

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

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EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



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When you
support
Extension,
volunteer
leaders apply
skills to improve
the quality
of life for
individuals and
families in the
community.



Kentucky Extension Homemakers respond to the emergency needs of the community after flooding devastated the Red Bush Community in Johnson County.

Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association Impacts Lives Locally Through Community Service

The Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA) is a volunteer organization that works to improve the quality of life for families and communities through leadership development, volunteer service and education.



The Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA) impacts lives locally and globally through education, leadership and volunteer service. With 14,692 members statewide, KEHA engages in projects and activities at the club, county, state and international levels.

As volunteer leaders, Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA) members willingly give of their time for projects that address community needs. Reports for 2014-2015 documented more than 220,000 hours of volunteer service for Extension-sponsored activities and more than 322,000 hours of volunteer service for community projects.

The flood of 2015 was devastating in many communities, particularly in **Johnson County**. Members of the Red Bush Homemakers Club worked with the Red Bush Community Center to provide support for 500 victims impacted by devastating flooding. KEHA members helped to prepare and provide meals for flood victims and first responders, serving approximately 300 people each day for two weeks. Food, clothing, and cleaning supplies were donated through the **Johnson County** and Northeast Area Extension Homemakers Associations, and members of the Red Bush Club assisted the Community Center with distribution of donated items.

In **Todd County**, Extension Homemakers responded to a request from the local Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) Program to provide blankets for children and infants. In total, **Todd County** Extension Homemakers made 30 baby blankets and 50 fleece blankets. The blankets were distributed to the HANDS Program, the Department for Community Based Services and first responders in the county. Reports from the sheriff's department and the Department for Community Based Services chronicled how the blankets provided comfort and encouragement to children during difficult times.

Meade County Extension Homemakers worked to increase understanding of food insecurity in their community while also generating donations for local food pantries. Through local media and social media, Meade County Extension Homemakers worked with the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent



Todd County Homemakers provide first responders and community service professionals with blankets used to comfort children during difficult times.



Meade County Homemakers coordinate food collection for distribution by local food pantries and use in the backpack program.

to educate the community regarding food insecurity statistics and needs of **Meade County** families. The marquee event of the project was a soup supper and cake auction to raise funds and collect food donations for local food pantries. The event raised more than \$2,100 and collected hundreds of pounds of donated food and other items. The work to reduce hunger and food insecurity continues, and more than \$70,000 has been generated to support local food banks and the backpack for hunger program for youth.

These stories highlight three of the many volunteer service projects KEHA members lead throughout Kentucky which address community needs.