

# EXTENSION TRENDS: TWIN FALLS COUNTY

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## 2020 By the Numbers

- **5,976** direct contacts
- **4,157** youth participants
- **881** volunteers

## UI Extension Educators



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## 2020 Impact

The Southern Idaho Master Gardener program donated 1,873 hours of volunteer service for a value of almost \$51,000. Five new Master Gardener volunteers completed their hours for certification in 2020. Collaborative efforts with UI Extension pathologists and specialists are providing opportunities for publications that will be coming out in the near future on topics like verticillium wilt, fire blight, and late blight.

Educator Siew Guan Lee partnered with University of Georgia Extension to pilot live cooking sessions, Virtual Cooking Club: Kids in the Kitchen. In a time of social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this virtual cooking program provided a great opportunity to get children into the kitchen to prepare meals with their parent/guardian and in community with other youth without leaving home. Eat Smart Idaho partnered with the CSI Refugee Center to bring the Eating Smart and Moving More classes to new participants. Topics cover healthy eating, food resource management, food safety and ways to stay physically active. Eat Smart Idaho also developed a new partnership with the community of Hollister and a new Healthy Hawks Pantry at the Hollister Grange Hall. The Hollister School is also a recipient of the work that Eat Smart Idaho provides with the Smarter Lunchroom Movement and Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness classes.

## 4-H in Twin Falls County

The Hansen School District continues to be the largest partner for 4-H community outreach. Three AmeriCorps instructors provided a total of 84 hours of educational out-of-school programs to 269 youth. Topics included Cooking Under Pressure, Environmental Science, Life Smarts, and Mars Base Camp Challenge. Additional programs included Acres of Adventure, Crime and Spy, Electricity, and Art Science.

Educator Suzann Dolecheck worked with 7th grade science teachers at South Hills Middle School to develop a unique opportunity for students to dissect a variety of animals utilizing the Dabble in Dissection curriculum. This program provided the opportunity for students to focus on the digestive systems in each species and identify similarities and differences across the animal kingdom.

After distributing a survey to assess the needs of the homeschool families in the Magic Valley, AmeriCorps instructors developed Homeschool with Us utilizing specific 4-H curriculum to provide quality experiential learning opportunities during the weekday.

## On the Horizon

Educators Siew Guan Lee and Andy West are collaborating on a community gardens project in Twin Falls with the goal of increasing access to fresh produce and providing an opportunity for increased physical activity for youth and their families.