

COLLABORATING & CONNECTING

THROUGHOUT JOHNSON COUNTY

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension  
Johnson County

**JOHNSON**  
**COUNTY**  
KANSAS

In partnership together



# Five Grand Challenges for Kansas, Localized for Johnson County

Working with stakeholders from across the state, Kansas State University's Research and Extension identified **Five Grand Challenges** facing every Kansan. Our services focus on addressing these five challenges:

- **Global Food Systems**
- **Health**
- **Developing Tomorrow's Leaders**
- **Community Vitality**
- **Water and Natural Resources**

Johnson County Research and Extension faculty (called "agents") balance these Grand Challenges with Johnson County Government's Guiding Principles, providing educational outreach for the county, municipalities, businesses and citizens.

**Our agents take complex, research-based information from universities across the country and government at all levels and localize it.** Agents deliver this information without bias; their mission is to provide the most accurate, science-based research, not to sell products.

Agents help citizens understand and apply this information so that it addresses their individualized needs. Once presented with the facts, it is left to the resident to ultimately determine the best solution.

Our agents work closely with faculty in Manhattan so that university researchers and specialists are aware of local issues. Agents also work closely with stakeholders in the county to make sure the university continues to develop programming that benefits the citizens of Johnson County.



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**Johnson County  
K-State Research and Extension**

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# Collaborating and Connecting

Dear Friends,

2023 proved to be another strong year for us to collaborate and connect with multiple stakeholders and community members. We worked to create a local office mission statement which highlighted the specific work we do in trying to meet the demands of a growing and dynamic Johnson County community:

**K-State Extension, Johnson County is an organization of dedicated, passionate, hardworking staff who collaborate and connect people with university supported education, resources, and services – through volunteers, community, and partner organizations.**

Our highlights in the next few pages will show you the dedication and passion of not only the office staff but the strong volunteer cadre we have the privilege of engaging with daily. Educational connections are what we do best in our everyday operations. From university resources to how to prepare for retirement—the opportunities abound with how we work to engage and connect the community to find the answers they seek.

The multiple contexts our office navigates to provide these services for an urban, suburban, and rural county which sits on a state line and is part of a metropolitan area is a daily challenge. We fully accept the challenge and bring our strengths of flexibility and adaptability to the forefront through these educational endeavors. This annual report highlights these innovations and celebrates a few of our programmatic successes in 2023.

The work we do can only be done through strong partnerships and effective collaborations. How we facilitate impact in the com-

munity is displayed in the pages which follow. In addition, watch our video collection accessible by the QR code below, which spotlights even more amazing collaborations provided to our community.

A major factor to our success and capacity to provide quality educational experiences and information is through our vast volunteer network. The volunteers are the backbone of our office and help from completing tax forms to providing leadership for youth development programs. In 2023, the dollar value of our volunteers' time was **\$3,127,390.50**. When we discuss impact, this equates to over **52 full time staff members**. The value of Extension volunteer engagement is unparalleled, and we are truly thankful for their passion and dedication to the K-State Research and Extension family.

Addressing Grand Challenges impacting our community and working to address them is at the heart of the work we do and have been doing for the last 106 years. Please enjoy our efforts in helping to maintain and support a strong and vibrant Johnson County.



Tara Markley  
Director, Johnson County K-State Research and Extension  
Community Vitality Extension Agent

## Extension in action!

Watch the 2023 Extension Council Annual Meeting Video Collection.

> [tinyurl.com/JoCoExt23](https://tinyurl.com/JoCoExt23)



## Family and Community Wellness

# Achieving Financial Wellbeing



By Joy Miller  
Family and Community Wellness Agent

The process of filing a tax return can require financial literacy and knowledge of tax law that are lacking for many people. It can also be quite expensive. A tax return is estimated to cost \$225, but the value goes up as more forms are filled out. Costs can be a barrier for taxpayers. Without filing, they may not be able to claim certain tax credits and deductions.

The VITA program is available to low- to moderate-income taxpayers (for the 2023 season, that meant a gross income of less than \$60,000). The program reaches a diverse group of taxpayers, including seniors, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities.

The Olathe Sunset Drive VITA site filed 1,375 federal returns, and a similar number of state returns, during the 2023 filing season. About \$263,000 in tax preparation fees were saved by Johnson County taxpayers due to free tax assistance. In addition, taxpayers received \$1,452,165 in refunds.



*VITA Tax Reviewer  
Judy Sharp assists a  
client who has used  
VITA services for many  
years and her son,  
filing taxes as an adult  
for the first time.*

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El Centro,  
Inc.

Kansas City  
Metropolitan  
Tax Coalition

2023 Tax Season:

**1,375**

federal returns filed

**\$263,000**

savings in tax preparation fees

**\$1.4 million**

total tax refunds received

# Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansans (SHICK)

**M**edicare provides health and financial security through the coverage of many basic health services, such as hospital stays, physician services, and prescription drugs. Often, Medicare is viewed as a single word or program, but it is neither free nor simple to understand.

Individuals aging into or already enrolled in the Medicare system can receive unbiased, individual counseling or group education from certified SHICK counselors to help them better understand health insurance and costs. SHICK aims to educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries to make informed healthcare decisions.

SHICK counseling services were provided at two locations, Sunset Drive Office Building in Olathe and Johnson County Northeast Office in Mission, serving 374 citizens with Medicare education and prescription plan comparisons. Medicare beneficiaries saved \$228,150 in prescription plan premiums and out-of-pocket costs during the annual open enrollment period (October 15 to December 7). A total of eight educational programs were held, with 108 participants.



*Medicare Beneficiaries talk with SHICK Counselor Joy Miller reviewing Medicare Part D plan options for 2024.*

“My cost this past year prevented me from being able to pay and take all the medication I needed. **This session helped me to understand** how to find the detailed explanation. This will help with planning for the next year in advance of cost.”

**- SHICK participant**

## Medicare Efforts:

**8** educational programs held

**108** program participants

**374** one-on-one consultations

**\$228,150** total savings for Johnson County citizens



## 4-H Youth Development

# Connecting Youth Throughout Johnson County



By Lexi Ray  
4-H Youth Development Agent

Johnson County 4-H Youth Development serves to connect youth within Johnson County, Kansas with relevant knowledge, useful resources, and exciting experiences that ultimately lead to positive growth. Through the wider Kansas State University Research and Extension network, youth are able to have experiences that connect them to other 4-H'ers, further their educational and personal interests, develop leadership skills, and receive instruction from caring and knowledgeable adults around the state and around the world.

Discovery Days connects youth on a state-wide level, exposing them to new ideas, techniques, and skills they can use personally and in their 4-H clubs and communities. This experience takes place on the Manhattan Campus of Kansas State University and youth have the opportunity to stay in the dorms as well.

Ellie B., of the Oxford Hustlers 4-H Club, described it best: "Have you ever been to a place where you are you, you can be yourself and enjoy the people around you? Well, that is what I felt while at Discovery days this year! From the dorms to late night pizza, from new and current friendships growing, I had an amazing time at Discovery Days this year."



4-H'ers attend Discovery Days in Manhattan.



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Johnson County



4-H'ers look at projects during the Johnson County Fair.

Johnson County 4-H has **16 clubs**, serving **478 youth members** with the help of more than **288 adult volunteers** in 2023.

Through the Kansas State 4-H International Exchange Program, 4-H'ers have the opportunity to travel abroad to experience another culture.

"My States' 4-H exchange trip to Japan last summer meant many things to me," said Rebecca E., of the Great Plains 4-H Club. Primarily, it was an invaluable opportunity to go out of my comfort zones, to throw myself into something entirely new, and to adapt to have the best experience possible. I learned so much about my host family and their culture, I was acquainted with people from all over the world, and I learned more about myself as well. All of these experiences allow for me to feel globally connected in a way that could not have been possible if not for this opportunity."



*School Enrichment Coordinator Nancy Carr provides programming to local schools on topics like chickens and butterflies.*

While the opportunities to explore our state, our country, and our world are valuable, it is also integral that we celebrate those that collaborate with us every day, right here in our community.

Thirty-four years ago, Nancy Carr and the 4-H Extension Agent at the time started Johnson County K-State Research and Extension's school enrichment program. This program allows teachers in Johnson County to check out kits to use with their students; the two most popular are Chicken Embryology and Butterfly Garden.

"The excitement with the baby chicks is contagious for the whole school," says Laura Ostertag, who teaches third grade at Havencroft Elementary School. "My students always include hatching chicks as a highlight in their end of year stories." Nancy's decades-long partnerships with Johnson County educators has made meaningful and memorable impacts on students' learning, that only further the impact of the 4-H program.

4-H Youth Development takes a variety of forms throughout Johnson County K-State Research and Extension. In addition to our 4-H Clubs, all agents in our unit utilize their strengths, skill sets, and resources to deliver programming that positively impacts youth in our urban and suburban settings. Meeting those we serve where they are is essential, whether that be in the classroom, kitchen or in our local parks. We collaborate as a team and with community partners to reach youth in new and exciting ways, always looking for opportunities to provide knowledge for life.





## Natural Resources

# Making a Difference in Johnson County's Natural Resource Management



By Amy Keigher  
Natural Resources Agent, Extension Master Naturalists

In 2023, the Natural Resources program area at K-State Research and Extension continued its steady, upward path in overall impact.

The Extension Master Naturalist Class of 2023 added 30 passionate volunteers to the fastest growing volunteer group across the KSRE organization, now with 186 active members. In 2023, EMNs volunteered over 8,735 hours of their time toward land stewardship, citizen science, and public education projects on Johnson County's natural resources. This work equates to nearly \$248,900 donated to different partners across the county, the largest recipient being Johnson County Parks and Recreation District (\$66,663).

Overall, the program has seen an 87% increase in volunteered hours since 2018, which had a total of 4,680 hours logged. This number is expected to continue its steep growth, as interest in the program continues to increase.

Much of our work could not be accomplished without the support of partner organizations. This year, with the help of partner groups such as Kansas City WildLands, Burroughs Audubon Society, Friends of the Kaw, and many city governments of Johnson County, EMN volunteers reached 11,840 people through educational efforts focused on water conservation and quality, native plant species propagation, wildlife habitat improvement, and invasive species control. Through our work with other organizations, the Natural Resources program is not only supporting land and water conservation efforts throughout the county, but also educating and engaging Johnson County residents to take part in making the county more resilient to change. Events like Wonders of Discovery



*Attendees get up close and personal with insects at Hasta Luego Monarchs.*

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Research and Extension

Master Naturalist  
Johnson County

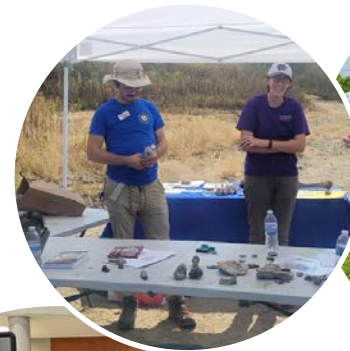




and Hasta Luego Monarchs at Pollinator Prairie introduce members of the public to issues the county, state, and country are facing, such as habitat loss and pollinator decline, and what they can do to make a difference.

One strategy we employed this year was to develop introductory classes intended to get people outdoors. These classes were designed to be fun outings into wild environments where participants could develop a connection with Johnson County's natural resources. Our hope was that through this connection, participants would be more likely to become active in managing the environmental issues facing Johnson County. A total of 64 participants took part in three fossil programs held at the City of Shawnee's Riverfront Park. Common feedback we received from people participating in these programs was, "I've never even heard of this park, but I'll definitely be back!" and, "I'm definitely bringing my family back out here to look for fossils! This was awesome!"

Intro to Birding was another popular class that introduced 54 participants to the world of birding. Classes were held at multiple locations across the county, including the Shawnee Civic Centre, Indian Creek Library in Olathe, and Lake Lenexa.



Extension Master Naturalists volunteered **8,735 hours** of time toward **land stewardship, citizen science, and public education** projects in Johnson County in 2023.

## Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health

# Healthier Because We Live Here: Connecting and Collaborating in Shawnee



By Chelsea Reinberg  
Nutrition, Food Safety, and Health Agent; Extension Master Food Volunteers

**A**ddressing public health issues and improving the lives of community members requires a team-based approach with multiple partners working together to expand resources and reach. However, coordinating this collaboration can sometimes be challenging, especially in a community as large as Johnson County.

The City of Shawnee Parks and Recreation Department set out to be the connecting force in their community to advance health equity, improve health outcomes and enhance quality of life, so that everyone can say they are Healthier Because We Live Here in Shawnee and Johnson County, Kansas.

The Healthier Because We Live Here Community Wellness Hub was established through a grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association. Its purpose is to be a trusted gathering place that connects every member of the community to essential programs, services, and to each other.

Throughout 2023, the Johnson County Extension office participated in the many opportunities for connection and collaboration in Shawnee provided through the Wellness Hub. These activities ranged from educational classes, to community events, and food distributions.

### **Nutrition Support for Elementary School Students**

One of the food distributions served more than 360 students at Shawanoe Elementary. Through the Wellness Hub, students received a meal kit for a recipe developed by Extension and snacks to ensure good nutrition during the winter break.



*An Extension Master Food Volunteer demonstrates a healthy recipe for Dining with Diabetes.*

*Extension Master Food Volunteers help pack meal kits for Shawanoe Elementary students.*







### Dining with Diabetes

One program that was very successful and popular was the Dining with Diabetes program which had two different sessions offered. This four-week program teaches adults with type 2 diabetes, prediabetes, or caregivers of those with these conditions how to make simple and lasting changes around nutrition and physical activity to live healthier lifestyles. Participants enjoyed the program and learned a lot.

“Overall, it is so helpful to bring all this [diabetes] information to the fore. It increases awareness and acts as a really great reminder,” said one participant.

### Food, Fitness, and Fun Summer Camp

Our Food, Fitness, and Fun Summer Camp was another popular program supported by the Shawnee Wellness Hub that connected Extension and the community. Over the course of four half-days, youth learned how to prepare meals to fuel their bodies and brains, engaged in fun activities to move their bodies, and learned ways to maintain good health throughout life like limiting intake of foods and beverages with added sugar.

### Community Mobile Wellness Fairs

Lastly, one of the featured programs of the Shawnee Wellness Hub that brought multiple partners and community members together was the Community Mobile Wellness Fairs. One Saturday a month, from June until October, on average about 130 community members would gather at Shawanoe Elementary to receive food from a mobile food pantry, speak with a health care provider, connect with community resources to receive information and services, and have fun with games and other activities provided through the Wellness Hub.

During these events, the Extension Master Food Volunteers gave out samples of nutritious and tasty recipes, shared information about Extension, and provided other educational material.

*Left: An Extension Master Food Volunteer distributes samples of nutritious recipes and other educational resources at the Community Mobile Wellness Fair. Above right: An Extension Master Food Volunteer teaches students at the Food, Fitness, and Fun Summer Camp.*



# Learning with a Cause: Education in the Community Garden



By Anthony Reardon  
Small Farms Horticulture Agent



**4,020** pounds of produce generated  
**1,500** hands-on volunteer hours  
**150** participants in pop-up farmers markets

**T**he Sunset Community Garden had an extremely productive 2023 growing season, with more than 4,020 pounds of produce generated, two successful pop-up farmers markets held, and over 1,500 volunteer hours donated during the effort.

The 'collaboration' doesn't stop there, however. A handful of various programming efforts across Extension disciplines were worked into the learning opportunities provided by the garden. This included tours and classes for Extension Master Gardeners, local youth and school groups, community college students, and various local foods entities. Through our pop-up markets, Extension Master Food Volunteers, Extension Master Naturalists, 4-H, and the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment were also able to partner with us, bringing a wealth of knowledge and resources to the more than 150 event participants.

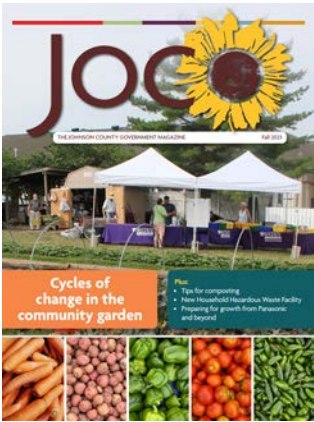




The garden even got some \*extra\* attention in 2023, with a front page feature article in JoCo Magazine helping us drum up volunteer attendance. 2024 looks to be just as promising, as plans to expand the impact of the garden even further can begin to be implemented.

The Sunset Community Garden is a quarter-acre fruit and vegetable farm space located next to the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment in Olathe at 11875 S. Sunset Drive. Workdays are on Tuesday based on the time of year and weather patterns.

**TUESDAY WORKDAYS:** *Mid-March through Memorial Day:* Start at 8 am  
*Memorial Day through Labor Day:* Start at 7:30 am  
*Labor Day through end of season:* Start at 8 am



Read our cover feature in the Fall 2023 issue of JoCo Magazine:  
[jocogov.org/joco-magazine](http://jocogov.org/joco-magazine)



“It has been great seeing the **smiles on clients’ faces when they visit the ‘Nutrition Nook’** and get to pick that perfect tomato or fresh bunch of kale. Our nurses and case managers can also bring a fresh bag of produce to their client home visits thanks to the hard work of K-State Research and Extension and the volunteers.”

- Renee Bryant, Food Policy and Advocacy Coordinator,  
 Johnson County Department of Health and Environment



## Community Vitality

# Engaging Our Communities



By Tara Markley  
Johnson County Extension Director, Community Vitality Agent

Community vitality is at the heart of Johnson County Extension Community Development programs. And while that engagement takes on several different forms and involves many partners, the goal is always the same: help people and communities be more successful. The role of facilitation plays a key role in virtual, face to face, and even hybrid settings.

### Facilitation Initiative

Facilitation is a core skill for extension professionals, community leaders, and volunteers. Facilitation is especially appropriate for engaging communities in dialogue to reach goals, especially where there are divergent points of view, conflicting interests, absence of alternatives to mitigate a problem, and uncertainties regarding alternatives. Through facilitated dialogues and meetings, we believe that conversation is key to building vital communities.

In 2023, we participated in statewide Water and Local Foods facilitation initiatives and five Johnson County facilitation requests for a variety of groups and businesses.



*Above: Tara Markley, Johnson County Extension Director and Community Vitality Agent, working with Johnson County Developmental Supports staff.*

*Left: KSRE staff lead a Local Foods Roundtable at the Extension office on November 21, 2023.*





## Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Johnson County Extension has facilitated the Welcome A-Board Leadership training series for twelve years. Designed to provide basic training for members of community-based boards, the four-part series was hosted by local Extension professionals at locations across the state. We have been able to offer fully virtual training since the pandemic, and in 2023 we had participants from five different states!

Course content includes roles and responsibilities of board members, effective meetings, fiscal responsibilities, understanding fellow board members, conflict resolution, and strategic planning. The conversation and interactions between participants are what generates positive feedback from this course. The benefit from hearing challenges and successes from others creates an impactful course. With two different sessions—from the full four-part series and the Silver Clovers mini-series—we trained thirty-five community members.



### Quotes from 2023 participants:

“As a new board member, I found this course to be very helpful. **I feel more prepared to be a contributing member of the board.** I can now ask questions and learn more about the work of the organization and understand how we collectively can move forward to be even more successful in the future.”

“I have served on this board for several years but next year I will be serving as President. There were certain things that I was unsure of and **after our session tonight I feel much more confident.** I liked that small group and how we were each allowed a chance to have input.”

# Johnson County Shines at International Master Gardener Conference 2023



By Dennis Patton  
Ornamentals and Turf Horticulture Agent, Extension Master Gardeners

**W**hat do five years of planning, countless volunteer hours, creative thinking, and precision execution mixed with a lot of fun along the way get you? A wildly successful International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) was hosted in June 2023 by Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners!

IMGC is the ultimate professional development opportunity offered biennially for EMGs nationwide and internationally as they learn how to better serve and assist Extension with its mission to provide research-based information to the public. Areas of interest are creating resilient landscapes, organic waste management, pest management, water conservation and quality, food gardening, and pollinator habitats helping to build healthy communities through horticulture.

**Johnson County was the first county to be awarded the honor of hosting this conference.** Conferences of this magnitude have always been hosted at the state level. The themes of Celebrate (the joy of being an EMG), Educate (others to learn), and Grow (the future by creating healthy communities through horticulture) were chosen to embody the goals of a successful experience.



*Far left: 1,128 attendees from 44 states and three countries attended the conference. Center: Optional conference tours showcased local gardens. Above: More than 300 volunteers planned and staffed the event.*





A highlight of the week was the opportunity to see six private home gardens rarely viewed by the public, as well as 13 in-depth workshops, five nationally known keynote speakers, three special evening event speakers, and 48 concurrent sessions on various gardening topics.

To complement the conference, a Garden Thyme Marketplace Trade Show with 105 vendors was open to the participants and the public. Each vendor offered one-of-a-kind garden-related goods or services. Not to be left out, the Johnson County Master Gardeners had their booth with many items hand-crafted by our own EMG volunteers.

The conference area was decorated with plants from local nurseries and 20 six-foot wooden spirit poles displaying community and EMG spirit from various Kansas counties.

We couldn't have done this alone. Over 70 sponsors and donors contributed financially and in kind to the conference's overall success, for which we are eternally grateful. The conference resulted in an economic impact of 2.9 million dollars to the local economy with 1,390 hotel room nights across four contracted hotels near the Overland Park Convention Center.

Of the 625 people who responded to the post-conference survey, 584 indicated they were delighted with the conference, and 99.2% were either extremely or somewhat satisfied with their experience.



**1,128** attendees

**48** sessions on a variety of topics

**13** educational tours

**13** experiential workshops

**105** Garden Thyme Marketplace Trade Show vendors

**70** sponsors and donors

**300** volunteers

**\$2.9 million** generated for local economy



### Additional Achievements

Although much of the Extension Master Gardeners' time was spent on IMGC, all of the ongoing projects and demonstration gardens were maintained in an excellent manner.

Contacts made in 2023 totaled 33,306. Volunteer hours totaled 66,600.

In addition, we served the community by donating a total of **19,086 servings of fresh fruits and vegetables** (1 pound = 3 servings) to those in need from four of our demonstration gardens.

### Dennis Patton named Outstanding Local Unit Extension Professional for 2023

*K-State Research and Extension selected our very own Dennis Patton to receive the top agent award of the year, a first for this Johnson County office. The honor is well deserved for Dennis' tireless facilitation of the International Master Gardener Conference, extensive programmatic highlights, and 40 years of exceptional service as an agent.*

***Congratulations, Dennis!***

*- Tara Markley*

# Johnson County Extension Education Foundation

Johnson County Extension Education Foundation (JCEEF) has a mission to create awareness and provide financial support for Johnson County K-State Research and Extension programs to improve the lives of Johnson County residents. Foundation members work hard so that their fellow Johnson County neighbors will know, support, and utilize Johnson County Extension programs and resources.



In 2023, the foundation awarded **17 grants** in the total amount of **\$21,250**, across a variety of Extension programs. Each of these projects improves the quality of life here in Johnson County.



## Spotlight on Extension

JCEEF funds this work through membership and our annual signature event. This year's event, "Spotlight on Extension," took place on August 26, 2023, at the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center. JCEEF members and Johnson County K-State Research and Extension volunteers and supporters ate delicious food, enjoyed great company and music, and supported the live auction.



Terry Ecklund (Extension Master Gardener, JCEEF Board Member), Jim Walton (Extension Master Naturalist), and Tara Markley (Extension Director)



Cheryl Hunt, Extension Master Gardener and JCEEF Board Chair



Nigro Auctioneers and Beth Graham (Extension Master Gardener and JCEEF Board Member)



Extension Master Food Volunteers Natalie Casalou, Denise McKenny, and Karen Flournoy (JCEEF Board Member)







Shawnee Town



Blue Valley Wilderness Science Center



Shawnee Indian Mission



Deanna Rose Farmstead

2023 Grant Highlights



Mill Creek Stream Team



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



4-H Youth Livestock Judging



Backyard Garden



SNAP Cooking Class Scholarships



Junior Extension Master Gardeners







# JCEEF & 4-H

JCEEF supports Johnson County 4-H Youth Development each summer during the Johnson County Fair. The Foundation facilitates the annual 4-H project auction, which happens after all static projects have been judged, like woodworking, baking, and more.

In 2023, there were **89 youth** who participated in the project auction. The Foundation and 4-H raised **\$31,930**, which went directly to the 4-H youth to support their educational pursuits and 4-H project work.



# Partnerships and Collaborations

- Aberdeen Village
- AdventHealth Shawnee
- Arcare
- Blue Valley Parks and Recreation
- Burroughs Audubon Society
- Cargill
- Catholic Charities Food Pantry
- City of Fairway
- City of Lenexa
- City of Olathe
- City of Overland Park
- City of Prairie Village
- City of Shawnee
- Conservation District, Johnson County
- Deanna Rose Farmstead
- Down Syndrome Innovations
- East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging
- El Centro, Inc.
- Ernie Miller Nature Center
- Financial Professionals, Inc.
- Friends of the Kaw
- Haley & Aldrich
- Head Start Growing Futures of Shawnee Mission
- Johnson County Aging and Human Services
- Johnson County Community College
- Johnson County Corrections
- Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
- Johnson County Developmental Supports
- Johnson County Fair Association
- Johnson County Farm Bureau
- Johnson County Food Policy Council
- Johnson County Library
- Johnson County Mental Health
- Johnson County Park and Recreation District
- Johnson County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program



- Kansas Beef Council
- Kansas City WildLands
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
- KC Metro Tax Coalition
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- NCircle
- New Hope Food Pantry
- Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce
- Olathe Chamber of Commerce
- Olathe Head Start
- Olathe Public Library
- Olathe School District
- Olathe Quilters Guild
- Olathe Towers
- Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens
- Price Chopper - Gardner
- Roeland Park Community Center
- Safe Home
- Saint Agnes Catholic School
- Salvation Army Food Pantry
- Shawnee Civic Centre
- Shawnee Indian Mission
- Shawnee Mission School District
- Southwest Dairy Farmers Mobile Classroom
- Tractor Supply Co. - Olathe
- Tyler's House
- De Soto Unified School District 232
- Wonderscope



*Thank you to these community partners, with whom we can connect and serve more people within Johnson County.*

# Our Volunteers

The Johnson County Extension office provides our high level of service thanks to the assistance and dedication from our volunteers. A passionate and hardworking group, our volunteers are pillars that continue to improve the lives of Johnson County citizens through research-based, accurate, and unbiased Extension educational programming.

## K-State Master Programs

### Extension Master Food Volunteers

81 volunteers  
7,935 total hours

### Extension Master Gardeners

459 volunteers  
66,600 total hours

### Extension Master Naturalists

186 volunteers  
8,735 total hours

## Additional Programs

### 4-H Youth Development

288 volunteers  
21,600 total hours

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

45 volunteers  
3,011 total hours

### Sunset Community Garden

22 volunteers  
1,500 total hours

### Family and Community Education

54 volunteers  
327 total hours

### Olathe Quilters Guild

2 volunteers  
25 total hours

**1,137**  
total volunteers

**109,733** total volunteer hours in 2023

X **\$28.50** per hour volunteer value\*

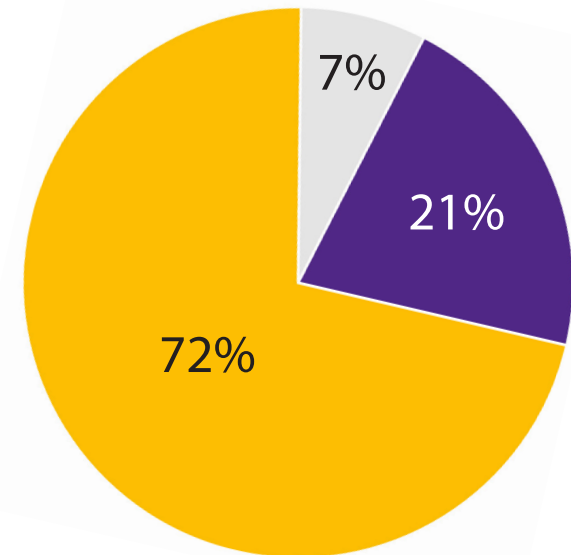
**\$3,127,390.50** total value to Johnson County citizens in 2023

\* Source: Independent Sector 2022 for Kansas wages

# Funding

Our federal appropriation makes up approximately 10% of the K-State Research and Extension Cooperative Extension system budget. The vast majority of this federal appropriation for Cooperative Extension is from the Smith-Lever Act and related offshoots.

Johnson County Extension augments core funding from county, state, and federal governments through grants, participation fees, product sales and private contributions.



Johnson County Government:	<b>\$984,496</b> (72%)
Kansas State University and Federal Government:	<b>\$290,244</b> (21%)
Johnson County Extension Revenue:	<b>\$101,567</b> (7%)



# Key Stakeholders

## Kansas State University Research and Extension

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Deputy County Manager

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Assistant County Manager

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Assistant County Manager

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Assistant County Manager

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