

*Green River Area
Homemakers*

2016-2017

Annual Report





Green River Area Homemakers 2016-2017

Green River Area Homemakers (GRAH) are located in Western Kentucky. GRAH is made up of seven counties: Daviess, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, Hancock, and Webster. Our council meetings alternate between the Henderson and Daviess County Extension Offices.

GRAH was excited to be chosen as hostess for the KEHA 2017 State Convention Site. The meeting was held at our new Owensboro Convention Center in May 2017. We are proud to say that the increase in attendance was a pleasant surprise.

Although we knew a year in advance that we were to host, we did not waste time in planning for the event. I am pleased to report that all county homemaker clubs and all of our agents worked together to make a successful and fun convention.

I would like to thank Mary Margaret, Marlene, and Kim for all the trips made, plans put into place, etc. to guide us in planning our part of the convention. Our hearts are sad at the loss of Mary Margaret, as we know she had so looked forward to this convention and recognizing our part in the ovarian cancer research. She is and will



Daviess County 2016-2017

Daviess County Homemakers held a soup day raising \$1,000.00 for our scholarship fund. We had approximately 90 people in attendance. Thirty of these tickets went to our local police department. We also raised \$1,207.00 participating in the Highway 54 Yard Sale.

We made monetary donations to the International Water Filter Project for Philippines, the Goodfellows, and Operation Santa at the Owensboro Police Department.

Our clubs collected pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. We also collected plastic bottle caps for local schools to be recycled into benches.

Daviess County Homemakers volunteered their time by participating in Relay for Life, working with homeschool 4-H Cloverbuds through LEAP Program, and the scholarship selection committee. Members also worked at the Ag Show, and Home Show selling notecards and bookmarks. We had some members serve on the KEHA State Meeting Steering Committee, as well as a local chairperson for GRA. Our clubs alternate decorating the foyer at the Extension Office. Homemakers also signed 80 Christmas cards and mailed to veterans.

All Daviess County Homemakers were encouraged to enroll in KY Women's Health Registry. Members were also encouraged to have annual physicals.

We made many donations in the 2016-2017 year. Four local elementary schools received monetary help, school supplies, and winter apparel. Individually wrapped bags of Halloween candy were donated to River Valley Youth Council. Mary Kendall residents received personal and winter items. We provided underwear to Hager Preschool. Two large totes of stuffed animals were donated to Owensboro Police Department for distribution to children. We donated a gift to both Banjos & Brunch and Oh! Baby. Homemakers handmade bandanas and pillowcases that were donated to Center for Courageous Kids. Oasis Shelter received personal items for women and babies/children. Canned goods and non-perishable food items were donated to Crossroads. Puzzle Pieces received a donation of paper items, chips, and cookies. We also donated sewing supplies for Ghana. Our members participated in donations to Backpack Ministry for underprivileged children, Habitat for Humanity, Christmas baskets to needy families, and clothes to the Baptist Center. We also donated to the Bouleware Center, Daviess County Help Office, Masonville Help Office, St. Joseph Peace Mission, 4-H, Ovarian Cancer Research, Humane Society, Say-a-Stray, Care Net, Fresh Start, Christmas Wish, St. Vincent De Paul, St. Benedicts, and Salvation Army.



Ohio County 2016-2017

Our emphasis was on increasing membership. At each public function, we provided information about the opportunities homemakers offer. Mavis, the doll, spends a month with the club with the most new members. Her adventures are documented with pictures and text.

A Bingo/Bunco fundraiser was held. Two free memberships were given away. A yard sale and game day were also held as fundraisers.

Individual clubs participated at our 39th Annual Homemakers Bazaar by selling cookbooks and items from Haiti. We also handed out Warren Rural Electric Co-op cookbooks.

The homemakers are active in the schools and community. We visit K-1 classes in the six local elementary schools to read books and provide nutritious snacks. Discussions about dental hygiene are held where each student receives a toothbrush and floss. Pre-school students are read to and each child receives a free book. A literacy walk was held one evening at Beaver Dam Park. Each participant received a free book and a fruit snack. Homemakers volunteered at Ag Days to acquaint 4th graders with aspects of agriculture. Middle school students participated in the Body Walk and in The Truth & Consequences programs, aided by homemaker volunteers. County homemakers awarded two \$500 scholarships to high school seniors. Partial registrations were given to 4-Hers to attend camp.

Burp cloths, bibs, and breast-feeding cover-ups were made by clubs and donated along with baby gifts for the Celebrate the Baby event.

A Thanksgiving meal is provided to the employees of Tamerlane, which employs many challenged workers. Cookies were baked and donated for a Cookie Walk at a downtown Christmas event. At the Holiday Helping Hands night, each club displayed things they had done or made. We sold jewelry and items made by Haitians at this event, the bazaar and the area meeting.

Fundraisers from the area meeting, Homemakers Bazaar, and Holiday Helping Hands night totaled \$1157.50. We were pleased to return these proceeds Haitians. Ohio County homemakers were also happy to provide seven sewing kits to be taken to Ghana.

The homemakers are involved with the county fair and are in charge of the exhibit building. We handle registering the entries, providing judges, and security for the exhibits. We also revise the fair book as needed.

Our county was in charge of crafts for the KEHA state convention. We also assisted with the tour to the Bill Monroe Homeplace and Rosine. Homemakers entered cultural arts competition and made quilt squares for auction. Ohio County was pleased to receive recognition at the awards breakfast for accomplishments made.

The Garden Club is a specialty club of homemakers meeting monthly, often doing a craft. They hold a spring plant sale, mostly perennials. Visits to Kelly Bee Co. in Clarkson and the UK center in Princeton were made. The Garden Club sponsored a beginner's bee-keeping class. A very informative program by Sharon Sorenson was presented about birds we might see in our backyards.

Homemakers are pleased to touch the lives of so many by providing information and services.



Henderson County 2016-2017

In January and February we collected money for Coins for Change. We also observed International Month by eating various foreign cuisines. We continue to have 100% support for Ovarian Cancer research. Several members took a trip to Lexington to participate in the screenings.

Several homemakers helped with the annual Derby Tea held in April at the Extension Office. This was a tea party style show with a speaker who discussed a health related topic. This event is open to the community and is very well attended. We accept donations support a health related project or organization.

We held our annual meeting in May. We are happy to report we had an increase in attendance and awarded one of our members a 50 year pin! Homemakers served food at our annual Mother's Night Out event, which offered educational opportunities for new and expecting mothers. In June clubs celebrated Cultural Arts Month with a day trip.

August found us busy as we prepared for the new homemaker's year. We held leadership training, announced our volunteer hours for the county, and highlighted clubs and individuals with the most hours.

Homemaker members had a booth in September at the Senior Expo. We also served snacks to those who attended. At the area annual meeting held in September, we donated 2 baskets to help raise funds for Ovarian Cancer research and the Ghana library.

We continue donating items to a local nursing home for bingo prizes and supporting our culinary department at the local high school by donating kitchen tools.



Union County 2016-2017

The Union County Homemakers group has volunteered in many Union County Extension Service Office endeavors this past year, as well as in our own programming, civic, and community groups.

We were invaluable in the planning and implementing of receptions for our new 4-H Agent, Lauren Settles Neltner, and the retirement for our outgoing Ag Agent, Rankin Powell.

We continued with our membership drive efforts by hosting the “Taste of Union County” for its fifth year. This is a luncheon for the public which clubs provide sample tastings of several different foods. Each club picks food items from a theme, and several different appetizers, entrees, and desserts are served. Approximately 100 people attended and several people asked questions about extension homemakers.

The group also hosted the homemaker’s Green River Area Annual Day in Union County this fall. Eighty-five homemakers from seven counties enjoyed the Breckinridge Museum and Art Center, and heard from guest speaker and museum curator, Vicki Ricketts, about World War II prisoners of war housed at the Breckinridge Army Base.

Members participated in surveys about women’s health for the state KEHA study. We also volunteered for the Ovarian Cancer study and donated money for this project.

Happy Day Homemakers provided dinner for the judges of the annual Jr. Miss Competition. Morganfield Young Homemakers donated different small items to Ben’s Place, an adult daycare, for patients to use for prizes in their bingo games. This club also made Christmas treat ornaments for the residents at Breckinridge Place Retirement Center.

Union County Homemakers hosted a Mother’s Day Tea at the Breckinridge Place Retirement Center for patients and their children. About 50 people were served different types of cookies and several different flavors of hot and cold teas. The dining hall was decorated in spring colors and flowers with real tea cups and saucers used for their tea. They were also entertained with piano music by one of the homemakers.

Union County Homemakers donated to the Happy Pack program, which sends food home on weekends to low-income children. We also purchase gift baskets to be given away at the World’s Greatest Baby Shower hosted by the Extension Office. About 75 girls are educated in this program each year with lots of information from health organizations as well as information on child care and proper ways to care for their babies.

Union County Homemakers are very involved in the community with our volunteering in the many different civic, church, and community groups we belong to. We are appreciative of our community and never refuse an opportunity when asked to help with a project.

In conclusion, the Union County Homemakers volunteer contributions to this community has and still is an asset to our county, state, and the University of Kentucky. A forty-year-veteran homemaker explained it this way, “Being a Kentucky Extension Homemaker has provided me with the opportunity to work with other homemakers and be involved with many projects which are beneficial to our county, area, and state. This experience and friendships made has been a blessing in my life.”



McLean County 2016-2017

Each year McLean County Homemakers award a \$500 college scholarship. We fund this by having various fundraisers. This past year, we contributed a basket for a fundraiser for Ovarian Cancer Research at the Area Annual Meeting.

Homemakers are responsible for the Open Home Department at the McLean County Ag Fest, which includes processing entries, assisting judges, and checking out the entries. We hosted a ball at the Battle of Sacramento Civil War Reenactment, serving cookies and lemonade. We had Homemaker volunteers for the 4-H events of The Reality Store, a financial education program for the middle school; and Truth and Consequence, a program aimed at drug and alcohol abuse prevention for ninth grade students.

Several members attended Master Clothing Classes taught by McLean County Homemakers, Brenda Pinkston and Margaret Scott. We also had crafts lessons including crocheting and sewing. An ongoing project of ours is painting barn quilts. Our homemakers also participated in various cultural arts activities, such as trips to Adsmore Museum, Reitz Museum, Smothers Park, and a new restaurant, the Farmer and the Frenchman.

We performed a community service project in which we made clothing protectors, or bibs, for residents of a nursing home in Calhoun. We plan to do this again for another rest home in Calhoun. McLean County Homemakers contributed baby items to McLean County's World's Greatest Baby Shower.

We held our McLean County Annual Meeting with the theme of, "Our Homemaker Heritage." Homemakers participated in a Show and Tell with vintage items used in the past, or items previously made by homemakers.

We had McLean County Judge Executive Kelly Thurman sign a proclamation recognizing KEHA Week and had a picture of him with some homemaker members in the McLean County news.
