

SRPLN FCS State Report 2009

Reporting Institution: Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension program, Fort Valley, GA

Program Highlights of Current Year:

- Keishon Thomas, Housing Specialist, increased programming opportunities with SMART, H.E.L.P. and Healthy Homes during the past year. The Homebuyer Education program assisted 16 participants in purchasing their first home valued at approximately \$472,000.
- The HELP program assisted 29% of participants conduct family meetings to discuss long-term contingency plans for their property; 12% of participants also had their property surveyed.
- The Housing Specialist continues to increase collaborative partnerships with such agencies as USDA-Risk Management Agency, Neighborworks, HomeFirst, ReMax, Georgia Legal services, HUD, UGA, etc.
- EFNEP strives to educate and graduate limited resource families of Peach County on the basis of family food enhancement and budgeting. The program is expected to grow to 3 new counties within the year to help educate more Georgians.
- Family life program continues to gain momentum by reaching new communities and counties of Georgia on guiding parents on building strong family values to sustain social and economic harmony with the community.
- 4-H Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Science, Engineering and Technology and Life Skills programs continues to be a popular program in the FCS/4-H. Woodie Hughes, Extension 4-H Specialist, continues to design programs to meet the needs and challenge the strengths of Georgia's youth-at-risk. Impact was measured using pre and post-tests in the various areas. Youth participating in the program increased their knowledge more than 50% in entrepreneurship education.
- Suns (Sons) of Leadership Program is a nine week Minority Male Gendered Program designed for youth between the ages of fifteen and nineteen. This is a fairly new program has been used to teach positive leadership characteristics through experiential learning and decision making skills. The male youth are expected to graduate from high school and attend college.
- The 4-H First Time Offenders Leadership program is a collaborative effort with Juvenile Probation Officers, judges, district attorneys and extension specialist to allow first time juvenile offenders an opportunity to delete their criminal record after completing the program. This is a new program and results are not available at this time.
- The Children of the Sun Healthy Lifestyles Program developed by Woodie Hughes was designed for youth-at-risk to decrease childhood obesity.
- Apparel and textiles program continues to educate limited resource families through consumer education programs implemented to help those families make wise decisions during the economic downturn. Personal development workshops were designed to help individuals make the transition from unemployment to work. Apparel safety programs were geared toward farmers, parents, and caregivers, etc.

Personnel Update:

- FCS Program Leader retired in January; Interim Program Leader (half-time) was hired just recently. Four FCS county agents have been hired, 3 FCS paraprofessionals retired. A Nutritional Educator Specialist will be hired in the near future.

Budget Update:

- FVSU employees will take 6 furlough days- 3 during Fall 2009 semester and 3 during Spring 2010.

New or Unique Collaborations and /or Funding Sources:

- FVSU CEP received additional EFNEP funding. The funding will be used to enhance the program and expand to 3 new counties within the year to help educate more Georgians.
- The housing program has received external funds from Georgia DCA, Consumer Action, USDA-Risk Management Agency, CSREES and UGA.
- Family Development Center is being funded by a USDA Facilities grant. This is a collaborative effort with the department of FCS and FCS Cooperative Extension.

Contact for Additional Information:

Vivian M. Fluellen, CFCS
Interim FCS Program Leader
Fort Valley State University
Cooperative Extension Program
Fort Valley, GA 31030
fluellen@fvsu.edu
478-825-6234 or 827-3012
Fax 478-825-6078