

Story Title Cornell Cooperative Extension Saves The (afterschool) Day!

Program Franklin - 4-H Youth Development

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**Is this related to an
Equal
Program/Employment
Opportunity?** Yes

Executive Summary 4-H Youth Development department of Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County provides comprehensive afterschool program with the inclusion of school enrichments activities at districts request.

**Issues/Needs and
Audiences** “Health-related factors such as hunger, physical and emotional abuse, and chronic illness can lead to poor school performance. Health-risk behaviors such as early sexual initiation, violence, and physical inactivity are consistently linked to poor grades and test scores and lower educational attainment” (CDC, 2015)

“Research shows that children who participate in quality afterschool programs have higher school attendance, academic achievement, and are less likely to be involved in risky behaviors during the afterschool hours” (ocfs.ny.gov, 2015)

There are 2,125 single parent households with children under 18 years of age in Franklin County (Census.gov, 2010). Single parent households have more trouble obtaining quality afterschool childcare. (ocfs.ny.gov, 2015)

Chateaugay central’s superintendent, Loretta Fowler, contacted CCE of Franklin County to take over the current latchkey program with intentions of enhancing activities and supervision in an effort to extend the school day for the district families in need those services.

Extension Responses Partnering with NYS OCFS (Office of Child and Family Services) we obtained a license and provided a comprehensive affordable afterschool program to the Chateaugay Central School District. The program includes weekly school enrichment activities provided by 4-H curricula. Some of the curricula used are “Project Wet”, “Project Seasons”, GIS activities and many more. We also hired high school teens as mentors to assist youth with homework and school projects during the afterschool program to strengthen academics and help to improve graduation rates. In addition each program participant is provided with a daily snack that follows NYS healthy schools guidelines. This program is intended to

decrease many common health-risk behaviors for youth that are linked to lower educational attainment.

Accomplishments and Impacts Since the start of the Bulldog Hour afterschool program there have been several positive responses from parents, district staff and representatives and students. Often times, parents choose to let their child/children stay longer because students are engulfed in the current school enrichment activity. One parent has said “I feel so relieved that my child likes staying here so much I have to reassure her she can come back tomorrow”. Another parent has stated “I was constantly worried I couldn’t help (name omitted) with his homework. With this program I feel more at ease knowing he will get it done.” District superintendent, Loretta Fowler, sent an email to CCE after the start of the 2015-2016 school year stating “It’s great to have such a positive relationship with Cornell Cooperative Extension. You lead such great programming. Thanks for your leadership with Bulldog Hour and for all your support of activities our students are involved in.”

The ability to allow students age 16-18 the opportunity for first time job experience has also showed a positive impact and success of Bulldog Hour.

Collaborators NYS Office of Child and Family Services, Chateaugay Central School District

Special funding sources
(if any)