

# Licking River Area Homemakers Report

Our area consists of 10 counties with 1371 members and 71 clubs. We continue to be involved in many activities, and listed below are some highlights of counties during the past year.

Bath County Home Chefs participated in their third annual market cooking school. The products for the event were provided by a grant from the KY Beef Council. A very successful area annual KEHA meeting was hosted by Bath County Homemakers last October.

Bracken County Homemakers hosted a Thanksgiving Luncheon for the Foster Grandparents Organization, which proved to be a nice fundraiser. Some county clubs adopted a classroom and provided treats and gifts for the holidays. A backpack drive was held for students at the beginning of the school year and a coat drive for all ages was held before the winter months arrived. One club held Family Fun Night, with some of the other clubs participating. There were giveaways, games, booths and other activities. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was a big hit with the area children. Santa's Lane was an extravagant indoor holiday display attended by 2000 children and adults, including grade school students, and rest home residents. Many clubs gave donations to the Women's Crisis Center, and the County Food Bank, the Alzheimer's memory walk, Ronald McDonald House and needy families. Each club in the county participated in Winter-Craft, which hosts local artisans at a craft fair, and also at our annual Community Day, which promotes agri-tourism, with tours, exhibits, and a quilt display and a lunch provided by First National Bank. Approximately 500 people attend this event.

Fleming County Homemakers sewed baby blankets for hospitalized children, comfort pillows for surgery patients, tote bags for nursing home residents and assisted and taught 4-Hers needlework skills. Members cooked and served food at Fleming Mason Rural Electric annual meeting; made desserts for Relay for Life, provided and served refreshments at an open house for the local art gallery; cooked and served food at a 2 day shoot for 4-H shooting sports, made cookies and served at a retirement party for our 4-H agent, and provided sandwiches and cookies for a blood drive. Members donated canned goods to the local food pantry, collected items for care packages for soldiers, bought memory bricks for the library Reading Garden, gave scholarships, and items for the Back to School Gala and Women's Crisis Center. Members taught craft classes, started a teen book club, read to elementary students and taught computer classes at the library. One club planned and acted as hostesses at a quilt show at the Covered Bridge Festival. Members worked at the fair registering entries and worked as hostess at the Floral Hall. For Community Christmas, members put up an Angel Trees, purchased gifts and help wrap gifts the day of distribution. Our county homemakers provided "Kids Corner" where children 12 and under could shop for Christmas gifts which were handmade or crafted by a homemaker. With all these activities done for others, we still had time for all the lessons, dinner at various restaurants and trips to places of interest.

Lewis County Homemakers were excited to participate in the University of Kentucky event in October, called 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. The homemakers helped to organize and coordinate the event for the county. On that beautiful Sunday afternoon, homemakers and the community enjoyed walking, playing ball and Frisbee at the local Lions Club Park. From working with this event the walking trail was mapped so that people would know how far they had actually walked. Free maps were available for those in attendance as well as t-shirts and other door prizes throughout the event.

Montgomery County Homemakers held their annual bazaar and this year they made \$3,602.00 similar proceeds earned last year were used by the council and the clubs for diverse purposes including academic scholarships, 4-H camp scholarships, leadership and educational tours, contributions to multiple community projects such as art events, educational displays, and Warm Up Montgomery.

Mason County Homemakers are always willing to help our county become a better and healthier place to live, work and play. We volunteered to help with annual free K.E.E.P. Screening. 58 people were screened and 26 participants found that they needed to see their doctor about a potential problem. In addition, we continue to co-sponsor the annual regional health fair in Mason County. This year 1,099 people participated in this event. Members also supported a Second Sunday event in October to increase awareness for physical activity. The homemakers contribute to local charities through donations of food, money, toys and personal bags to the Food Bank, Women's Crisis Center, and Children's Advocacy Center. We also supported our veterans by decorating a float and participating in the Veterans Day Parade. The UK Ovarian Cancer Screening Program is a long time homemaker project that we have supported for many years, and in 2008, we gave \$4,100.00 to assist with funding this worthwhile project. Our homemaker scholarship program is a primary focus in Mason County. In 2008 we gave 12 \$500.00 scholarships to local students. Other youth volunteer opportunities included judging the annual Area Food-A-Rama for 4-H youth and assisting with the Super Star Chef program. This curriculum was used with the St. Patrick Youth Academy, MCTCS College Career Craze & Camp Discovery Summer Youth Program.

Morgan County Homemakers prepared for the club year with training in September. Some members attended the Robinson Station Field Day at Quicksand and the Morgan County Sorghum Festival in West Liberty as hostesses and staffing for the informational booth. Some homemakers entered the cultural arts contest at the area meeting. The class on cane woven stools and the class on making oval Shaker boxes in Quicksand last fall proved to be fun and profitable. Homemakers at the annual Holiday Fun Day in November taught jewelry making, crocheting, sewing crafts, and quick crafts. Some of these members assisted 4-H children in making some of the same crafts. One club served juice and cookies at the local blood drive. County homemakers continue to strive for more healthy bodies and minds, and Martha Perkins tried to help us by teaching, "Beginning Yoga" in January.

Robertson County Homemakers have continued their tradition of giving back to their community. So far this year they have provided cash donations for a wide variety of worthy causes including funding for a spay/neuter clinic, a Veterans Day parade and dinner, the purchase of school supplies for needy children through the Family Resource Center, and money for craft supplies and toiletries for nursing home residents. They also donated to the local volunteer fire department food bank. The homemakers paid for newspaper subscriptions for our local school and at Christmas they adopted several "angels" off the community Christmas tree. Their most recent project reaches far beyond the county, as they are participating in the KEHA Ghana project.

Rowan County Homemakers continue their service to the community by donating their time and resources. Among the recipients of their talents were Hospice, Rowan County Christmas, Life Care Center, Gateway Homeless Shelter, the public library, the city beautification project and the Foothills Quilt Trail. The Homemakers provided two scholarships for college-bound students and paid for two children to attend 4-H camp. The Town and Country Homemakers club participated in the community Christmas Tree Walk, decorating a tree to be displayed in the conference center. It was voted the best tree and was auctioned for \$150.00. Those funds went to Rowan County Christmas, which provided gifts for underprivileged children.

I want to thank each member of the Licking River Area, and each of our FCS agents, who spend many hours keeping our area running smoothly. A special thank you goes to my area contact agent, Donna Fryman, who has supported me during my three years as area president.

*Janet Meyer*

***Licking River Area President***

Bath, Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason, Menifee,  
Montgomery, Morgan, Robertson, and Rowan Counties