

SEDGWICK COUNTY  
EXTENSION COUNCIL ELECTION  
**CANDIDATES**



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**COMMUNITY VITALITY  
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Maggie Ballard, Wichita**

**In your view, what role does Extension play as part of a thriving community?**

Provides programs and information to the community that they may not already be aware of. Opens doors and educates the community on programs that could benefit themselves or someone close to them....family member, co-worker, neighbor, etc.

**Please list the top (3) three priorities, in your opinion, for the program development committee in which you are a candidate.**

**What else should we know about you?**

I serve on many boards within our community. Commissioner Cruse's Advisory Board, Events Chair for Family Promise, a 1st-year active member of Wichita's Junior League, Love Your Community Board, Deliver Meals on Wheels once a week and Event's Chair for American Cancer Society. I work for COMCARE of Sedgwick County as a Development Coordinator and am passionate about the underserved and offering a hand up.

**Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.**

My son, Paxton and I started the Paxton's Blessing Boxes around the Wichita area and around the state. They are similar to micro libraries, but ours are pantries. We have 54 to date and stock them with non-perishables, water, and toiletries.

Have plans to soon expand outside the state. This will be our 7th year doing our Socktober, Sock Drive. We pass them out to our local shelters and homeless the first Saturday of each month. We usually collect around 5000 pairs each year.

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**Cara Grier, Mt. Hope**

**In your view, what role does Extension play as part of a thriving community?**

Extension plays the part of a great outreach for individuals and families that need help with a variety of problems, whether it be problems with family, health, nutrition or education, the Extension is there for them.

**Please list the top (3) three priorities, in your opinion, for the program development committee in which you are a candidate.**

**What else should we know about you?**

I was born in Wichita, Ks but consider Pratt, Ks my home town. I have been happily married for 16 years to Alan Grier, and we live in Mount Hope, Ks. We are both strong community members, he serves on the city council, and I serve on the PRIDE organization. I am currently employed at Senior Care Pharmacy in the billing department. My passion is Event Planning and helping others.

**Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.**

I have been actively involved in the Mount Hope PRIDE Organization for over 6 years and have been President for 5 years. I work closely with the Mayor, the City of Mount Hope, and other community organizations to build and better our community. I am a people person and have always worked to help others. I have volunteered all my life from Special Olympics to local community events.

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**Donna Wise, Clearwater**

**In your view, what role does Extension play as part of a thriving community?**

Extension provides wonderful resources for many of the things people do in their everyday lives. There are many opportunities to learn from the many things that people learn in 4-H, to gardening, to cooking healthy foods, to how to manage crops on a farm. There are also many opportunities to volunteer, such as the new Master Food volunteer program, along with the better known Master Gardeners and very important SHICK volunteers. It is wonderful to be able to give back to our community.

**Please list the top (3) three priorities, in your opinion, for the program development committee in which you are a candidate.**

I have served for two years on the Community Vitality Committee, and one of our major concerns is how to get the services offered at Extension into all areas of the county. It is also important for us to get the community at large to know who we are and what we do. I think it is important for us to find ways to learn what people need and find an intersection of helping them know what we can do to help them and what we cannot do. I think we are making good progress.

**Please list relevant work/community involvement/volunteer experience.**

I am a retired pastor and may have been the first female Scoutmaster in Boy Scouts of America. I have a heart for helping senior citizens, and now that I am retired I have a better understanding of their issues. I also serve on the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau board and am well aware that there are many needs in the rural area of our county that are sometimes overshadowed by or large urban component. My undergraduate work was in accounting and business administration.

**What else should we know about you?**

I consider it a privilege to serve on the Sedgwick County Extension Council, and I wish more people knew of the services that are offered here. As a Master Gardener, I sometimes give talks about gardening issues in the community, and I always include a few minutes of teaching my audience about what Extension does as a whole. I believe in Extension and hope we are able to get more people to know about what is offered here and utilize our services and resources.