

Green County Leaders End of Year Report 2025-2026

Making **Green County Communities** Stronger, More Vibrant Places to Live



Green County Leaders: Strengthening the workforce and increasing participation in nonprofits and local government

Green County Leaders (GCL) is a vibrant, community-driven educational program where individuals practice leadership skills, deepen their understanding of community issues, and prepare for leadership roles. This creates a network of active and visionary individuals who leverage their experience and expertise to benefit their community and local community-based organizations.

23

Years of Programming

523

Total **Graduates** from public, private,
and non-profit sectors

102

Community **Projects**

\$727,800+

Worth of **Skilled Volunteer Hours**

Calculation based on University of Maryland
School of Public Policy Do Good Institute research

28

Graduates in **2025-2026 Cohort**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GREEN COUNTY



Building Strong Leaders, Building a Strong Community

Strong, engaged leaders are the foundation of a strong community. Throughout the GCL educational program, we build up skills in leadership development, civic engagement, and networking – resulting in individuals who are more connected to their community and better equipped to lead and volunteer. Our graduates leave the GCL program with the tools and know-how to effectively engage in improving their communities.

“Green County Leaders helped me to step outside my comfort zone. It introduced me to new people, organizations, and ideas. The program challenged me to think about ways I serve as a leader in my community, job, and personal life.”



– Hannah Ryan, Colony Brands, Inc.

From the 2025-2026 cohort:

- **100%** felt more connected to Green County
- **100%** felt more comfortable in Green County
- **93%** expanded their personal networks
- **81%** are more likely to stay in Green County



Building Leadership Skills and Engaged Networks

GCL’s unique leadership development model centers not only the importance of community, but the role each individual has to play. We build up leadership skills in leading teams and projects, civic engagement through serving on nonprofit boards and running for local elected office, and strengthen community by building networks. Throughout the program, participants develop understanding of their strengths and passions, empowering participants to hone in on their specific skills as leaders.

From the 2025-2026 cohort:

- **100%** expanded their professional networks
- **96%** felt more effective in their personal lives
- **8 alumni** joined a new committee or board

“I’ve learned to believe more in my ability to create projects that not only support the Hispanic community, but also strengthen the entire community through collaboration, education, and economic development.”



– Bibiana Gonzalez, Vicky’s Little House / Fuerza Hispana of Green County

Building Professional Skills

With programming focusing on teambuilding, effective communication, and applied project management, GCL participants take their leadership skills into the workplace, improving their ability to effectively lead projects and teams. Employers report the GCL program helps retain professionals by increasing connection and sense of belonging in the community.

"GCL provided exposure to socioeconomic pillars in the community, vastly increased my knowledge of the area, the businesses, opportunities to engage, and overall network of other passionate leaders in the county. I have a new appreciation for just how special a place like Green County is to live in."

– Max Skradski, Colony Brands, Inc.



From the 2025-2026 cohort:

- **100%** expanded their professional networks
- **96%** strengthened their growth mindset
- **93%** felt more effective in their current employment
- **24** used program skills to build more effective teams

"Over the course of a couple months, my ability to communicate and plan was improved almost unknowingly through the lessons that were taught. I was also very shocked upon discovering what it was that I knew compared to how much I didn't know regarding Green County. My time in this group was truly special."



– Alex Hernandez, Green County Family YMCA

Addressing Community Needs

A cornerstone of GCL is centering the Green County community in each program year. By digging into addressing real community needs, program participants not only actuate change, they apply the very leadership skills they are learning. The result? Yearly improvements for our community with a long-lasting positive impact.

From the 2025-2026 cohort:

- **100%** are more open to conversations across different perspectives
- **100%** have honed their listening skills
- **89%** honed their ability to ask questions

2025–2026 Community Projects

A Library of Things: A Community Resource for Green County



Will increase diverse supplies available for checkout at the Brodhead Memorial Public Library.

Participants: Lauren Burkey, Megan Kesler, Kaley Baer, Ashley Wolber, Hannah Ryan, and Liv Roth

Community Partner: Stuart Bisbee, Brodhead Memorial Public Library

Cheese Country Trailhead Beautification and Informational Kiosk

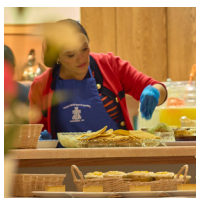


Will create a trailhead on the Cheese Country Trail.

Participants: Phil Loduha, Matt Thomson, Cam Elmer, Logan Peterson, and Rachel Elsing

Community Partner: Josh Trame, City of Monroe Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Creation of the “Fuerza Latina” Market

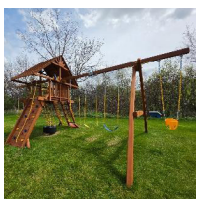


Creation of a market / support for entrepreneurs.

Participants: Sean Meirose and Bibiana González

Community Partner: Francis Henn

Family Promise Children & Adult Safe Zone / Playground



Will create a safe outdoor space for the families (adults and children) staying with Family Promise at the new Family Promise Center.

Participants: Suzanne Meier, Alex Hernandez, CaSandra Smith, and Kathleen Grossen

Community Partner: Family Promise Green County

Green County Smiles



Increase toothbrushing education in K-12 schools, including expanding dental programming across school districts and building a network of trained volunteers to increase dental health habits.

Participants: Hannah Garvoille, Brandi Moon, David Pross, Jeff Worzella, and Carrie Millsaps

Community Partner: Dr. Alison Taleb, Fowler Dental Clinic

Monroe Botanic Garden



Creation of a botanical garden in Green County, including the space and nonprofit format.

Participants: Brianne Beach, Bryan Schroeder, Mitchell Tordoff, Malika Jubeck, and Max Skradski

Community Partners: Melissa Burch, Cathy Hauck

Temporary Animal Care Network



Establish a network of homes available to temporarily house an animal for a person in short-term crisis / change, such as extended hospital stay, sudden change living situation, family emergency, domestic abuse, fire or natural disaster, military deployment, etc.

Participants: Sandi Thomas, Jenna Curran, Amber Fuerbringer, and Anthony Eterno

Community Partners: Erin Emery (Green County Humane Society) and Pony Wild

“What was once an eyesore is now an inviting entrance to our community, showcasing the pride and collaboration of the Green County Leaders group, the City of Monroe, and the Green County ATV Club. This enhancement creates a welcoming first impression for those entering Monroe from the trail while elevating the overall visitor experience. Together, these partners have created a space that is not only more beautiful, but also more accessible, informative, and welcoming.”

– Josh Trame, Parks & Forestry Supervisor, City of Monroe

Thank You for Your Support!

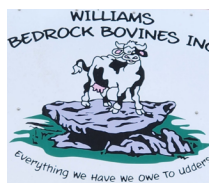
The 2025-2026 Green County Leaders Program is made possible through the generous support from and partnerships with the following local entities.

Thank you for supporting the success of Green County!

Our Donors & Sponsors



Our Hosts





The 2025-2026 cohort

Involvement

Special thanks goes to those who contribute to the Green County Leaders program in a variety of ways. Thank you for your generosity, and for investing in Green County.

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