Johnson County, I moved into the Extension office and have enjoyed a close working relationship with bright and innovative people. I was asked to serve on the Johnson County Extension Education Foundation board. I have been fortunate to serve on the JCEEF for eight years. It is always enlightening to review the Grant applications and see all of the new needs and ideas.