4-H LIFE Program Service Expansion

Second Chance in Action – MU Extension Family Reunification Project
Through a one year subcontract with the Missouri DOC, the MU Extension 4-H LIFE Program is piloting family reunification support for female offenders returning to rural southeast Missouri.

Video Visits
Extension faculty work with the DOC reentry staff, offenders, families and regional Extension faculty to facilitate structured video visits between the offender and the adult the offender will return home to. Topics include: communication, roles, goals and finances. Participating adult and regional Extension staff connects from a local videoconference site. The whole family video visits will be the same as the offender-adult visits listed above; however, would also include age-appropriate activities for each set of approved children.

Post Release Therapeutic Reunification Family Meeting
MU Extension 4-H LIFE program part time staff and consultants provide in person family meetings upon the offender’s release into the community.

Second Chance in Action – Community Reinforcement Approach
Through a one year grant award from the Missouri DOC, the MU Extension 4-H Program staff provided District 12 (Farmington) Community Supervision clients and released Second Chance in Action participants with research-based programming. The participants learned about healthy food choices and community service through experiential nutrition lessons and participant determined projects that benefit others. Programming focused on two Extension curricula:

- Building Strong Families
- Tackling the Tough Skills

National Mentoring Program
Through an annual grant award from the National 4-H Council, the MU Extension 4-H LIFE Program provides technical assistance to land grant university 4-H Programs so that they can replicate the 4-H LIFE Program in their own states. State 4-H Programs receiving one year in National 4-H Council funds to reach children of offenders through the 4-H LIFE Program include Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire and the District of Columbia.

“This was one of the most wonderful, fulfilling days of my life. Do not underestimate your team’s valuable support that has kept this program going through grants, networking and pure perseverance.”

Caregiver who attended the 10 year 4-H LIFE program anniversary event