

Program Committee Meeting 3/23/09

Family and Consumer Science Programs

Program status:

1. RAPP (Relatives as Parents Program): Erica Smith, Coordinator. Making changes in the program to better meet clients' needs. Surveyed the adult clients to determine how the program could better meet their time requirements for meetings and to determine what they wanted as meeting places and content of programming. Found that support group and youth program participants wanted to meet on Saturdays rather than Mondays; this change will be implemented in the Fall. Starting a new Parenting the Second Time Around (PASTA) group in New Paltz; already have a core group of clients signed up.
2. Financial Education: Tom Heffernan, Educator. Wise Up Women is a money and credit management education program for Gen X women sponsored by the US Labor Department. This year's contract ended on March 15. We more than fulfilled the requirements of the contract, educating approximately 25% more women than we contracted for. We hope to re-up the contract as soon as the new Secretary of Labor takes over, and we have indicated that we would like to increase our level of participation in this project.

The EmPower NY program is also focused on financial management education as well as home energy conservation education. On Friday, March 20, Tom went to the Shawangunk Maximum Security Prison in Wallkill to speak to a gathering of over 100 women who work in the NYS Correctional System. The two-hour program was extremely well received, and he has been invited back to do an Energy Management presentation in the fall. In the 2008 calendar year, Tom presented 45 Empower presentations to 583 individuals. (The contract called for a minimum of 21 presentations).

3. Nutrition Education: Eileen Polk, Coordinator. Have been busy fulfilling on the Eat Smart New York contract and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program contract. Groups are on-going at Family Inn, the Darmstadt Shelter, and the Abel House; new senior groups are in progress at Healthy Way in Ellenville and Yosman Towers in Kingston; we continue to actively recruit participants at human service agencies and the Dept. of Social Services.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, all nutrition staff are participating in the annual Making Healthy Decisions conference in West Point, and at the Eat Smart conference, "The Magical World of Nutrition" in Albany in April.