



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FOND DU LAC COUNTY

Positive Youth Development Fond du Lac County: October



Extension Positive Youth Development Educator Kelly Dione works to design, deliver, and evaluate research-based educational programming and services aligned with the focus of Post Secondary Pathways.

Needs Assessment

Conducted during 2023, a needs assessment of local nonprofits and community leaders identified two areas of need that extension is positioned to lead on: Life skills (financial, interviewing, resume building) for youth aging out of the foster care system and entrepreneurial skills through Lemonade Day.

Meetings with local stakeholders includes:

- Fond du Lac HHS
- United Way of Fond du Lac County
- Fond du Lac School District
- Sophia Partners
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boys and Girls Club
- Ebony Vision

Current Projects

Lemonade Day

Lemonade Day is a fun, experiential program that teaches youth how to start, own and operate their own business—a lemonade stand. Lemonade Day planning begins October 2024 until May 2025. Extension responsibilities include:

- Collaborate with event donors including Society Insurance and Blue Door Coffee
- Schedule and facilitate monthly Lemonade Day Steering Committee meetings with community partners including Horicon Bank, National Exchange Bank, Boys and Girls Club, United Way, and Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Create marketing materials and outreach strategies to county schools, youth organizations, and businesses
- Set dates for all Lemonade Day activities, reserve rooms for events, and order materials

KEYS (Keys to Elevate Your Stability) pilot program

The KEYS program is an in-person independent living course for young people ages 15-26 who are currently living or have lived under the foster care system, with essential financial knowledge and skill-building opportunities.

- A workgroup has been created since their graduation to collaborate with other educators in different counties to build on the curriculum, discuss relevant field trips, and strategize on how to foster youth engagement.
- Next cohort to begin February 2025

Completed Projects

Lemonade Day 2024

- Coordinated and facilitated all Lemonade Day activities: Fun Financial Night, Lemon Loans at two local bank, Lemonade day judges, Awards and Celebration night
- 116 youth in 4th-6th grade participated in this Fond du Lac County community event.

KEYS Pilot Program 2024

- Developed and facilitated 6 in-person classes in collaboration with the Human Development and Relationship Educator and Fond du Lac County Department of Human Services Independent Living Coordinator on the following topics: Goals, Wellness, Employment, Housing, Money, Credit.
- Coordinated a field trip to Moraine Park Technical College
- Graduating KEYS participants were taken to local bank to open a checking account.

"All the students had so much fun and worked so hard! Very proud of their efforts and how much they learned! Thanks for running the program this year- lots of kids were really thrilled they could participate!"