Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2020
Year Ending June 30, 2020
UFM Vision: Connecting People and Ideas for Unlimited Learning

UFM Mission: UFM Community Learning Center is a creative educational program serving Kansas State University, the Manhattan area, and the state of Kansas. Based on the philosophy that everyone can learn and everyone can teach, UFM provides opportunities for lifelong learning and personal development. UFM serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and as a catalyst for new programs and services that enhance the quality of life for all.

UFM Values:
• Community & Collaboration
• Patron Satisfaction & Support
• Purposeful Relationships
• Integrity & Enjoyment
• Creativity & Inspiration

Programs offered by UFM include the Education Program of credit and noncredit classes, the Lou Douglas Lecture Series, Manhattan Community Garden, Teen Mentoring Program and Project EXCELL. Sponsored Projects include the Manhattan Area Risk Prevention Coalition, Manhattan Nonviolence Initiative and the KU Bernard Osher Institute Collaboration with the University of Kansas.

In FY20, UFM programs served 11,864 people.

UFM offers programs for people of all ages, interests, and abilities.

UFM collaborates with many area businesses and organizations to serve the community.

UFM completed its 52nd year of putting the community in education.

FY20 was an extraordinary year. The year began with excellent participation in all programs, with 8,084 fall participants. Spring also began strongly with all programs active and growing. Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck the nation, the state, and the community. At spring break in early March 2020, K-State sent all students home, moved all courses online, and closed the campus. Most of the community was also closed, with only essential services such as grocery stores, gas stations/convenience stores and home stores such as Menards and Home Depot remaining open. Some fast food and restaurants moved to drive through and curbside pickup only. The lock down remained through most of May.

This community shutdown caused UFM to immediately shift our plan for course delivery. We moved 36 recreational credit courses to an online (live remote) format within two weeks. All UFM courses held on campus, including 45 swim classes had to be canceled and refunded.

Several UFM instructors were willing to move their scheduled courses to a live remote format. Eleven classes were continued.

All summer classes were held online using a live remote format. UFM was able to offer 82 courses with 296 participants. The limits on public gatherings did not allow UFM to participate in or sponsor community events.

The restrictions required by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in major changes and cutbacks throughout the spring and summer, affecting all program participation.
UFM's education program is the largest activity in the organization. UFM's philosophy that everyone can teach and everyone can learn provides opportunities for all community members to share their ideas and skills with others. To participate, the only prerequisite is curiosity. In UFM's 52 years, there have been over 7,000 instructors who ranged in age from 6 to 98. In FY20, UFM offered 623 noncredit classes taught by 195 instructors to 2,514 students locally (unduplicated).

UFM offers many opportunities for K-State students and others looking for practical experience. In FY20, 352 college students gave time to teach a class, work with UFM projects such as Teen Mentoring or Project EXCELL or participate in internships at UFM.

The Bernard Osher Institute in Manhattan is a collaboration between the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. UFM Community Learning Center coordinates local courses on behalf of K-State Global Campus. The Osher Institute is dedicated to providing classes and events solely for the joy of learning with a focus on those 50 years of age and older. There were 448 registrations in the Osher classes in FY20.

UFM coordinates recreation, dance and fitness credit courses through K-State Global Campus. UFM works with four campus departments to offer credit courses. In FY20, 1,235 students received credit for 209 courses offered.
UFM Community Outreach - Beyond the Classroom

Talk20MHK is a collaboration between UFM and the Manhattan Public Library. The goal of Talk20MHK is to build strong community connections by giving individuals a platform to share their knowledge, stories, hobbies, and skills with others in the community. Any member of the community over age 18 is invited to present at Talk20MHK with 20 slides and 20 seconds to speak about each slide.

Partnerships extend educational opportunities and bring diverse experiences to the community. Multicultural and international experiences are available through UFM classes offered with groups such as Flint Hills Wisdom Keepers, Hospitality Management at KSU, and Ecumenical Campus Ministries. Other educational partnerships included Manhattan Trolley Co; Brew Bros Hops and Sprockets; People’s Grocery; and Riley County Genealogical Society. Special event partners included Manhattan Public Library, K-State Libraries, Beach Museum, Riley County Historical Museum, and the K-State College of Education Math Circle.

A Talk20MHK gathering was held in September 2019. Topics for this year’s event included creating statistically literate kids, ramblin’ around America, write what you know, raising puppies for service, self-care, and the ketogenic diet.

The audience was able to ask questions and visit with the speakers after the presentations. More than 90 people attended this event held at the Manhattan Public Library. An additional 70 people participated through a live stream on YouTube. The lectures were also available to watch on the talk20mhk website.
UFM Programs

UFM Teen Mentoring Program
Fall 2019 marked the 22nd year of offering education, recreation, and emotional support to teens in our community. This program is funded by the City of Manhattan Special Alcohol Fund. Middle school and high school students interact with college student mentors. The goals of the program are to provide prevention education, improve social skills, and offer recreation opportunities. Groups met on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays after school at UFM. Last year 20 teens and 25 K-State students participated in structured discussions and fun activities as part of this program.

Community Garden
The Manhattan Community Garden is the oldest community garden in Kansas, offering gardening space to residents for 46 years. This food security program allows people throughout the community to share the gardening experience, supplement food budgets, relieve stress, and foster new friendships. A volunteer advisory board governs the garden operations. The Community Garden has two locations: 9th and Riley Lane leased from the City, and 1435 Collins Lane leased from Riley County. 182 families gardened in FY20. K-State students, faculty and staff, retired persons, and others from Manhattan utilized the 280 plots at the Gardens.

Lou Douglas Lectures
The Lou Douglas Lecture Series on Public Issues celebrated its 39th anniversary with two speaker presentations during the fall semester.

The first speaker was Steve Lerner, a psychologist, filmmaker, musician, and activist who started his filmmaking career in 1972. During the lecture, we aired his most recent film, Strangers In Town, that shares how Garden City, Kansas welcomed the global migration their community has faced.

Sarah Smarsh was the second speaker for the year. Ms. Smarsh is an author, speaker, and journalist who focuses on socioeconomic class and rural America. Sarah spoke about the experiences that led to her book, Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth. Sarah discussed economic inequality through her upbringing among the working poor on a Kansas farm. Sarah is also a first-generation college student.
Project EXCELL (Extended College Education for Lifelong Learning) provides educational enrichment to adults with developmental disabilities. Project EXCELL provides a K-State setting that allows EXCELL students to feel a part of the university community. 78 students participated this year. Over 100 K-State students from the College of Education and Leadership Studies served as classroom aides and ambassadors to assist the students during class and break time.

Manhattan Nonviolence Initiative, The Manhattan Nonviolence Initiative, funded by the Carolyn F. Peine Foundation, engaged the community in education about the concept of everyday nonviolence and the relevance of this idea in our lives. In FY20, MNVI was involved in a variety of projects. MNVI hosted Harmony in the ‘Hatt, an intercultural music and art event in Triangle Park. They celebrated the annual Season for Nonviolence (Jan 31- April 3); offered classes in anger management and peaceful communication skills; and held a community book discussion. MNVI co-sponsored a revival of the grassroots ceramic arts fundraiser, Empty Bowls, to benefit Common Table, a local effort to provide daily free warm meals in Manhattan. They also supported a variety of other community events that endorsed the message of respect and nonviolence.

Manhattan Risk Prevention Coalition (MARPC) works through a federal Drug Free Communities grant. The purpose of this project is to create an active community coalition to address substance use and abuse issues and to address prevention strategies that reduce substance use among youth. The grant’s focus has been media messages. Radio and cable television ads were designed to address social hosting as an area problem that has encouraged underage drinking. In addition to media messages, displays were set up in 11 different locations, including local liquor stores. The messages present ideas about “talking to your kids about drinking.” Sticker Shock in Manhattan and at Fort Riley partnered youth and adult volunteers with police officers to attach responsible alcohol use messages to packaged products in liquor stores. The group is also working on ways to strengthen the community coalition and to increase support in the Manhattan area. Community education for parents to identify drug paraphernalia and mental health concerns are on the current agenda.

Grassroots Award
The Grassroots Community Education Award is an annual recognition given by UFM Community Learning Center to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to grassroots community education and learning. This year celebrated the 36th time UFM has presented this award.

Dr. Warren White, professor of Special Education, Counseling and Student Affairs in the KSU College of Education, was the recipient of the UFM Grassroots Community Education Award for 2019. Dr. White was honored for his vision that created Project EXCELL on the K-State Manhattan campus.
UFM is self-supporting and depends on class fees, donations, and program grants to operate. Class fees make up the largest part of UFM’s revenue, 81% in FY20. These funds cover instructor costs, class materials, facility rental, advertising, printing, and other costs associated with coordinating class activities.

In FY20, UFM received $159,695 in grant funds to support several projects including Teen Mentoring, Lou Douglas Lectures, Project EXCELL, the Manhattan Nonviolence Initiative, and MARPC.

Donations are used for youth and adult scholarships, facility needs, and infrastructure expenses. All donations to UFM are tax deductible. For more information about donating to UFM, call 785-539-8763 or email linda@tryufm.org.
On October 23, 2019, Linda Teener was recognized for her years of service to the State of Kansas. She received her 40-year pin from Governor Laura Kelly at the Statehouse. Pictured left: Kayla Savage, Charlene Brownson, Linda Teener, Samantha Lovitt, Emma McElhaney Parsley, and Kelly Cook.

Congratulations Linda!