



A Few Words from President Donna Zarovy

Dear Kenosha HCE Members:

Hi Everyone – I had a very busy, fruitful, and fun packed summer. How about you? My daughter and I planted lots of pots of flowers, even tried our hand at “stock tank” gardening, eight flower beds, and hanging baskets – all because of purchasing Milaeger’s Money for the scholarship fund. Thanks to everyone we were able to once again give out two scholarships to college students. THANK YOU to those who purchased the certificates and thanks to all the scholarship entries. We plan to do this again in 2026. So start your garden plans now.



Pat P., Ruth R, and I attended the Southeast District meeting in Fond du Lac County on Wednesday, October 15th. There were members from all six counties in our district there. Much information was shared about the counties, the standing committees, and we enjoyed the company of friends old and new. Kenosha County will be hosting the next Southeast District meeting on April 15th. It will be held at the Village of Bristol Municipal Building. The JJ’s HCE Club will serve as hostesses. You will receive more information about attending and how you can help at the January Association Meeting.



I am pleased to announce that Alana Perez-Valliere from the Kenosha County Extension Office will now be our HCE Educator. Her specialty is helping families and individuals across the state achieve financial well-being, where they have control over day-to-day and month-to-month finances, have money to pay for financial emergencies, stay on track to reach financial goals, and have the financial freedom to make choices that allow them to enjoy life. She expressed a desire to do a program for us next year, too.

Alana briefly attended our September Board Meeting where she introduced herself and is enthusiastic to assist us wherever she can. Her email is alana.perezvalliere@wisc.edu She is not new to Kenosha County as (when I was still working) she started with the Kenosha Racine Nutrition Education Program as a nutrition educator. Alana was great to work with and loves helping people. I look forward to reacquainting with her and her insights for our program will be welcome.

There are lots of great articles in this newsletter from clubs and committees. Please take time to read them and *if you are interested*, we could use an Extension Line editor and staff to create the newsletter, make copies and distributed to members. Sign up on the Committee Sign-up sheet at Fall Focus. I have a jump drive with lots of info and old issues to pass on.

Congratulations to 65-year members Dorothy M. and Rosella W., Mary Ellen P. 30 years, Sandra W. 20 years, Regina L. 15 years, and Mayva F. and Jerin M. for 10 years of membership in KCAHCE. Your enthusiasm and dedication to HCE are what we are all about. Thank you.

Thank you to Merry Makers for facilitating Fall Focus.

Have a great fall,

Donna Zarovy, KCAHCE President



Cultural Arts

Congratulations to all the Kenosha HCE members who participated in the WAHCE Cultural Arts Show at the September Annual Business Meeting and Conference. The show was impressive, and I am grateful we had so many members who shared their talents with us.

The WAHCE competition was fierce. There were over 375 entries in all the different categories. Our own Sue C. was one of the judges. Jill M. and I learned a lot and had fun helping her with the judging. She is one of the most insightful judges. She sees good in everything and is polite about comments for articles that need just a little something more. Jeanette B. judged several arts and crafts categories. She said the quality of the exhibits was outstanding.

Here are the results from the Kenosha show entries.

- ◆ April Kvittek's embroidered shirt, a red ribbon.
- ◆ Jill Montgomery's fused glass bowl, a blue.
- ◆ Jeri Moore's "people" photograph, blue, and her Santa's boot also a blue ribbon.
- ◆ Ruth L. Rossman received a red for her lace shawl and a blue for the chemo cap.



Last, but certainly not least, Regina LaForge received a blue ribbon, and then a medallion (Best of Show in her category) for her Arabian horse painting!

Thanks to all who entered the Kenosha Cultural Arts Show in May. We are allowed to do 12 items each year for the WAHCE Cultural Arts Show, so hope we have many great entries in 2026 at our own HCE event. The categories for next year will be announced in November. I will pass along the information as soon as possible. Thanks to all and keep on painting, crafting, photographing, sewing.

~~Rita L., Cultural Arts Chair

Recap of the 2025 Community Service Projects

Winter/Spring - Freedom Is Life (Kenosha)

At the Winter Association Meeting we kicked off the 2025 Community Service Project by helping Freedom Is Life (Kenosha), a branch of The LIFE Initiative, Inc. The LIFE Initiative, Inc. aims to collaborate with all essential organizations and agencies to prevent, combat and eradicate human trafficking as well as recovery and support all victims of this egregious crime.

At our meeting in January, we assembled some beautiful polar fleece blankets for the organization and many more were donated that day by members, approximately 30 were given to the organization after the event. Collections continued and many more were donated at events such as the Spring Event and the Picnic. Our total count came in right around 50+ blankets as well as several personal size toiletries collected at the Spring Event.



Spring of 2025 - Community Service related ... but not an official project
 - the KCAHCE Good Neighbors Club got together to stuff Easter eggs for the Growing with Bristol Egg Hunt on 4/12 at Hansen Park. 7,000+ eggs were stuffed and ready to roll. 😊 We met at Margaret M's to stuff the eggs and had a quick sloppy joe lunch! Eggs and candy supplies were all provided by the Growing with Bristol Group. It was a FUN day! Thanks to all who helped!



Summer/Fall - Hospice Alliance & Hospice Alliance Foundation



After seeing a request from the Hospice Alliance & Hospice Alliance Foundation in Pleasant Prairie about needing lap-size blankets for patients, we took on this effort and proudly delivered 10 beautiful lap blankets that were collected at the KCAHCE Picnic in August. Hopefully more are collected at the Fall Focus event. The organization was very pleased with our donation and are very grateful. The handmade blankets made by Ruth L. were especially gorgeous!

❤️ Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Please know that Hospice Alliance & Hospice Alliance Foundation serves the Racine, Milwaukee, Walworth, and Kenosha areas, so we are helping in our own back yard and in our community!



July 2025 – Water Filters for Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners

In July, the KCAHCE Executive Board Members agreed to send a \$50 donation from the Community Service budget to the Wisconsin/ Nicaragua Partners group to assist in their effort to fund 60 new water filters for W/NP. KCAHCE funded two units with the donation.

"60" is the special number for 2025

Dear Friends,

As we continue to celebrate the **BIG 60** year anniversary milestone for Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners, you are invited to join in the next goal of collecting "60" water filters for Nicaragua to be sent out in the shipment this week!! **Short notice, we know, but not impossible, together we can do it!**



The cost is \$25, this provides a combination of a water filter and bucket for a family to have clean water. Extra option of adding \$5 to help with the essential part of distribution all over Nicaragua.

Winter - KCAHCE Community Service Activities to close out the year...

At the September Good Neighbors meeting, various additional Community Service projects were discussed to wrap up the year. Wish lists for organizations were reviewed; organizations were suggested by members and discussion was had. Knowing there were still budgeted funds available, it was decided that we should just select a couple of organizations and write them checks! As they know best what their critical needs are. Knowing that many organizations can buy in bulk at much lower pricing than if we purchase them as a group.

Two organizations were selected; 1Hope and Women and Children's Horizons. Both organizations are Kenosha based. \$200 checks were mailed to each organization in late September. 1HOPE brings the community together to support Foster Families and provide much needed immediate supplies when a child is placed with a foster family. To learn more about 1Hope, their website is: <https://1hope.community/> or Women and Children's Horizons, <https://www.wchkenosha.org/>

Closing with a GREAT BIG Thank You to everyone who contributed, gave of their time, effort, and funding for our 2025 programs. Together we DO make a difference!

~~ Margaret M., Good Neighbors

KCAHCE Education Programs

What: "Protecting Our Personal On-Line Info" by Westosha Senior Center Tech Connect Club

WHEN: Thursday, November 6th, 1 PM

WHERE: Hearing Room, Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th St, Bristol, W



Join us as Randa Lancy and Anita Willemarck, Tech Connect Club leaders at the Westosha Senior Center present "Protecting Our Personal On-Line Information".

In conjunction with the AARP Senior Planet Series, attendees will learn basic and practical ways to remain safe in today's changing technological world. And gain info about the Tech Connect Club and Westosha Senior Center programs in general.

HCE monthly 1st Thursday programs are free and open to the public. Invite a friend! As we learn • care • share in KCAHCE.

Watch your e-mail or Facebook for more information about the December event.

~~ Jerin M., VP of Program



Families Branching Out 2026

Since 1980, Kenosha Women's Network has provided networking support to its diverse membership. Most members are women who want to do business with other women. Many are in the business, professional and the political community. Some are home-based entrepreneurs, in education or retail, retired or non-profit organizations.

KWN annually awards mini grants to local, not for profit organizations. The amount available for the awards depends on the amount of money raised at the annual Holiday Raffle. Greater consideration will be given to those applicants/ organizations who participate in helping raise the funds.

Planning for Families Branching Out 2026 has begun. Donna has written a couple of grant applications. One was to the Kenosha Women's Network. At the September meeting, the Kenosha Women's Network was delighted to present mini grants to 12 nonprofit organizations in Kenosha County that benefit women and children. KCAHCE received a mini grant for the 2026 Families Branching Out. Pictured are the grant recipients including Kenosha County HCE.



Other recipients included (to name a few) Safe Families, Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, Habitat for Humanity, Hawthorne Hollow, Kenosha Literacy Council, Kenosha Public Library, and Westosha Senior Center.



Jerin and I joined KWN in 2023. The networking has been gratifying, and we have made a lot of great connections. In 2024 Kenosha Women's Network awarded KCAHCE two grants – one for Wisconsin Bookworms and one for Families Branching Out.

We thank Kenosha Women's Network for their great support.

~~ Donna Z. & Jerin M.

Kamp KCAHCE

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual pic-in-nic at Birchwood Grill in August. There were about 40 HCE members and guests.

We had a delightful dinner and were awed by Willow Newell. She gave us some insight into what it took to become Miss Wisconsin, her journey through college, aspirations and performed a few songs for us. Willow just recently graduated from Carthage College with a degree in Music.

Scholarship recipient Ethan Weinstein, was honored. Kailie Billingsley was unable to attend.



Scholarship Recipients



The 2025 KCAHCE family member scholarships were awarded to Kailie Billingsley and Ethan Weinstein. Both received a certificate and a check to further their education.

To the left is Kailie Billingsley, daughter of Shelly and Eric Billingsley. Kailie is attending UW-Platteville. Kailie stated that she “cares about animals and their welfare. Ever since I was a little girl, I have wanted to do something related to medicine. However, as I got older, I realized I wanted to help sick animals because they can’t tell you when things are wrong, you just have to know.”

Ethan Weinstein is pictured with his parents Jen and Kief. Ethan stated in his application that “public health has always been a field of interest for me. Ever since I was young, I wanted to enter a career where I could help other people, and public health lets you protect the health of entire communities every day. Nurses in public health serve an incredibly vital role ranging from health education to vaccine drives and low-cost care for underserved populations. I hope by entering the field of public health as a nurse, I can fulfill my dream of helping others.”

Thank you to all the KCAHCE members who served on the Scholarship Committee and especially everyone who contributed to the scholarship fund by either purchasing Milaeger’s Money, making a cash donation or purchased items in the Scholarship Fund Auctions. The smiles on Ethan’s and Kailie’s face say it all.



~~ Donna Z.

Wisconsin Bookworms



Wisconsin Bookworms has been providing FREE books to preschool children since 1998. Statewide we will be reading to over 4,000 children this year. At the end of the 2025-2026 school year, a total of 1,017,000 books will have been given to 112,155 children since inception. ONE MILLION BOOKS – how incredible!

Kenosha County has participated in the project since 1999. This is our 26th year of reading. We are reading at the Brass Community School, Chavez Learning Center, Holy Cross Church in Wilmot, and new for this year – Beloit Community School. We have added Beloit Community School because reader Annette R. joined Kenosha County HCE when Walworth County HCE folded two years ago. She has read at the school for several years and will continue to read to 17 children in two classrooms.

In closing out the 2024-25 year, thank you to our readers – Mary F., Cheryl W., Marcia R. and Heidi N. Combined, they read to 240 children. Thank you, ladies. We know the children enjoyed the books and activities as much as you liked reading to them.



Heidi N. and a team of HCE members – Cheryl W., Claudia G., Donna Z., Linda V., Marcia R., Margaret M., Pat P., and Pat R. met at the Kenosha County Center earlier in October to count, sort, and prepare the books for reading to the Head Start children.

The readers for 2025-26 include Mary F., Cheryl W., Ruth R., and new for this year – Annette R., Jerin M. and Jen W. Welcome to the new readers. They started reading this month.

Books for this school year are about \$19 per set. Donna is continuing to search for funding for next year. Any ideas for grants, etc., please contact her at 262-945-7502 or zarovy@frontier.com. Donations are always welcome.



Jen and Heidi unloading books.



Lions Foundation Grant

The Kenosha Lions Foundation has been a great supporter of our Wisconsin Bookworms project. This year is no exception.



In July Donna and Heidi attended their annual meeting at the Bristol Oaks Country Club and accepted a very generous donation that allowed us to purchase 54 sets of seven books for the Head Start Children. THANK YOU!

One of the Lions Foundation members, Gail Burgess, is a volunteer reader at Head Start in Wilmot.

~~ Heidi N. & Donna Z.

Club News



Bristol Club. n/k/a Ktown Friends HCE Club:

As we learn •care•share and •grow together in HCE, the Bristol Club has expanded its branches to the point that to best represent changing member demographics will be called the Ktown Friends HCE CLUB. With the majority of our members living east of the "I", and coming from Kenosha, Racine, Somers, Pleasant Prairie and Bristol, we felt Ktown Friends more appropriately represents us. We will always hold true to our strong Bristol roots, as we bend to our new member

branches.

In September, Bristol HCE Club held their monthly meeting at Gateway Technical College, Center for Sustainable Living. After an old school brown bag lunch, Center Director, Kallie Johnson shared Center highlights and led the group in a recycled wreath craft. 25 members and a guest attended.

~~ Jerin M., Ktown Friends, President



JJ's HCE Club

The JJ's HCE Club held their October meeting on Monday the 13th. An election of officers for 2026 was held. Pat P. will remain as President and Donna Z. as secretary.

- Committee sign-ups for 2026 were discussed
- Most of us will attend the Fall Focus event
- Pennies for Friendship were collected
- We shared information about the different committees and upcoming events
- Members introduced themselves by saying what they like most about the season

After the meeting, we assembled four baskets for the auction for scholarships on Saturday.

~~ Donna Z., JJ's Secretary



Pat & Rosella with Chocolate Baskets



Claudia and Marcia with Italian Basket



Annette, Jeannette & Debbie



WAHCE Annual Business Meeting & Conference 2025

Six members of Kenosha HCE, Rita L., Ruth R., Jill M., Donna Z. (pictured), Annette R. and Jeannette B. attended the three-day conference held in Green Bay at the Tundra Lodge – Going Wild with HCE was the theme. True to the theme, on Tuesday evening a bat flew into the lobby area where the SE District members were meeting. The staff were very comical trying to get it out.



The conference began on Monday, September 15th with tours. I was thrilled to go to Lambeau Field. The Monday evening festivities included the parade of flags of each district and concluded with a fantastic banquet. At that banquet, Kenosha County was recognized for our increase in membership, and we received one of the Services of Love Awards for Families Branching Out 2025 – which included a \$100 check.

At the Tuesday Annual Business Meeting I was the voting delegate for Kenosha County. The 2026 WAHCE budget includes a \$2 per member increase in state dues. There were five other workshops at the same time which our other KCAHCE members enjoyed. A second session of workshops began at 10:30, and then another session in the afternoon. The luncheon keynote speaker, Kewaunee County Sheriff Matt Joski, gave an action filled program about Resiliency. That evening, I was sworn in as WAHCE Vice President of Program.



Kenosha HCE Display by Jerin

Wednesday had two sessions with six topics each and concluded with a luncheon where Regina LaForge was recognized for her medallion in the Cultural Arts Show. All six of us were proud to represent Kenosha and look forward to 2026 in Eau Claire.

~~ Donna Z., KCAHCE President

Thank You Notes:



Dear Friend of Hospice:

On behalf of everyone at Hospice Alliance as well as the patients and families we care for, we thank you for your recent donation of lap blankets. Your thoughtfulness has a meaningful impact on the services HA provides – not only to patients and their loved ones, but the entire community.

Because of your kindness and others like you, Hospice Alliance ensures all in need of end-of-life care, supportive care management and bereavement services are served.

Rita Hagen, Executive Director



Dear Kenosha County HCE:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of WNP, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your donation of \$50 towards the Water Fund Project.

By showing our support for this organization, you have linked arms with hundreds of others who are working together to make a difference both here in the United States and in Nicaragua.

Keith A. Roeske, Treasurer

- ❖ On Facebook: [Kenosha County Association for Home and Community Education.](#)
- ❖ On the WAHCE county website: <https://wahceinc.org/kenosha-county-hce/>

Extension Line Committee

We encourage clubs to submit articles and pictures from their meetings. A special thank you to KCAHCE members who helped assemble this newsletter. Also, special thanks to everyone for all the photographs. Please send all address corrections or articles to us. Thank you!

- ❖ Donna Zarovy, zarovy@frontier.com
- Marcia Richards, richardskreuserm@gmail.com