PURDUE EXTENSION TIPPECANOE COUNTY



Ever wondered what the Purdue Extension team looked like as babies? Well, we didn't either, but AI had other plans!

Just for fun, Amanda Graupner let artificial intelligence reimagine our staff in their tiniest, cutest forms and the results are too good not to share. Same dedication to community... just with more baby teeth! Always here to serve—at every stage of life.

Thanks for letting us share a little silliness. We hope it gave you a smile!



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT **

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE WORLD.

The Summer is time spent preparing for the upcoming fair but did you also know that June is a month full of 4-H Camps and special activities? At the beginning of the month, 52 4-Hers and 7 Camp Counselors attended Area 8/9 4-H Camp at Camp Tecumseh. During this three day and two night experience, campers enjoyed camp events such as camp fire and skits, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, foods, nature center, etc. 4-H Camp is open to youth in grades 3rd through 6th with camp counselor being youth in grades 9th-12th.

Mini 4-Hers in grades K through 2nd also had the opportunity to attend Mini 4-H Day Camp later in June. Our amazing interns planned a day full of activities for the youth to learn about states from across 5 regions. Crafts. foods, and games were enjoyed by all! Many thanks to the Junior Leaders that helped with this fun day!

Several youth learned about the connection from agriculture to the sports industry in a new day long event, "Ag to Athletics" also held in June. Nine youth attended this inaugural day led by our College and Career Readiness Facilitator, Will Walls, along with our interns. The day included crab soccer, lessons on nutrition, and turf science activities.



Summer Intern, Ella Carlson, helping a camper with an activity at Mini 4-H Camp. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



4-H youth play a game of crab soccer at Ag to Athletics. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



4-H CAMP AT **CAMP TECUMSEH**



the 4-H Senior Dinner. Photo credit: Dee Nicley In May, Senior 4-H Members were honored during a celebration dinner held at the Extension Office sponsored by the Tippecanoe County 4-H Junior Leaders. The Seniors and their parents enjoyed a delicious meal created by Richelle in A Handbasket. Seniors are invited to send in their biographies and photos to be included in the Social Media Senior Spotlights that are currently being shared. At the upcoming fair, Seniors will be honored in several ways including a special recognition ceremony on Friday, July 18th at 7 p.m. in the Coliseum. Congrats to all of our Seniors!

Seniors attending



🐞 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT 🝀



JOIN US!

Can you believe it? The Tippecanoe County Fair is just a few short weeks away, and we are BUZZING with excitement! Whether you're building a rocket, training your dairy cow, putting finishing touches on your photography project, or sewing the last few stitches—keep going! Your hard work is what makes the fair such a fun and inspiring celebration.

Everyone is invited to experience the sights, sounds, and smiles of the Tippecanoe County Fair, happening July 18th–26th! From exciting 4-H exhibits and adorable animals to carnival rides, delicious food, and fun for all ages—there's something for everyone. Bring the whole family and make memories with us this summer at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. You won't want to miss it! Click HERE for the full 4-H Fair Schedule.





Extension Tippecanoe County



4-H participants during the 2024 Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



4-H participants during the 2024 Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCE

PURDUE EXTENSION HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES PROVIDES EDUCATION TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN EACH OF INDIANA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES. WE BRING UNIVERSITY INFORMATION TO THE LOCAL LEVEL - BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE - TO HELP PEOPLE STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS, EAT SMART, IMPROVE HEALTH, AND ACHIEVE FINANCIAL WELLNESS.

MATTER OF BALANCE PROGRAM COMPLETION

This May marked the successful wrap-up of the Matter of Balance program. Over the course of several weeks, participants gained tools to reduce their fear of falling and stay active, improving their strength, confidence, and independence along the way.

CREW STIGMA REDUCTION AT WIC

Continuing efforts to support workplace wellness, Brock delivered the Stigma Reduction session from the CREW curriculum to Tippecanoe County WIC employees. This session focused on fostering empathy, reducing stigma around mental health, and building a more inclusive and supportive work environment.

"ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ME" AT HOLMAN LIBRARY

At the Holman Library, Brock introduced community members to the basics of AI and how it impacts daily life. The session encouraged thoughtful discussion around emerging technologies and how they can be used responsibly to benefit individuals and communities.



Brock delivering the C.R.E.W. (Compassion & Resilience Education at Work) program to the dedicated team at Indiana WIC in Tippecanoe County!

Photo credit: Brock Turner



Brock Turner, Hillary Hawkins, Caren Crum and Dee Nicley hanging out at 4-H Camp. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

SUPPORT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Fueled by a growing passion for self-sufficiency and sustainable lifestyles, Brock attended an open forum discussion on Lafayette's proposed ordinance to allow backyard chickens. Purdue Extension can be a source for information to help individuals build more sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

BLENDER BIKE AT 4-H CAMP

Brock and area educators helped lead a fun and interactive Blender Bike program at 4-H Camp, reaching nearly 300 youth! Campers learned about the importance of nutrition and physical activity while pedaling their way to delicious smoothie recipes. It was a creative and memorable way to promote healthy habits in a hands-on environment.

AGING IN PLACE AT HOLMAN LIBRARY

Continuing his commitment to serving older adults, Brock presented the Aging in Place program at the Holman Library. This class offered practical strategies to help individuals remain safe, independent, and comfortable in their homes as they age.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

In recognition of his continued service and dedication, Brock stepped into the role of Chair of the Compensation and Benefits Subcommittee for the Purdue University Management and Professional Staff Advisory Committee (MaPSAC) for the 2025–2026 term. This leadership position allows him to support the needs and well-being of Purdue's professional staff across the institution.

COMMUNITY CHILDCARE

PURDUE EXTENSION IS ENHANCING CHILDCARE SUPPORT BY ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PROVIDERS, OFFERING RELEVANT TRAINING, AND FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE CHILDCARE COMMUNITY. THESE EFFORTS AIM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CHILDCARE, ACCESS TO RESOURCES, AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS. CHILDCARE PROVIDERS OFTEN WORK IN ISOLATION, FACING CHALLENGES IN IDENTIFYING AND UTILIZING AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

Purdue Extension's Community Childcare team is actively engaged in collaborative planning with early childcare experts and partners to bring an exciting opportunity for early childcare providers in Tippecanoe County. Wendy Collingwood, Community Childcare Educator, has been leading the Tippecanoe County Early Childcare Coalition in organizing the upcoming Early Childcare Workforce Development Day, which will take place in August. This event will offer vital services such as CPR/First Aid training, fingerprinting, and professional development workshops to meet licensing requirements and strengthen provider capacity. In alignment with our program's mission to support all providers in our region, the event will also offer Spanish interpretation services during workshops to ensure full access for Latino providers. While the event itself is in August, much of the foundational planning occurred in May, setting the stage for a successful experience for local providers.

In addition to coalition-led planning efforts, our team also continued direct outreach to local providers. Alejandra Durán, Latino Community Childcare Educator, facilitated Cuidando con confianza: Familias sanas y niños seguros (Caring with Confidence: Healthy Families and Safe Children), a fully Spanish-language professional development training for Latino early childcare providers. This event took place on May 29 at the Tippecanoe County Extension office and was held in collaboration with SPARK Learning Lab

and Tippecanoe County NEPA, Mar
López. SPARK Learning Lab coach
LeAndra River facilitated a session on
"Active Supervision," while Mar Lopez
delivered the "Fix it Safe" food safety
training. Fourteen Latino providers
attended and received 1.5 hours of
professional development credit, a \$25
stipend, and access to training related
resources as well as prizes. This event
was an important step in supporting and
recognizing the contributions of Latino
childcare providers in our county.



The playground slide and swing in Arletta's outdoor play space. Photo credit: Childcare Team



Alejandra Duran speaking to providers about ways to connect and learn with other providers such as the Círculo de cuidado y reflexión (Circle of Care and Reflection) and Tippecanoe Latino Provider WhatsApp community chat.

Photo credit: Childcare Team



Mar Lopez speaking about the importance of disinfecting in the kitchen at Cuidando Con Confianza. Photo credit: Childcare Team

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The Community Childcare team is committed to equitable access in early childhood education through a newly confirmed partnership with the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC). This collaboration will support early childcare providers of all backgrounds and licensing statuses in earning their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential through the Indiana Non-formal CDA Project. The initiative is designed to increase access to nationally recognized credentials for individuals who may not hold formal degrees but are deeply committed to providing high-quality care in our region.

As part of this partnership, Purdue Extension's Community Childcare Program will sponsor five local providers with full scholarships for the fall cohort, which will run from September through November. The cohort will include a total of 20 students and will offer coursework and support to help participants complete the CDA process administered by the Council for Professional Recognition.

The ultimate goal of this partnership is to equip more individuals with the education and training they seek to grow professionally and improve the quality of care for young children in our communities. Planning and recruitment began in June, and we are actively enrolling students now, as orientation is scheduled to begin in August.

In the spirit of learning from those already doing impactful work, our team also had the opportunity to meet with Arletta Brown, a dedicated local early childcare provider who has cultivated a certified Nature Explore Classroom in her own backyard. Arletta generously shared helpful contacts,

resources, and ideas, especially around her creative use of loose parts, or everyday materials children can use in open-ended play. These materials encourage imagination, problem-solving, and hands-on discovery. Her six-year journey to build an engaging, nature-based environment is a wonderful example of the passion and innovation found among providers in our community! We are excited to connect local providers to Arletta for sharing and learning opportunities.

To further foster peer learning and connection, Círculo de cuidado y reflexión (Circle of Care and Reflection) was launched in June by Alejandra Durán, Latino Community Childcare Educator. This bi-weekly co-learning group led in Spanish was created in response to feedback from Latino providers who expressed a need for face-to-face interaction, shared reflection, and mentorship. The group provides space for less experienced providers to learn from seasoned peers as well as early childcare experts while

building a strong network of mutual support. Since launching on June 3, two sessions have taken place.

The first session for this group focused on getting to know each other. The second session featured a training on HERO Story Time—a literacy-based program designed to help young children develop key social-emotional skills. HERO (Helping Every Child Reach Optimum Success) uses eight carefully selected storybooks aligned with the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets to nurture empathy, self-regulation, positive identity, and interpersonal skills. Providers learned how to integrate story-based activities and family engagement tools to create safe, stable, and nurturing environments for children. The program is a valuable tool for building resilience and supporting healthy development in early childhood settings. We are excited to continue growing this group and offering mentorship and a space for providers to lead and learn together.



Group photo taken after Cuidando con confianza with all the providers in attendance. Photo credit: Childcare Team

COMMUNITY NEWS

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY | TIPPECANOE COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS

BECOME A MASTER GARDENER OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

If you have a passion for gardening and a desire to serve your community, consider joining the Master Gardener Program of Tippecanoe County. This program is a great opportunity to expand your horticultural knowledge, meet fellow gardening enthusiasts, and make a positive impact through community-based volunteer work.

Weekly classes begin on Thursday, August 7, and continue every Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM through November 20. The cost to participate is approximately \$170. Final pricing details will be confirmed with those accepted into the program.

To apply, complete the application form and return it, along with a copy of your driver's license, to the Tippecanoe County Extension Office. The deadline to apply is July 7.

Download the application HERE.

For more information, contact the Tippecanoe County Extension Office at 765-474-0793 or tippecanoeces@purdue.edu.



TIPPECANOE COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS

At the 2025 Achievement Event, SIXTEEN new members of the Tippecanoe County Extension Homemakers Clubs were recognized. Current members with membership anniversaries were presented with certificates recognizing years of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service. Fifty-year anniversary members were honored with certificates and yellow carnations: Diane Burns, Phyllis Kochert, Bev Melichar, Janet Perkins, Barb Sondgerath, and Anny Suter (of Hillwood), Pat Peterson (of Quilt), and Kathy Delaney (of Laughing L's in Memoriam). The Hillwood Club also celebrated its fifty-year anniversary with a certificate presentation of charter members by, and a photo with, Indiana Extension Homemaker President, Linda Carunchia.

The Tippecanoe County Extension Homemakers have given tremandous support to our community! Some of the organizations given to this year include the Women's Shelter, LUM, Bravely Women's Center, Tippecanoe Villa, Combat Cookies, Food Finders, Soup Kitchen, Indiana Veterans Home, Salvation Army, Vision of Hope, Cary Home, Under the Bridge Project, and the local schools. On the state level, they donated blankets and tote bags to Riley Hospital. They also gave 34 shawls to the Indiana Donor Network and 26 lbs of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. The value of items donated is around \$7,000! This is over 1,500 items and over 200 hours spent. Way to go!

Are you interested in becoming a Tippecanoe County Extension Homemaker? Do you enjoy making a difference in your community, learning new skills, and building friendships that last a lifetime?

Extension Homemakers are part of a long-standing organization dedicated to strengthening families through continuing education, leadership development, and volunteer community support. In Tippecanoe County, members participate in a wide range of activities—from educational programs and service projects to social gatherings and county-wide events.

Ready to take the next step? We would love to talk with you and help you find the club or program that's right for your interests and schedule.

To learn more about becoming a Tippecanoe County Extension Homemaker, contact the Purdue Extension Tippecanoe County office at 765-474-0793 or email Brock Turner at turnerbm@purdue.edu.

COMMUNITY NEWS



First 20 people registered will receive \$100 value mud kitchen or \$50 stipend. Must be a childcare provider to receive an incentive.

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University.
If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Wendy Collingwood prior to the meeting at 217-251-2065 by Friday July 5. If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Wendy Collingwood by Friday July 5.







COMMUNITY WELLNESS COORDINATOR

OUR COMMUNITY WELLNESS COORDINATORS HELP MAKE THE HEALTHY CHOICE THE EASY CHOICE. THEY COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS ON BROADER COMMUNITY CHANGE THAT INVOLVES POLICY, SYSTEM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES.

MAY UPDATE

May was full of opportunities to support our community partners and continue promoting healthy, sustainable living.

One highlight was participating in the Grass to Gardens Program, where Betsy learned from Purdue Extension colleagues about transforming grassy areas into vibrant garden spaces. This initiative supports local efforts to increase access to fresh produce and encourages hands-on learning about gardening and nutrition.

We also received great news; our office was approved for another year of the FAIRs Care Program! This program helps raise awareness about food insecurity while supporting Food Finders Food Bank through State Fair ticket sales during the fair. We're excited to continue this partnership and make an even greater impact in the year ahead.



Betsy and her family enjoying the sunshine and some relaxation at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.
Photo credit: Betsy Coffing



4-H youth enjoying the Blender Bike at 4-H Camp at Camp Tecumseh. Photo credit: Amanda Graupner

JUNE UPDATE

Early in the month of June, Betsy had the chance to spend time with her family on a vacation to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina! We spent a lot of time at the beach, pool, and enjoying local foods.

Back home, her work with GrowLocal continued through support of the newest garden at Second Baptist Church, helping to expand community access to fresh produce and provide a space for connection and learning.

Our Blender Bike was also on the move this month! It made appearances at 4-H Camp at Camp Tecumseh, Mini 4-H Camp, and the Ag to Athletics program. These events impacted approximately 334 participants with fun, hands-on nutrition education and physical activity. The bike was a hit everywhere it went, showing people that healthy eating can be both exciting and delicious. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in implementing the bike this month!

We're looking forward to more summer fun and impact throughout the summer!

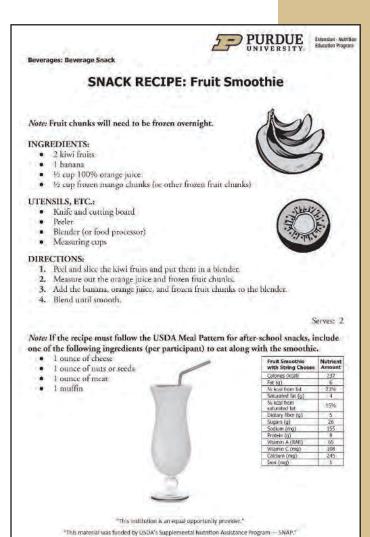
NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORS

BEST KNOWN FOR COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SHARING FOOD SAMPLES AND COOKING TOOLS, OUR CERTIFIED NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORS (NEPAS) OFFER FREE LESSONS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS THAT CAN MAKE A HEALTHY DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

CATCH PROGRAMMING

In the month of May, Tammy completed CATCH Lessons with third graders at Miami and Edgelea Elementary schools. Students loved making the mango banana smoothies and discovering ways to live healthier lives. Not only did students learned how to read nutrition facts labels and identify foods containing high levels of sodium, sugar, and fats, but they also learned the importance of daily exercise!

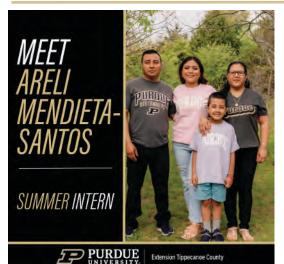
In June, Tammy began sharing CATCH lessons with students attending the Purdue Athlete's Life Success (PALS) summer camp. Highlights included the "Pineapple Investigation" and the "Greasy Grid Evaluation". In the Pineapple Investigation, students compared the appearance, nutrition facts label, and blind taste test of fresh pineapple, canned pineapple in 100% pineapple juice, and canned pineapple in heavy syrup. In the Greasy Grid Evaluation, students crushed various potato chips (fried, baked, and air fried) and used a paper grid to evaluate the amount of grease (fat) in each. The results were eye-opening!



WHAT IS CATCH?

CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) is an evidence-based program designed to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children. It focuses on creating a school and community environment that encourages lifelong healthy habits. The program includes interactive lessons, hands-on activities, and family engagement to help kids develop healthier lifestyles.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



ARFLT MENDTETA-SANTOS

Hello everyone! My name is Areli Mendieta-Santos, and I am an upcoming junior at Purdue University. I am studying Developmental and Family Science with two concentrations, one in Child Development and the other in Family and Community Health. In addition to my two concentrations, I also have two minors. One is in Spanish, and the other is in Latin American and Latino Studies. Aside from being a full-time student at Purdue, I am also a teacher assistant for a preschool classroom at a daycare / development center. During my free time, I enjoy shopping, coffee tasting, and spending time with my loved ones. I am super excited to be one of the 4-H interns this summer as I have a passion for working with the youth and their families!



LANE SHEPARD

Hello, my name is Lane Shepard, I will be a Junior at Huntington University in the fall. I am studying Business Marketing with a Minor in Ag! I am obsessed with coffee and love to spend time with my family. I was a previous ten-year member here in Tippecanoe County and I am very excited to be sharing another delightful summer with everyone at the fair. I am looking forward to meeting new people and experiencing new opportunities! I cannot wait to see everybody!!



ELLA CARLSON

I will be a sophomore at Oklahoma State this fall where I am studying Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Education. During my ten years in 4-H here in Tippecanoe County, I was very involved in multiple projects and leadership positions. I am very excited and truly honored to step into one of the 4-H Extension Intern positions and to have the opportunity to see the fair from the Extension side of things!

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

JULY

1st- Círculo de cuidado y reflexión, Cafe Literato/Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (CC)

4th- OFFICE CLOSED

11th-17th- Tippecanoe County 4-H Pre-Fair Static Project Judging (No Judging on Sunday)

12th- International Outdoor Play Training with Lakeshore, Northland Community Center 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (CC)

15th- Círculo de cuidado y reflexión, Cafe Literato/Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (CC)

18th-25th Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

29th- Círculo de cuidado y reflexión, Cafe Literato/Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (CC)

AUGUST

Tammy's August programming includes visits to Briarwood Apartment's Head-Up summer program as well as Lafayette Urban Ministry's 5th Quarter. (NEPA)

1st-17th Indiana State Fair (Closed on Mondays)

12th- Círculo de cuidado y reflexión, Cafe Literato/Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (CC)

26th- Círculo de cuidado y reflexión, Cafe Literato/Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (CC)

Please call the Tippecanoe County Extension Office for any further information. (765)474-0793



Extension

LET'S STAY TOGETHER.

PURDUE EXTENSION TIPPECANOE COUNTY OFFICE

1950 South 18th Street Lafayette, IN 47905 (765) 474-0793







FOLLOW US!