Creating jobs and healthy communities

The Community Development Program works collaboratively with communities to foster economic development and create capacity for sustainable communities and quality jobs through leadership development, community decision making, community emergency preparedness and focusing on inclusive communities.

Through the **Old North Healthy Community Initiative**, the neighborhood grocery co-op became a viable business offering improved access to fresh, local, affordable and healthy foods in the midst of an urban food desert; supported local farmers and Missouri producers and provided two new jobs at the co-op; and offered education on nutrition and health. The Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Missouri Department of Agriculture have been critical partners.

The **St. Louis Healthy Corner Store Project**, in cooperation with the City of St. Louis, worked with two inner-city neighborhoods and corner stores to remodel, provide education and offer healthy and nutritional foods.

Several communities are working to increase access to food.

- Pilot Grove is working on a community grocery store. At a meeting with 122 attendees, an action committee formed and citizens agreed to provide financial support for the project.
- The Warsaw Market vendors requested expanded hours and will be open on Wednesday evenings, 3 to 7 p.m., in addition to Saturday mornings. The vendors like the new promotional posters and offered to distribute them around the county.
- Keytesville is working to open a retail store with local produce and artisan products.

For more information on any of the programs listed above, please contact your local extension office, Mary Simon Leuci (leucim@missouri.edu, 573-882-2937), or visit the University of Missouri Extension website at [http://extension.missouri.edu](http://extension.missouri.edu/).

University of Missouri Extension provides equal opportunity to all participants in extension programs and activities, and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or status as a protected veteran.