November 2012

Dear Friend of Extension:

You have a chance to make a positive impact on the quality of life in Greene County by giving monetarily to the Greene County Extension Center this month. **Your gift will help keep Extension programming in Greene County during 2013.** This is also your opportunity to help kick-start the newly formed “Friends of Greene County Extension” efforts. Donors like you can also receive great benefits from both the local extension center and the University of Missouri.

Since 1914, Greene County residents have sought help from Extension in areas related to agriculture, gardening, 4-H, nutrition, cooking, families, and business and community development. In many cases, our programming is offered free or at reduced rates. When all of the various Extension programs are considered collectively, it is easy to see the positive impact Extension has had, and continues to have, on the overall quality of life in Greene County.

Unfortunately, county funding has dried up and we need help from people like you to continue Extension in Greene County. For the past two years, local funding for Extension has been 90% below the requested level for office operations. We can’t continue to operate without your help.

Greene County Extension has enjoyed strong funding from the County Commission for many decades. In fact, the Commission supported Extension in 2010 by giving the Springfield-Greene County Park Board $400,000 for the construction of the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center. That building is now home to the Greene County Extension Center, but our county budget, which funds things like a secretary, phones, and copy paper, has been reduced to 1961 levels. It should come as no surprise to anyone that the result has been program cutbacks and staff layoffs. We have reserve funding to make it through part of 2013.

But that is where you — and other people like you — come in. This is your chance to send a message of support with a monetary gift to the Greene County Extension Fund at the University of Missouri. **When you give online or with the enclosed card, 100% of your gift will be made available to the Greene County Extension Council to help fund office operations.**

During 2011, over 30,000 residents of Greene County received unbiased and research-based information, assistance or education through the Greene County Extension Center. The staff and specialists at the Greene County office are dedicated to public service and helping to meet the goals and mission of University of Missouri Extension.
Members of the Greene County Extension Council as well as professional staff in the Greene County office have already contributed monetarily to this effort. Now, it is your turn to support Greene County Extension!

Best of all, this is your chance to support a project that will positively impact the quality of life in Springfield and Greene County.

**If you don’t already know about Greene County Extension you can learn more about our programs online at extension.missouri.edu/greene.**

You will also find a pledge card enclosed that you can return with your tax deductible gift.

Your support is truly appreciated and will help **University of Missouri Extension** meet its fundraising goal. If you would like to know more about the corporate sponsorships that are available, please call me at (417) 881-8909.

Sincerely,

David L. Burton  
Civic Communication Specialist  
County Program Director

**PS:** There is a video explaining the impact of MU Extension in Greene County and the importance of your gift on YouTube. The video, entitled “Stepping Up to the Challenge” can also be found on our website at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene.

**PSS:** Please support **Extension locally** by providing monetary support to the Greene County Extension Fund through the University of Missouri. You can give online or use the card that is enclosed with this mailing.