

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

4-H Youth Programs | Family & Community Development | Agriculture & Horticulture Environment & Energy | Nutrition, Health, Safety & Financial Education

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### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Annual reports give us an opportunity to examine the year in reflection. As I pause to consider what we have accomplished in 2024, I cannot help but conclude: CCE Tompkins' most defining quality is its forward-looking vision.

Together with our federal, state, and local partners, our amazing volunteers, and exceptional staff, we are moving forward with programs, collaborations, and initiatives that anticipate needs of the community, prepare for the future, and build upon the strength of our greatest assets, our people. Surely, in the face of adversity and uncertainty, it is our people, our community, our partners, and our vision that provide the nourishment to continue and thrive.

In these pages you'll find a summary of our programs' impacts and accomplishments. Our parenting programs offer cutting-edge, researchbased training to local families and professionals, and 4-H youth development programs are one of the first life connections that one may have with CCE. We help foster change for a strong future workforce, and we enrich our community health and wellness through social care integration. Educators connect communities through nutrition, life skills, and financial education. We celebrate our work participating in parades, festivals, and community events (Duck Race!), and we celebrate each other (of note, one of our educators was recognized as a New York Times Changemaker!). Whether by conducting soil samples for research or teaching people to compost, CCE Tompkins is in all parts of our community living out our mission, vision, and values.

Please enjoy and celebrate 2024 while we continue our impact into 2025 knowing CCE will remain responsive to our community, nimble, and resourceful in its program development. Join us to serve together collaboratively with our partners, volunteers, and staff. Thank you!

#### Cynthia Cave-Gaetani Executive Director

Cover: a local youth colors examples of healthy food in all the colors of the rainbow; Earth Day Festival crowds enjoy chili made on an induction cooktop powered by our electric truck; jars of homemade jam cool following a food preservation class; Primitive Pursuits campers hike a 4-H Acres trail.

# **2024 Finance Overview**

### Financial Support & Funding Sources

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Tompkins County leverages local tax dollars to benefit the county's economic well-being and to invest in the quality of life of its residents. For 2024, CCE Tompkins County received direct support from sources such as grants and contracts, Cornell University, federal resources, fees, as well as both cash and in-kind donations which include volunteer time. Calculations are based on end of year financial statements and are stated in percentages for clarity.

# 2024 Revenue: \$8,381,394



Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The association is part of the national Cooperative Extension System, an educational partnership between County, State, and Federal governments. As New York's land grant university, Cornell administers the system in this state. Each Cornell Cooperative Extension association is an independent employer, governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell University. All associations work to meet the needs of the counties in which they are located, as well as state and national goals.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws.

*Our Mission:* We put knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping families and our community thrive in our rapidly changing world.

*Our Vision*: Individuals, families, and communities thrive, live well, and reach their potential in Tompkins County.

# **4-H Programs** Provide Growth and Connections

Tompkins County's 4-H Youth Development programs provide a space to experience new things, connect with friends and mentors, explore hobbies and interests, and engage thoughtfully with the world. Youth have unforgettable experiences in traditional 4-H activities, creative games and artistic experiences, nature immersion programs, and more!

Local 4-H youth connect with programs in four unique areas: **4-H Clubs, Primitive Pursuits and Ithaca Forest Preschool, Rural Youth Services,** and **Urban Outreach.** 

**4-H Clubs** in 2024 had ten active groups, with 136 youth — including 59 first year members — learning together about botany, animals, public speaking, photography, cooking, robotics, and more. Given the growth this year, 4-H staff started a dialogue with volunteer leaders, discussing ways to meet challenges and create a space for belonging, community engagement, and shared goals. Like youth, our volunteers need to feel valued and heard to have a successful and meaningful experience in 4-H.

At the **Tompkins County 4-H Youth Fair**, 22 youth showcased 169 exhibits and showed 77 animals, including cows, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, and dogs. Thirtyeight exhibits were selected to go on to the NY State Fair. Youth brought home one red ribbon, 25 blue ribbons, and recognition for four Cloverbud projects — as well as three Purple Rosettes, the highest honor offered.

**Primitive Pursuits** programs for ages 3-17 provide connections to nature — imparting wilderness skills and self-confidence as youth explore with their peers. Day camps focus on games, crafts, and firebuilding or more advanced skills such as archery and hide-tanning. A Mentor-in-Training program prepares youth to teach and lead activities with instructors. Overnight camps provide a full week-long experience, with archery, hiking, carving, basket-making, and more!

Primitive Pursuits served over 650 youth from 15 states in 2024, providing \$20,000 in scholarship funds and over \$5,000 of free programming through Reparation Fee Waivers. Ithaca Forest Preschool continued to provide nature experiences and a sense of wonder for ages 3-5 — a total of 540 hours of nature connections.

**Rural Youth Services** (RYS) offers free after school, school break and summer programs to youth across Tompkins County. These provide a place to belong and take risks in a supportive environment while developing trusting relationships with adults and peers.

In 2024, RYS reached 896 youth through programs totaling over 4,033 hours throughout the year. RYS

From top: 4-H Botany Besties Club repots flowers; Primitive Pursuits campers "casting spells" with handmade wands; 4-H Summer Olympics participants learn to kayak from RYS Lansing Program Educator Travis.

Youth Employment Programs helped 18 teens find summer jobs, and over 100 youth attended Enfield and Groton summer camps.

The highlight of the year was the **RYS Summer Olympics**. Over four days, youth from seven municipalities competed in a variety of activities and games. Scores were assigned based on teamwork, kindness, and evidence of positive youth development. Participants reported feeling successful and more likely to try new things by the end — the top suggestion for next year was they wished it could be longer than four days!

### Urban Outreach successfully returned

to provide free after school enrichment programs in the City of Ithaca. Members participated in projects that emphasized life skills, leadership, and civic responsibility, allowing youth to explore their passions while developing valuable practical and social skills.

Over the summer, program director Taylor organized **Tompkins Explorers**, a four day session that included trips to Taughannock Falls State Park, Treman State Park, Myers Park, and the Ithaca Farmers Market. At each location, youth immersed themselves in the beauty of Tompkins County — hiking, learning to fish, talking with local farmers about sustainable agriculture and local food, and sharing traditional recipes as they made food together.



### 4-H Duck Race Returns to Ithaca

Supporters flocked to Cascadilla Creek for the 21st 4-H Duck Race, the first held in person since 2019. They enjoyed games, refreshments and more leading to the duck drop at the Cascadilla Gorge Trail, where rubber ducks tumbled over the falls in a race to the finish line.

All 3,000 rubber ducks were purchased, resulting in over \$14,500 raised to support 4-H programs all over Tompkins County — afterschool activities, clubs, summer camps, the 4-H Youth Fair and other opportunities for young people.

We are grateful for the dozens of prizes donated by local businesses and individuals and to primary sponsors Cayuga Radio Group, Cayuga Health, New Delhi Diamond's and Yoga Farm Ithaca.

Note: All rubber ducks are collected and counted at the end of the event!

#### FAMILY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT >>

# **Connecting Families** through Workshops & Community Resources

#### CCE Tompkins' Family & Community Development (F&CD)

**team** offers compassionate, supportive spaces for parents and caregivers of all backgrounds. Skill-training workshops are complemented by regular events for families to share food, make crafts, play games, and talk.

Classes and events, most offered free with support from the County Department of Social Services and the New York State Office of Children & Family Services, welcomed over 400 participants in 2024.

- **P.S. It Works!** teaches five crucial communications skills and this year implemented a 2 Gen version to include both parents and children.
- **Parents Apart®** provides resources for parents to help their children adjust to divorce and/or separation.
- Parenting Styles explores why we parent the way

2Gen P.S.: It Works! continued to grow as a new and novel version of our communications skills workshops. After sharing a family meal, parents and their children ages 6-10 learn from our educators separately before coming together to practice their new skills. Two in-person series were piloted in 2024, with 14 families – 23 adults and 19 youth – receiving certificates of completion.

The Family Playgroup also debuted in 2024, providing social interaction and decreasing isolation for caregivers and children ages 1-4. During three six-week series, participants joined for bilingual story time, songs, Baby Doll Circle Time™, and healthy snack preparation and discussion. Over the three series, **the** Family Playgroup welcomed 54 parents and 66 youth.



Snack time during the Family Play Group.

we do through the lens of child development, environmental and cultural influences, and parenting styles.

- **Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA),** designed for kinship caregivers including grandparents and other relatives as caregivers.
- **Thriving with Your Spirited Child** provides resources and tools to parents/guardians of spirited children for dealing effectively with their child's temperamental traits.

**Stronger Together** weekend programs are open to all families and include free dinner, crafts, games, snacks, and other activities planned and led by F&CD staff. Each family receives a free gift, and the theme connects with protective factors or other parenting skills. In 2024, 87 families — over 200 people — joined in!

The **Youth Game Club** continued as a place for youth ages 7+ to play tabletop games together, share a favorite game, and enjoy snacks. Over 70 local parents and children attended.

**Coalition for Families** meetings focus on a relevant topic through a lunchtime conversation featuring a guest speaker. Held monthly, these are open to caregivers, professionals, and anyone looking for family resources available in our community. Meeting themes in 2024 included ADHD in children, safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ youth, preventing risky behaviors, and more.



# **Composting** to Turn Food Scraps into Healthy Soil

The Compost Education Program encourages county residents to compost food and yard waste in easy, cost effective, and responsible ways. This supports the Tompkins County Department of Recycling and Materials Management to divert compostable materials from the waste stream and maximize waste reduction. The Compost Program recruits, trains, and supports Master Composters to carry out much of this work.

At events and festivals in 2024, Master Composters spoke to over 2,000 people and diverted over 14,000 pounds of food scraps. Over 130 emails, texts, and calls to the "Rotline" offered the chance for personal advice and instruction. Program staff reached an additional 700 youth and adults by providing educational workshops and public classes. These were held at schools, churches, colleges, residential coops, area nonprofits, and CCE Tompkins County.

New efforts included composting and education at Ithaca Porchfest and the Heritage Fiesta. The Program Manager led a session at Cornell's Ag In-service Conference, reaching colleagues from around New York. We also brought back our popular Bokashi Composting class!

**84** active Master Composters in 2024 (including 16 new)

**4,000** Tompkins County residents reached



Master Composters lead a workshop in the demonstration area at CCE Tompkins; program leader Adam Michaelides shows his vermiculture (worm compost) bin.



With the help of CCE Tompkins, Mildred Alvarado and Ricardo Orellana found a 77-acre farm in Caroline, which they are currently under contract to buy. The former dairy farm will have a new life as a diversified fruit and vegetable farm which will aim to meet the growing demand for fresh ethnic produce for NY's Latino communities.

# **Protecting Land** for Local Farmers

Agricultural land doesn't produce food — or keep its status as farmland — without the care, dedication, and time it takes for local growers to farm on it. Much of the farmland protection work that CCE Tompkins staff do, therefore, centers around connecting those who are interested in farming to the spaces available for producing local food. That is, the work is as much about farmland access as it is about farmland protection.

Last year, we provided direct assistance to 16 farmers seeking land in the Ithaca area. This included connecting people to possible opportunities for buying or leasing farmland, providing information about loan options and lease rates, facilitating connections with legal services and other ag services providers, and providing lease templates and review of draft leases to help support farmers to have secure and equitable land access.

We also provided **direct support to 20 landowners seeking to lease or sell their land to a farmer**, and established a program to connect landowners in Tompkins County with state grant funding for farmland protection.

### Community Beautification by the Numbers

728 Volunteer Hours 62 volunteer sessions 380+ perennials planted 4,700+ annuals grown ~3,000 annuals planted, remainder shared with the community













People gathered in the Ithaca Farmers Market for the Plant Sale; Master Gardener Volunteers Maritza and Mary staff a raffle booth; Tracy speaks about the Growline and local resources; rows of herbs ready to take home; one participant's wagon of new plantings; Irene brought her family — three generations of Plant Sale participants — to the 2024 event.

# 42nd Garden Fair & Plant Sale

At the popular annual event, over 30 vendors brought plants, food, and gardening-related goods. Master Gardener Volunteers offered soil pH testing and information on topics ranging from native plants to vegetable garden design, and were available to answer questions that customers might have as they moved through the sale. **Many of our 75 active Master Gardener Volunteers were in attendance, offering over 100 varieties of perennials for sale!** 

### Last year we had 26 events in our Horticulture Education Program,

including a four-part series on food ' preservation throughout the year. Between all of the events, there were more than 400 registrations, and most of our small workshops sold out.

Seed starting, mushroom growing, foraging, and food preservation were some of our most popular topics, showing our community's interest in growing, finding, and preserving their own food.





Instructor Tara Morgan leading a foraging walk; a parent and child make strawberry jam together in the CCE Tompkins teaching kitchen.



Inés Versage's son Ramón and husband Dominic standing with the Commons fountain beautification planting.

# Honoring Inés: a Life Filled with Flowers

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A special beautification project on the Commons honored Inés Versage, a member of the community for nearly 60 years. During her life of service, Inés worked with and hosted international students and was a popular Spanish teacher and tutor. Inés was known for her passion for flowers, taking pride in her gardens and the work she put into cultivating them and filling her home with flowers. Given this passion, her family collected donations to create a public planting in her memory.

"The work that you do putting flowers into public spaces is something that she would have loved," her son Ramón shared. "By us having people donate to the beautification project now and in the future, we will be in effect giving flowers to everyone else who can appreciate them."

With donor support, Community Beautification purchased a stunning array of plants with a variety of colors and textures. We are grateful for the donations from those who loved Inés and honored to create the planting in her honor.

# Earth Day Festival Celebrates Sustainability

While Tompkins County is home to many sustainabilityminded individuals and groups, we have not had a largescale Earth Day celebration for years. Last spring, our Energy & Climate Change program decided to change that. **Collaborating with 23 partners and extension colleagues, we planned and carried out an all-new Earth Day Festival — five hours of weekend programming that reached over 1,000 community members.** 

Hosted in collaboration with the City of Ithaca, the Earth Day Festival highlighted the breadth of our Association's work, bringing together environmentallyfocused partners throughout the county, highlighting the city and town's Green New Deal efforts, and generating community momentum around climate action.

The festival celebrated clean energy, municipal climate efforts, youth education, car-free and electric transportation, composting, a mending circle, and a free clothing swap. In addition to exhibitors, vendors sold food, a local radio station played music powered by our all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning, and a puppet show and face painter engaged families. We also worked with TCAT to provide free rides on all routes throughout the day.

Based on overwhelmingly positive feedback, the Energy & Climate Change Team is planning to continue the Earth Day Festival in 2025 and beyond.

Board of Directors President Ann Michel speaks at the Earth Day Festival; participants enjoy the Clean Energy Communities "Cornhole Cooperative Extension" game; Community Energy Advisors speak about home upgrade incentives.



# 1840s house gets new insulation thanks to EmPower+

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John Graves and his wife used to struggle with a cold home in the winter and an overworked AC in the summer. **Help from Smart Energy Choices, as** well as state assistance, was able to get him needed insulation and comfort all year round.

"When we first moved in about 35 years ago, none of the windows had been updated except for the kitchen and the back door," he said. "[An uninsulated crawlspace] made it very uncomfortable in the winter...



So, from the beginning, we've been trying to figure out how to take care of that."

Luckily, John found his solution in a talk at the local library about recent green energy advancements and assistance programs. Even after Cozy Basements trainees insulated the rim joists in his basement, there was still work to be done. CCE Tompkins' Community Energy Advisor Jack connected John to EmPower+, a state program that helps residents make energyrelated upgrades to their homes.

John applied for EmPower+, had a free energy audit done, and worked with a local contractor to install a moisture barrier in the basement's crawlspace, insulate the attic, and air seal other areas of the home — all at no cost.

Now that their biggest headache is over, John and his wife are looking to explore even more energy efficiency improvements. **Read the full story at SmartEnergyChoices.org.** 

John Graves speaks about the new insulation in his South Hill basement.

### Energy & Climate Change Team Highlights

- The Lansing Non-Pipes Alternatives Program hosted or attended 33 community events, reaching ~800 local residents from Lansing and the surrounding area about their clean energy options.
- The **Clean Energy Communities** program brought over \$1.5 million in funding to Tompkins County municipalities for energy upgrades.
- The **Climate Smart Communities** program completed Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience

Plans with the Towns of Newfield and Dryden.

- The **Smart Energy Choices** Regional Clean Energy Hub held 30 events in Tompkins County, reaching 1,656 people and leading to 58 high-impact actions. Throughout the Southern Tier, staff reached nearly 9,000 people through 233 events.
- The *PowerHouse* tiny home and education center was featured at 31 events throughout the region and was visited by 4,788 people.

# **Training the Green Workforce** & Making Local Homes Cozier

Energy Warriors: Green Career Pathways is a growing program to connect Tompkins County residents with training, knowledge, and practical skills to join the green career workforce. The training series is based in Roots of Success, a nationally-recognized environmental literacy curriculum; field trips and hands-on work help participants gain familiarity and comfort with technology and skills needed in the green economy.

The program prioritizes climate justice communities those unequally burdened by the negative impacts of climate change — as well as those facing barriers to employment. Participants are paid for their time and connected with employers at the end of the course. Training is tailored to the career goals or interests of those who enroll as they develop familiarity with heat pumps, solar arrays, insulation and weatherization, reuse practices, and other clean energy sectors.

A key part of the training has been the **Cozy Basements** program, which provides hands-on supervised training for Energy Warriors as they seal the rim joists of local low-income households. As a result, 57 local homes have been made more comfortable and energy-efficient while Energy Warriors participants learn about air sealing and insulation best practices.



Cozy Basements project work at AME Zion Church, a historic building that has hosted Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman, and other distinguished Black leaders.

In September, program director Aloja Airewele was named a **New York Times Changemaker and invited to present his work at the NYT Climate Forward Event**. A Changemaker is an "accomplished climate leader responding to the crisis in new, creative ways."

Energy Warriors continues to enroll for 2025, looking to welcome the largest incoming cohort so far and developing plans to expand outside Tompkins County.

# A Fond Farewell to the **Way2Go Transportation Hub**

After 16 years of serving Tompkins County and the surrounding area, the **Way2Go mobility management program closed on December 31**. Our work focused on sustainable and shared transportation options and breaking down barriers to access.

We are proud of our work over the years assisting youth, elders, students, commuters, new English speakers, those with disabilities, new residents, and more with up to date transportation navigation information; providing hands on travel training; securing free TCAT bus passes for all Tompkins County youth; hosting AARP Smart Driver classes; making and sharing videos about how to use TCAT, Gadabout, Ithaca Carshare and Bikeshare and navigate trip planner apps; providing classes on buying an EV or used car; and getting feedback from county residents on barriers and solutions to transportation access.



Our used car mechanics/EV workshop taught in Spanish this year; Way2Go and CCE colleagues in the Ithaca Festival Parade.

#### NUTRITION, HEALTH, SAFETY & FINANCIAL EDUCATION >>

# **Nutrition & Healthy Living** through Supportive Community Programs

Our **Teaching and Commercial Kitchens** provided over a thousand hours of rental space to 14 small food business owners representing a wide diversity of culinary traditions. The kitchens also provide a place for CCE Tompkins programs to host events related to nutrition, cooking, and local food.

We continued to provide support and evaluation to the **Produce Prescription Program (PRx)**, now run regionally through the Rural Health Network. Over 350 participants enrolled in a four-county region (50 in Tompkins County) through a USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) grant, with additional enrollees covered by other sources.

Through support by the Carman and Sandra Brink Hill Fund via the Community Foundation of Tompkins County, we launched new programs at Trumansburg Elementary School and Ithaca's Beverly J. Martin Elementary School. We taught 130 students about Black and Indigenous Food Culture, Cooking, and Nutrition through our new curricula **Foods of the African Diaspora**, and **Three Sisters: Indigenous Food and Culture**.

In December we launched the **Healthy Eating Support Community** to provide non-judgmental support for the practical, social, and emotional challenges faced by those seeking to make sustainable dietary change. The

# Health-related social needs, such as food, housing, and transportation insecurity, have a

as food, housing, and transportation insecurity, have a significant impact on health outcomes. In recognition of this, health and social care providers across the country have been seeking to increase collaboration and bridge gaps to provide more holistic care.

Locally, CCE Tompkins' Social Resource Navigator (SRN) Program has employed pre-health Cornell undergrads to reach out to patients of Cayuga Health primary care practices to connect these patients with community resources. Close collaborations with Cayuga Health and Cornell's Office of Academic Diversity



group meets every other Thursday, and we are seeking funds to expand the program throughout Tompkins County.

We continued to provide education around life skills, personal finances, and emotional regulation for those attending Day Reporting\* — an alternative to incarceration that offers education to

individuals who qualify as low risk. We have been providing guidance to Columbia University in their role developing



Nutrition Director Craig Livermore with the YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County's Walk with Ease group.

workplace wellness courses for the CCE system.

We are conducting a needs assessment around **youth mental health** in Tompkins County, working with ICSD, TST BOCES, clinicians, and community members.

We also met with community members who were looking for advice on **household finances**. As a team we are motivated to provide support to anyone facing challenges related to the social determinants of health.

Initiatives have been crucial to the program's success.

This year involved planning for major changes for health and social care integration locally and statewide. Tompkins County providers — convened by Cayuga Health and the Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County — planned for the launch of the **Community Health & Resource Network**, which will allow primary care providers within Cayuga Health's network and an initial cohort of 15 community-based organizations to coordinate more effectively. The SRN program will be the first point of contact for all referrals from healthcare providers, helping to bridge providers and connect community members to care that addresses unmet health-related social needs.

At the same time, NY began building infrastructure for its **1115 Waiver** demonstration project, which funds new social services for certain Medicaid members statewide. The SRN program will be one of the programs providing social care navigation services to these Medicaid members as part of this project.

Through integration into the Community Health & Resource Network and the 1115 Waiver work, the SRN program will be institutionalized in a key role in our local and statewide approach to addressing community health holistically and equitably.

Social Resource Navigators gather for a group photo to celebrate their successes.

SNAP-Ed NY continued to empower individuals and families to make healthy food choices on a limited budget by providing practical tools, tips, and resources for shopping, cooking, and living an active lifestyle. Our programs are tailored to meet the needs of individuals, families with children, older adults, and all ages in between. Whether in schools, community centers, or online platforms, we offer our programs at no cost to participants. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve health, reduce food insecurity, and address hunger in the SNAP-eligible population through nutrition education. By building stronger connections with local communities, SNAP-Ed aims to make healthy living more accessible and sustainable, helping individuals and families thrive. In 2024, our nutritionists reached 1,053 participants through workshops, cooking classes, food demos, grocery store tours, and community events, helping to make the healthy choice the easy choice.



Families make healthy snacks with support from Nutrition Educator Tina.



Youth at the Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC) afterschool program make colorful fruit kabobs; a SNAP-Ed Nutritionist is prepares egg burritos with participants at the Tompkins County DSS Day Reporting Program.

### The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

(EFNEP) collaborated to deliver adult nutrition education for Amici House, CCE's Tompkins Families! and Strengthening Families programs, Dryden Elementary School, Hasbrouck Housing, Ithaca City School District, Open Doors, Tompkins Mental Health's PROS program, and individual home visits. From these partnerships EFNEP worked with 85 families — 303 family members and 40 youth. Nutrition educators also led classes for youth groups at Beverly J. Martin Elementary, Dryden Elementary, Groton Public Library, and at our education center. Two of these groups included both parents and kids cooking and learning about nutrition together.

Participants in EFNEP take a series of at least six sessions that include cooking and interactive activities on nutrition, food resource management, food safety, and physical activity. They complete pre/post surveys that ask questions on their family's behaviors around the above-mentioned topics. These surveys showed improvements in cooking skills, dietary quality and food resource management as well as food security.

\*Nutrition, Health Safety, & Financial Education has had a long affiliation with Tompkins County Probation. Their Day Reporting program is an alternative to incarceration that offers educational opportunities Monday-Friday mornings to individuals who qualify as low risk. Our educators have provided classes on Interactive Journaling, Emotional Regulation, Financial Literacy, and Nutrition. There is consistently positive feedback from the participants. At the request of the Probation Director, Dan Cornell, we are expanding our Emotional Regulation program to include those in the general probation population. The first of these classes, 12 modules presented over six weekly sessions, began in January 2025.

### Did you know?

Throughout the warmer months, our Master Gardener volunteers care for a variety of demonstration gardens located around our building. Come by and check them out!

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