

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Grand Challenges

K-State Research and Extension develops and delivers practical, research-based solutions to challenges faced by all Kansans, which includes the grand challenges:

- Global Food Systems
- Water
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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## Grand Challenge: Community Vitality

Title: 2019 Extension Appreciation Award



Above: Ed Dillingham accepts the award from Shawnee County Extension Board Chair, Karen Perkuhn.

### Why is this issue important?

Every year at the K-State Research and Extension—Shawnee County Annual Meeting select volunteers and partners are recognized with the Extension Appreciation Award.

### How did Extension address this issue?

In 2019, Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener Ed Dillingham was one of two volunteers recognized for his substantial volunteer contributions.

### What was the impact?

Ed Dillingham has been a Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener since 2014 and has become an integral part in almost every Master Gardener event and program. Ed works the construction crew at the Kansas Garden Show, sets up two stations at *From Farm to You*, writes educational articles for the Master Gardener newsletter, leads the set up and take down of the annual Master Gardener Plant Sale and has provided plant samples for 4-H youth to judge.

At the 2019 Kansas Garden Show, Ed led three presentations on seed starting and created an elaborate educational display for the show. Ed grows vegetables from seed in his own home for the annual Plant Sale and for local community gardens. Since joining Master Gardeners, Ed has received the President's Volunteer Service Award three times. This award is given to Master Gardeners who have donated more than 100 hours of volunteer service in a single calendar year. The requirement for Master Gardeners is only 25 hours.

Whether it's stepping into a leadership role, researching for a program, or teaching in a garden, Ed is always working towards the Master Gardeners' mission of *improving our community through horticulture*.

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