



## Community Grant Outcome Report

**Name: Got Dirt? Initiative**

**Grantee:** Brown County

**Academic Partner:** Aaron Carrel, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, Pediatrics, UW SMPH

**Program:** Development

**Grant Duration:** 03/01/2006 to 08/31/2007 (18 months)

**Expenditures:** \$41,270 of \$49,741 (83% expended)

**Use of Funds:** Workforce training

► **Description:** In an effort to combat childhood obesity and poor nutrition, the *Got Dirt? Initiative* sought to improve fruit and vegetable consumption of children 2 to 17 by increasing access to fruits and vegetables through gardens at childhood centers and schools.

► **Results:** In partnership with the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association and members of the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, project staff conducted Got Dirt? trainings on how to start a school or child care garden. A total of 259 teachers and childcare providers were trained in the fundamentals of starting a garden, and an additional 11 teachers attended the week-long Growing Gardens Growing Minds class where they received more in-depth instruction. As a result of these trainings, 68 new school and child care gardens were created in the four pilot counties of Columbus, Douglas, Eau Claire, and Outagamie which allowed over 1,100 children to participate in growing and consuming their own vegetables. In addition, cold frames were piloted in

one community in an effort to explore alternative models for allowing schools to conduct gardening programs during the school year. Follow-up surveys with participants indicated that the primary barriers to establishing school gardens were lack of time, lack of support from other school personnel, and lack of space.

► **Met Objectives:** Yes

► **Baseline Progress on SHP Objectives:** Not measured

► **Academic Partner Role:** Consultation and interpretation of outcomes.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$8,467

► **Dissemination:**

- 2 presentations at national conferences

► **Sustained:** Got Dirt? was awarded a 2007 WPP Implementation grant of \$474,990.