

# Utilizing Volunteers to Bridge the Gap When Budgets are Cut

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## Bridging the Gap With Volunteers

- Adult and teen volunteers have helped with office tasks and large projects throughout the year
- Volunteers have helped to supplement county dollars with fundraising and donations through a local committee outside of Extension
- Staff and volunteers have had to find alternative solutions to make ends meet
- Utilized creative ways to provide effective programs with minimal staff and funding.
- Many pros and cons of utilizing free resources
- Communicated to office holders and community members the reasons why we cannot do the same things with fewer resources

## Potential Issues When Funds Are Tight

- Resistance to Cutting Programs
- Still Trying to Do it All With Less Staff and Resources
- Time and Task Management
- Communicating Impact With Reduced Resources
- Local Funder Control
- Implementing All Program Areas Without Staff in All Areas
- Program Direction Following Grant Dollars

## Core Competencies

- Communication
- Customer Service
- Flexibility and Change
- Resource Management
- Self-direction
- Teamwork and Leadership
- Technology Adoption and Application,
- Thinking and Problem Solving
- Understanding Stakeholders and Communities

## Providing Effective Programs With Minimal Resources:

- Regional Resources, Shared Staffing
- Working Smarter
- Finding Additional Resources
- Innovative Ideas
- Free Local Programs that Utilize Volunteers/Workers
- Local Donations of Paper/Office Supplies
- Printing on Scrap Paper Donated from Schools



## Financial Resources:

- Grants
- Corporations and Foundations
- Local donations
- Fundraisers done by local people (not Extension professionals)
- Other county agencies



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