

The goal of the **Brown County** Urban 4-H Programs is to bring 4-H to youth who may not be able to find it on their own.

4-H Afterschool in Brown County is a cooperative effort between the Green Bay Area Public Schools (through 21C funding),



Boys and Girls Clubs of Green Bay and the Green Bay Area YMCA. These organizations oversee each site. There are 10 elementary and 2 middle schools whose after school programs are funded by the 21C grant. All of these schools exhibit a high incidence of poverty as well as low academic achievement scores. Brown County's Urban 4-H Program has offered a variety of curricular formats to the after school programs during the school year. During the school-year, K through 5th graders met with 4-H leaders weekly for at least 8 weeks but this varies each year. Grades K-2 always meet separately and use different curriculum than the older 4-Hers. All curriculum used is designed toward hands on learning and academic enrichment. 4-H Afterschool in Brown County has designed curriculum to meet the needs of the youth and the goals of the 21C grant. Examples are:

- Art Adventures: (all ages) Using Palette of Fun with Arts and Crafts
- Caldecott Explorations: (all ages) Exploring great illustrators with hands-on-activities
- 4-H Mini-Society: (grades 4-5) Entrepreneurial education
- Cooking Up Some Good Books: (all ages) Good books, good nutrition and cooking.

- 4-H Adventures in Peacemaking (all ages) Teamwork and cooperation.
- 4-H Nature Rangers (grades 3-5) Youth learn about the natural world around them and explore a local wildlife sanctuary
- 4-H Hands on Science: (grades 2-5) Hands on Science discovery and science enrichment.

4-H Afterschool in Brown County is led by trained students from local colleges and universities, 4-H staff and community volunteers. The 21C partnership coordinators have seen the value of our



curriculum. We were asked to develop "Cloverbuds in a Box" type activities that can be picked up and used by the staff working with Cloverbud-age youth. These activities are based around a good book and provide 1 hour of enrichment with a good book, games, hands-on-activities, and possibly cooking and crafts. On a regular basis, we provide training in the use of the curriculum and positive youth development for the staff who will be working with the boxes.

Through the generosity of a local church, we provide full scholarships to Camp Bird 4-H Camp for 10-20 youth each year. This provides a camping experience for



children who would never be able to afford it.

This experience has been an ongoing; and the

"older" youth are now anticipating both

dishwasher and counselor positions. Because of

the timing of the Brown County Fair, the youth

have been unable to exhibit at the fair for the past few years; however, they exhibit locally during a "mock" fair at our Summer 4-H Program. The summer 4-Hers also prepare an exhibit for the fair in the schools category.

A major challenge in after-school is attendance consistency. To help with this, we do not allow new enrollments after week two of each session. Still, with kids and families schedules, attendance can be sporadic, making consistency with the youth difficult. As is common in the at-risk schools, parental involvement in youth programming is limited. This makes a transition in 4-H community clubs nearly impossible. We have had only one family make the transition.

Because we have been programming in after school and summer for 6 years, we have been able to develop some long-term relationships with some pretty terrific kids. Some of those youth are now in high school and have become our teen mentors for the younger 4-Hers. In addition, we have re-discovered the value of a 4-Her -----
4-H Alumni, both from here and around the state have volunteered to help in the programs. Because of their strong commitment to 4-H, as well as their refined leadership skills, they are my best and most committed volunteers.