

FY2016 Community & Economic Development Impact Kickstart Cleveland County

Cleveland County



Total CED Program Overview

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|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Education Contacts | 3,679 |
| Volunteer Hours | 5,402 |
| Value of Volunteer Hours (\$) | \$127,271 |

Highlights

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Number of Volunteers | 520 |
| Volunteers Engaged | 441 |
| # of CED meetings conducted | 42 |
| Community Projects Initiated | 29 |
| Business Created | 8 |
| Value of Grants/Donations (\$) | \$20,000 |

Volunteers working to restore Mt. Olivet Methodist Church at the Pioneer Village. Restoration projects spearheaded by the "Friends of the Pioneer Village" action group, a part of Kickstart Cleveland County.



Actors from the newly formed Cleveland County Theater group perform for their first audience the play entitled "Murder at the Pie Auction." This was the first of two sold out performances with 108 attendees.

Relevance

A county struggling to overcome 20 years of limited economic development, change, or improvements for itself. Faced with vacant store fronts, declining population, and a stagnant economy, community leaders are searching for ways to re-invent Cleveland County and make it the talk of south-central Arkansas.

Response

Extension worked with the Kickstart Cleveland County and responded by:

- * Continuing a County-wide community development initiative.
- * Implementing the program "Breakthrough Solutions."
- * Collaborating with grassroots working/action groups.
- * Promoting county trends, assets, and key drivers.
- * Following a mutually agreed upon Vision.
- * Facilitating stakeholder meetings.
- * Sharing and promoting successes with other counties and groups.

Results

As a result of Extensions efforts:

- * The Kickstart Cleveland County Blueprint and Action plan is released.
- * 8 businesses have opened increasing the # of businesses by 25%.
- * 7 Action teams have been formed.
- * A Pioneer Village Commission was appointed and tasked with restoration efforts at the village. Two buildings have been restored.
- * Over \$20,000 has been received through grants, fund-raisers, and donations.
- * 4 New Events have been developed reaching over 10,000 people.
- * Over 5000 volunteer hours have been logged in community projects.