



Wisconsin | Campus Compact

Best Practices in UWEX Service-Learning

Food Security Research Nutrition Education Programs

Since 1998, UW-Extension Brown County Nutrition Education Program and the UW-Green Bay Social Work professional program have collaborated to examine and address local food security issues. Senior social work students conducted needs assessments with UW-Extension in 1998, 1999, and recently in 2004, by collecting data, performing analyses and writing reports. Results were used to develop action steps for UW-Extension Brown County and the local Food and Hunger Network to reduce rates of food insecurity and hunger.

Students are given the opportunity to participate in a collaborative community-based research project and to gain first-hand experience. UW-Extension Brown County is able to determine the prevalence of food insecurity among local households and to have a better understanding of the causes of food insecurity. UW-Extension Brown County has used these research findings over the past six years to apply for grants and has started a number of initiatives to address food insecurity. These initiatives include establishing a summer breakfast and meal program, securing a downtown grocery, developing new community gardens, and projects specific to the Hmong community. UW-Extension Brown County may work with nutrition students in the future to further these initiatives.

Contact information:

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If you need this material in another format, please contact Amy Hilgendorf, AmeriCorps*VISTA, (608) 262-4584.