



Making Change

September 2006

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Building Community from the Roots Up

Thirty gardeners are caring for the earth and raising food in the Quincy Community Garden. The garden consists of 14 plots, and lots of fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers are being raised there. Located on North 8th Street next to Jackson-Lincoln pool, the garden provides land for gardeners but just as importantly it has brought people together and built new relationships. The community gardeners range in age from 9 to 60+ and include people from within and outside the neighborhood. Some have lots of gardening experience and for others this is their first garden.

The Quincy Park District, the City of Quincy and University of Illinois Extension have partnered to offer the community garden. The garden is open to anyone who wants to reserve and maintain a plot. Apartment dwellers and others who do not have their own garden space or people who don't have a tiller to work up the soil in their yard may find the community garden provides an option to raise their own vegetables and flowers. The garden also provides opportunities to meet and talk with others who have an interest in gardening. The garden is also used as an outdoor teaching and learning area including composting facilities. University of Illinois Extension staff provide informal education in the garden throughout the growing season.

The community gardeners meet monthly to discuss the garden and share information. The members established and enforce the garden rules. In July, they shared a pot-luck dinner featuring food they had grown themselves. The benefits of the garden are many: providing fresh food, increased vegetable and fruit consumption, protecting greenspace, caring for the soil, making new friends and building a sense of community.

For more information on the Quincy Community Garden call University of Illinois Extension at 217-223-8380 or check out our website at www.extension.uiuc.edu/



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Partnership Leads to New Position



Through an extension of Alliance for Building Community's partnership with University of Illinois Extension we have hired Laura Hyde to help coordinate ABC efforts. Laura is an Extension Outreach Assistant.

Illinois Emergency Services Institute, Illinois Emergency Management Agency Conference, Citizen Corps Conference, and was deployed for national relief during the 2005 hurricane season.



Laura received her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and Sociology in 2004 from Illinois College. Prior to joining Extension, Laura served as the AmeriCorpsVISTA member with the Adams County Red Cross Disaster Services. While there, she participated in the

Laura is working at the University of Illinois Extension office at 330 S. 36th St. in Quincy and can be reached at 217-223-8380 or lhyde@uiuc.edu.

For more information on how you can get involved in the Alliance for Building Community go to:

www.allianceforbuildingcommunity.org



Walk or ride a bike to work



Speaker's Bureau

ABC has new marketing materials (a short DVD and PowerPoint presentation) now available. These materials, along with brochures highlighting the mission of ABC, will be used in conjunction with the ABC Speaker's Bureau. The Bureau is comprised of the ABC Advisory Committee, Steering Committee, and Coordinator. These presentations are designed for community groups so that the community can have a better understanding of the Alliance and how to get involved. If you would like more information about the Speakers Bureau or to schedule a presentation, please contact Laura at 223-8380 or lhude@uiuc.edu.

Updates

Beginning with this issue of *Making Change*, ABC will feature a project sponsored by one of our partners in a new section called "IN THE SPOTLIGHT." In this issue we featured the Quincy Community Garden sponsored by the Quincy Park District, the City of Quincy, and the University of Illinois Extension. We will also be featuring similar projects on the "Celebrating Success" page of the ABC website. These projects will be updated regularly so please be sure to visit often! The Community Wellness Report is in its final stages of being updated. Check the website for more information.



New Partners Join the Alliance for Building Community

Since the last issue of *Making Change*, ABC has added three new partners in our vision to build the quality of life for every citizen of Adams County.

All Our Kids: Birth to Five Network (AOK)

Action Area: Children living under the federal poverty level

Goal: Residents live in a state of economic well-being

In April of 2006, AOK agreed to work with social service agencies, health care providers and businesses to increase awareness, understanding and sensitivity to the plight of those living in poverty to break the cycle. All Our Kids: Birth to Five Network is a community-based collaboration that is committed to developing a high-quality, well-coordinated, easily-accessible system of care that will promote positive growth and development for children 0-5 and their families.

For more information on AOK of Adams County, please visit www.allourkidsadamscounty.com

United Way of Adams County

Action Area: Residents possess the skills to be successful in school and work

The United Way Board of Directors met in June to officially adopt this Action Area. The United Way's Nurturing Children & Youth Community Impact Team makes funding awards available for programs focused on children and youth in Adams County through its resource investment process. The United Way will also support the creation of a countywide initiative to engage and energize the whole community in the concern of academic success. For more information on the United Way of Adams County, please visit www.unitedwayadamsco.org

The Quincy Community Garden

Action Area:

The Quincy Community Garden provides space for residents to garden, compost, and grow their own food and flowers. The garden is open to any resident who is interested and committed to caring for their own plot. Residents must reserve a plot by completing and submitting an agreement form.

For more information, visit www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams

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