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Monroe County

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CCE - Monroe County 4-H Program Update
July 2025

Program Highlights

- Leslie and Challis worked collaboratively to bring From Seeds to Shade: Youth Learning and Leading Through Native Tree Planting, a program focusing on native trees, to 660 youth across Monroe County. This program was funded through Genesee Finger Lakes Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association's Earth Day grant.
- Jessica Reid will once again support the NYS 4-H Japanese International Exchange Program this summer, which is currently seeking host families.
- For six weeks this summer Natalie and our Cornell Intern Hser Paw will be supporting the Cultivating Community program, a youth development initiative that operates in partnership with the City of Rochester's Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP). Youth will gain hands-on experience by gardening and participating in urban agriculture activities and this year, the program will also include collaboration with the Gandhi Institute.

Strategic Plan Update

1.1 Program Effectiveness-Spark Club Evaluation

Spark Club meets monthly. Natalie has been using an evaluation tool to evaluate the experience and collect ideas for future topics.

2.1 Resource Management-Lending Library

Using the [catalog](#) of kits, equipment, and curricula that can be loaned out to leaders and members to support hands-on learning that Natalie compiled, Needle has been utilizing Librarika to share and track materials.

4.1 and 4.2 Tracking and Measuring Partnerships with county schools to ensure equity in program

opportunities. Leslie has continued working on this objective as she coordinates scheduling classrooms each month for the ag in the classroom lessons, with the assistance of Jessica.

5.2 Raising Visibility through Short-form Video on Social Media Platforms

Jessica will continue to create short forms videos for social media and will mark this objective as complete.

BOD Engagement Opportunity –

- The Great New York State Fair will be here before we know it! 4-H youth from around the county will be demonstrating skills, displaying projects, and participating in a variety of animal related activities. The fair runs August 20 through September 1.
- Like and follow the [Monroe County 4-H Youth Development](#) Facebook and IG pages.

"Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County office if you have any special needs."

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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United Way of Greater Rochester - Designated Donor # 2206

Story of Celebration or Success

Over the past year, our AmeriCorps VISTA has built on the CCE Family Development project that began in 2021, working to expand and explore how the initiative might be sustained beyond its third and final year. This included a youth mindfulness series of seven classes, held in partnership with the Ryan R-Center, and two parenting education series -- one with the Irondequoit Public Library and another with the R-Center. Most recently, he hosted a Family Café event inspired by the community café model to create a more engaging and accessible program, complete with a shared meal and a concurrent activity for youth attendees. In total, about 7 caregivers and 20 youth participated in this year's programs.

While feedback from participants and partners has been overwhelmingly positive, reaching a broader audience remains a challenge. We're actively seeking funding to continue the initiative but will need to continue to explore optimal methods of connecting with families and reducing barriers for adult participation in these programs.



Participating families received incentives.

Needle teaching "Discipline is Not a Dirty Word"