

## **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

### **YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER...YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW**

As Cooperative Extension marks 100 years of working for Wisconsin, Grant County Extension will showcase its own work through a series of bi-weekly articles. This week we'll take a look at the work of Bev Doll, Family Living Agent.

Bev has worked for Grant County Extension for the past nine years. Bev brings her 27 years of Family and Consumer Education background to Grant County Extension and has an understanding that all families need support and resources to develop skills at critical points in their lives. By recognizing and ensuring that the needs of people from diverse backgrounds are addressed in its educational and community-based programs, Family Living promotes a culture of inclusiveness that respects all people. Wisconsin Family Living Programs work to meet these needs by:

- Helping communities explore effective responses to issues affecting families such as poverty, childhood obesity, prevention of child abuse, financial security and aging.
- Serving as catalysts for positive change by providing leadership to ensure that community systems, services and facilities support the healthy functioning of families.
- Increasing knowledge about health, access to safe, nutritious food and parenting practices.
- Reaching out to diverse families to provide research-based education and resources to help improve quality of life.

Bev feels passionately that families provide tremendous value to communities. If we take as a premise that all communities want healthy and contributing people, fewer social problems and less money spent on such problems, the role of families is critical. Families are one of the most efficient and effective ways to keep family members physically and mentally healthy, provide care for vulnerable members, and guide children to become responsible adults. In this way, families help insure that communities have the human resources needed to be vibrant and resilient.

Within our society families are structured in a variety of ways the needs of families have changed drastically over the years. Different family formations provide different family challenges and resources. Whether single-parent, step-families, foster families or two-parent families, few other social institutions have such a profound impact on society. The wide-ranging influence of families on society makes evident the importance of supporting and strengthening families.

The needs of families are a continuum that evolves and the need for sound, unbiased information is greater than ever. Bev feels that the most satisfying part of her job is watching individuals, families, and youth take information she provides and incorporating it into their daily lives by build on their strengths and using resiliency skills necessary to survive life's challenges and thrive.

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