

Enhancing

# Economic viability

University of Missouri Extension in Jackson County accomplishes the university's land-grant mission by delivering reliable, research-based information that you can use in everyday life. Extension specialists improve the competitiveness of Missouri businesses through training and business counseling.



► **CARE: Credit Abuse Resistance Education.** The CARE Program new in 2005 is designed to take credit education into the high school classroom to encourage young people to use credit judiciously from the very beginning. Forty-two bankruptcy judges and attorneys were trained by the Family Financial Education Specialist to present the CARE program. CARE presentations were made to over 800 students in 16 different schools throughout Kansas City.

► **Business Development Program.** In Jackson County, field faculty assisted 425 clients and their companies with business start-up and business management issues. The Career Options program assisted displaced workers in many ways including through the exploration of business ownership. That assistance resulted in: 1165 new jobs; \$5,428,806 sales increases; \$43,179,671 in government contracts; 9 new businesses; 36 job retentions; \$83,721,864 in business loans and investments; prevention of one business failure. In 2005, 301 people participated in business training programs in Jackson County.



► **JCPenny/NFL Charities Workforce Preparation Grant.**

Jackson County 4-H is one of three counties in Missouri sharing a \$30,000 grant to train high school teen-agers and adult team members who will then teach 450 middle school youth in Jackson County job readiness skills. Each middle school youth will receive 20 hours of training to prepare them to enter the workforce.



► **Financial management for individuals on probation and parole.** A three-hour financial management workshop was taught monthly to individuals on probation or parole referred by the court or their probation/parole officers. The focus was to help individuals gain control of their money, including development of a spending plan, tracking expenses and setting realistic financial goals. In 2005, 54 individuals participated in the workshops. Additionally, 47 Probation and Parole Officers from the Greater Kansas City area participated in an in-depth financial management workshop to better prepare them to assist their clients with financial management issues.

► **Rent Smart.** A program designed to provide practical education to help people acquire and keep decent rental housing, was presented to clients residing at the Hillcrest Ministries transitional living facility in Independence. The four session program was presented three different times through 2005 and involved 24 households who were preparing to move out on their own.