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Uinta County Leadership Institute

MAKE **BIG IMPACT**

Situation

The Uinta County Leadership Institute (UCLI) was established in 2004. Following the Extension Volunteer Organization for Leadership, Vitality and Enterprise model (EVOLVE), Class I of the institute successfully ran through 2005 and 2006. Class II started the fall of 2011, and 21 graduated from the institute in spring 2012.

Class II graduates were excited to share the experience with others. Six graduates met for a year to plan and implement the next class. The institute has three distinguishing features: once-monthly, skill-building class days, monthly community-based experiences, and a culminating group project.

With the help of the UW Extension community development educator (CDE), the steering committee spent time planning a process to ensure the group project was a successful part of Class III. The CDE educator interviewed graduates from Class II to solicit input and ideas.

Class III started in September 2013, and a community leadership fair was of-

fered at the October class day. Elected officials, department heads, and other community leaders were invited to present information on their organizations, needs, and hopes for the future. Class members, over a two-hour period, spoke to more than 40 local government, agency, and nonprofit representatives from across Uinta County.

Major goals of the fair were networking, learning, and helping participants identify community organizations' needs and finding appropriate ways to assist in meeting them. The group narrowed 30 community needs/issues to three. Class members divided into working groups based on personal interests, then spent a month developing specific ideas.

Each group presented their ideas when the class met in November and made a case for their chosen issues. After vibrant discussion, the class decided on a fundraiser to benefit Wyoming Cancer Resource Services. They spent the next six months developing the idea, planning an event, dividing up responsibilities and tasks, marketing, and soliciting sponsorships/donations.



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participants

THROUGH SUCCESSFUL GROUP PROJECT



Class III, With Penny Williams, Chris Aimone, Lauren McCoy, Kathy Gillespie Stahl, Kris Goble, Terri Arnell, Janel Campbell, Kiley Ingersoll, ShanDee Hemmert Welling, Toni Nolan, Dina Hollis Porter and Josh Welling.

THEY RAISED \$8,200
FOR WYOMING CANCER
RESOURCE SERVICES.

THESE FUNDS WILL
SUPPORT UINTA COUNTY
PATIENTS FOR MORE
THAN A YEAR.

Impacts

On May 11, 2014, Class III members hosted their Mother's Day Brunch fundraiser for Wyoming Cancer Resource Services, specifically to benefit Uinta County residents battling cancer. UCLI participants solicited sponsorships from many businesses and individuals across the county. They sold approximately 320 tickets before the event and served brunch to approximately 300 people.

Class members utilized what they learned through the class. They collaborated and partnered with other orga-

nizations/businesses; they effectively communicated their vision for the event and its marketing; they utilized effective problem solving and creative decision making; and they worked well as a team. They raised \$8,200 for Wyoming Cancer Resource Services. The Region IV Program director will use these funds to pay for gasoline cards and other travel expenses incurred while traveling to and from treatment. These funds will support Uinta County patients for more than a year.

Introducing a new community event was another major impact. This event gave families a chance to honor their

mothers locally and contribute to a worthy cause. The mayor of Evanston in her weekly radio program commended UCLI class members for putting on "such a wonderful, new community event."

One of the most exciting long-term impacts from the institute is the smooth transition between implementation and planning. After Class III concluded, nine class members immediately signed up to be a part of the steering committee for Class IV.