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| **Story Title**  | CCE is Up for the Challenge! |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Diane R. Dumont |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County’s Family Health and Wellness department provided 10 hours of nutrition and physical education to over 500 youth at Davis Elementary school. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | “The prevalence of obesity among U.S. school-aged children (6-11 years) was 17.5%” (CDC, 2015)“Obesity disproportionally affects children from low-income families” (CDC, 2014)“18.5% of people in Franklin County are in poverty” (census.gov, 2010)“Intervention has positive impact on pattern of nutrition, and it can be concluded that intervention is effective on increasing or improving the knowledge, attitude, and performance of the students.” (National Library of Medicine, 2015) |
| **Extension Responses**  | CCE collaborated with the Physical Education department of Davis Elementary school in order to provide ten hours of nutrition/physical education to students in grades K-5. Programming took place on Tuesday and Wednesday every week for eleven weeks, using the 4-H “Up for the Challenge” curriculum. Lessons in the curriculum ranged from different types of exercise, to the different food groups, and healthy snack and drink choices. Upon completion of the lesson, a physical activity related to the material was implemented. During the tenth week, a post test was given to the students who were able to provide feedback for the “Up for the Challenge” curriculum and the educator. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | Nutrition education provided in the schools proved beneficial to countless youth at Davis Elementary. Multiple faculty members with children in the school reported their children “Choosing healthier snacks while shopping”, “Spending lots of time reading the nutrition facts labels both in the house and at the store”, “Picking healthy drinks instead of soda”, and “Constantly reminding me about MyPlate during meals”. Aids in the cafeteria have reported that children will “openly talk about the foods they brought in and compare their nutritional value”. The retention rate of the nutrition education is very high, with students from grades 1-5 bringing up material from previous education years prior. The Physical Education staff at Davis Elementary are very eager for Cornell Cooperative Extension’s return. |
| **Collaborators**  | Malone Central School District, Greater Malone Area YMCA |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  | Walmart, United Health Care |

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| **Story Title**  | Composting and Recycling Grant Spreads Knowledge to North Country Youth |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Casey L Sukeforth |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | 4-H Camp Overlook was one of three camps involved with an EPA grant to start a composting program as well as increase our recycling efforts. The program included education to over 700 Camp Overlook Summer campers as well as the local youth who attend our school programs. Over 1200 children who visited Camp Overlook received composting and recycling curriculum, and over 800 pounds of food waste was diverted to a compost pile instead of a landfill.  Campers surveyed after indicated that many planned to increase their own recycling and start their own compost piles. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | The EPA sites that in 2014, about 136 million tons of Municipal Solid Waste were land filled. Food was the largest component (being over 21 percent). Northern New York and its landfills are adversely affected by a lack of composting and recycling. The EPA grant proposed an increase in environmental literacy and encourage behavior that benefits the environment will affect our local community in two ways.  The first pathway the school age youth will be directly exposed to a detailed understanding of the effects on the environment due to the lack of composting and recycling in a way that the youth may analyze, evaluate, problem solve, make informed decisions, take immediate action and future action.  The second pathway is the three rural camps will practice safe waste management and recycle practices leading to long term stewardship and a positive attitude change towards the enhancement of the natural environment. The audience being served is disproportionately impacted by rural low income communities.  Across the three camps, 38% of the campers are on scholarship – due to low economic status.  |
| **Extension Responses**  | With funds supplied by the grant, camp built a 3 bin compost system, place recycling receptacles in each camp and meeting space, and invested in many educational tools for campers to study our compost. 4-H Camp Overlook developed a stewardship plan as well as attended three pre-camp trainings with the EPA and Cornell Waste Management institute to develop curriculum for the campers. Also in attendance was our summer Environmental Education Director, who helped shape the curriculum to fit Camp Overlook’s campers and daily schedule. Summer campers received daily mini-compost lessons before meals, and campers enrolled in our environmental education classes got more in-depth composting and recycling curriculum. During the spring and fall the recycling curriculum was given during conservation field days. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | Daily composting and the curriculum were implemented in the spring and during residential camp. Over the course of the program 4-H Camp composted over 800 pounds of waste, which would have normally gone to a landfill. Over 1200 local youth learned about 4-H Camp overlooks recycling and composting efforts. Composting was successful and encouraged behavior changes in our kitchen staff. Composting will continue beyond the grant proposal because of ease and efficiency. After action survey of campers showed an increase in composting and recycling knowledge, as well as many site behavior changes. |
| **Collaborators**  | Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, 4-H Camp Wabasso, Oswegatchie Outdoor Learning Center, New York FFA Leadership Training Foundation, Cornell Waste Management institute, Environmental Protection Agency, Casella Waste Management. |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  | Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Local Grants Program |

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| **Story Title**  | Cornell Cooperative Extension Saves The (afterschool) Dayâ€¦AGAIN! |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Abby LangdonSteve M. McDonald |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | 4-H Youth Development department of Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County provides comprehensive afterschool childcare with the inclusion of school enrichments activities. |
| **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, 2016).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, 2016).Brushton-Moira central’s superintendent, Donna Andre, contacted CCE of Franklin County to create an afterschool program. Mrs. Andre was looking for something similar to that of the pre-existing program created by CCE in Chateauguay to extend the school day for the district families in need of those services. |
| **Extension Responses**  | Partnering with NYS OCFS (Office of Child and Family Services) CCE obtained a license and provided a comprehensive affordable afterschool childcare program to the Brushton-Moira School District. The program includes weekly school enrichment activities sourced from 4-H curricula. Some of the curricula used included “Project Wet”, “Project Seasons”, GIS activities and many more. High school teens were hired as mentors to assist youth with homework and school projects during the afterschool program to strengthen academics with ultimate goal to improve graduation rates. In addition, each program participant was also provided with a daily snack that follows NYS healthy school’s 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 Panther 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(ren) stay longer. They return at the end of programing to pick up students 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, Donna Andre, often praises Panther Hour staff and is delighted to observe the program regularly.The ability to allow students age 16-18 the opportunity for first time job experience has also showed a positive impact and success of Panther Hour. |
| **Collaborators**  | NYS Office of Child and Family Services, Brushton-Moira Central School District |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  |  |

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| **Story Title**  | Cornell Cooperative Extension Summer Programming for At-Risk Youth |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Abby LangdonDaniel Rexford Sweet |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | Yes |
| **Executive Summary**  | 4-H Youth Development department of Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County provides summer programming to Salmon River Central School District families. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | “The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports U.S. youth spending 55 hours a week in front of a screen. Obesity in Franklin County is an astounding 36.5%, well above the NYS rate of 24.5%. The spike can be directly linked to the county’s high poverty rate and the lack of organized activities made available to low income families.”“Research shows that children who participate in quality afterschool programs have higher school attendance and academic achievement, are less likely to be involved in risky behaviors during the afterschool hours.” (ocfs.ny.gov, 2016)What we have noticed is that youth in grades 5-8 may attend the 4-H afterschool program, but have nothing to keep them engaged throughout the summer. CCE stepped in and provided summer programming to keep the youth active and away from engaging in risky behaviors, as well as keeping time spent in front of a television/computer screen down. |
| **Extension Responses**  | Over the summer, CCE provided both recreational and educational activities for youth enrolled in 4-H National Mentoring Program. There were a total of three summer events, two for the 4-H youth only and one family event. During our barbeque/bowling event at the Malone Memorial Recreation Park, icebreakers and team building activities were implemented in order for youth to create new friendships and get to know each other. At Rainbow Park in Fort Covington, the children were taught how to use GPS/GIS technology while geocaching. The final event of the summer was a family day trip to the Franklin County Fair, where CCE provided the transportation and day passes for entry. A photo scavenger hunt was given to the families in order to visit a variety of locations at the fair, while encouraging family bonding time. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | Youth enrolled with the Akwesasne Mentoring Program at Salmon River Central attended the summer programming events. While the youth were excited for both educational and recreational activities, parents were grateful for, “Keeping the kids active and away from electronics”. During our family day outing event located at the Franklin County Fair, parents expressed their gratitude and enthusiasm for a family oriented opportunity. Parents and family members of three different mentee’s families who had previously not attended any family events, participated in the Fair outing because it was “fun and engaging” and “not your typical family event”. When school started back up in September, mentees who had attended the summer programming events were delighted to share their experiences, and reconnect with other mentees who had forged new friendships. |
| **Collaborators**  | Salmon River Central School District, JCEO of Franklin County, Rainbow Recreation Park, Malone Memorial Recreation Park |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, National 4-H |

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| **Story Title**  | Environmental Education trip to 4-H Camp Overlook gives Students a much needed Connection to the Natural World |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Casey L SukeforthRichard L. GastPat BankerAndrew CarpinoSteve M. McDonald |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | Recent studies have found that American children see the environment as a very serious problem and that previous generations have not done enough to address it.  The Nature Conservancy found that if youth are given more opportunities to have a meaningful outdoor experience, they will be more likely to value nature, engage with it, and feel empowered to do something to protect it.  Yet over 60% of youth report that they don’t spend more time outdoors because of a lack of access. Brushton-Moira school district traveled to 4-H Camp Overlook to receive valuable hands on environmental education curriculum this fall that they could not get in the traditional classroom, and over 546 students visited camp for conservation field days. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | The National Science Foundation’s Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education states "in the coming decades, the public will more frequently be called upon to understand complex environmental issues, assess risk, evaluate proposed environmental plans and understand how individual decisions affect the environment at local and global scales. Creating a scientifically informed citizenry requires a concerted, systematic approach to environmental education. Nature Conservancy has found that 88% of American youth are online every day in an average week only 40% are spending any significant time outdoors.   The majority of American children see the environment as a very serious problem and that previous generations have not done enough to address it. According to the Foundation for Youth Investment, Environmental Education and youth development programs can help young people develop academic skills, self-confidence, and connections to the places where they live. |
| **Extension Responses**  | 4-H Camp Overlook has developed a place based environmental education program that gets students outside.  Teachers can choose classes that help round their existing classroom curriculum including wild edibles, invasive species, wildlife ecology, and orienteering. Hosting these classes at camp allows students to see concepts they have learned about in the classroom, but also gives them quality time outside. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  |  Youth gained experience and knowledge in botany, ecology, conservation, wildlife regulations, civic responsibility, and stewardship.  |
| **Collaborators**  | NYS 4-H Curriculum, Brushton-Moira School district, Malone School District, Chateaugay School District, Soil and Water, EPA |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  |  |

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| **Story Title**  | Franklin County 4-H Dairy Program Grows |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Diane R. DumontSteve M. McDonald |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | Franklin County youth have the opportunity to learn about raising dairy calves and the value of working with purebred animals through lease option.Issues /Needs: Changes in the dairy industry have made it more difficult for our historical pedigree farms to survive. The declining number of active purebred operations led to fewer opportunities for 4-H members to own their own registered calf. This results in less participation in our 4-H dairy project program. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | Changes in the dairy industry have made it more difficult for our historical pedigree farms to survive. The declining number of active purebred operations led to fewer opportunities for 4-H members to own their own registered calf. This results in less participation in our 4-H dairy project program. |
| **Extension Responses**  | Franklin CCE 4-H Youth Development staff decided to consciously promote the idea of leasing calves between area registered dairy breeders and interested youth. Purebred dairymen and women were receptive and supportive of the idea. Written agreements were made between participating youth and animal owner. These agreements included the use of a calf in exchange for farm labor (help with chores). The arrangement further educated youth on all aspects of the dairy industry above and beyond animal care. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | 4-H members developed skills necessary to exhibit their leased animals at the Franklin County Fair and the New York State Fair by attending the northern New York “Dairy Camp” hosted by Franklin County. Many youth, who otherwise wouldn’t, had the opportunity to participate in the Franklin County Animal Science Program, due to the leasing option. CCE staff and volunteers alike watched as they grew along with their animals and developed lasting relationships with local purebred breeders. Youth have learned firsthand how to grow, fit, judge, travel, win, lose, and smile knowing a helping hand and words of encouragement are always near. They know the disappointment of ringworm, warts, and an unruly calf in the show ring. Participants have gained knowledge and leadership skills in and out of the show ring that will last a lifetime. Parents and volunteer leader participation in this year’s 4-H dairy program has grown tremendously because of the animal leasing option. For many, who grew up on dairy farms, the animal leasing program afforded them the opportunity to carry on traditions and friendships from earlier 4-H involvement. 42 youth attended our 2016 “Dairy Camp” with 50% leasing animals. Likewise, the Franklin County Ag Society reports their “Open Show” has grown as a result of Franklin County CCE’s 4-H “animal lease” option. |
| **Collaborators**  | 4-H Volunteers, Franklin County Agriculture Society, Purebred Dairy Breeders |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  |  |

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| **Story Title**  | Increased Staff Training Results in Homesick Campers Staying at Camp |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Casey L SukeforthMackenzie A. Spillane |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | In being a residential camp we always have the few campers who are not quite ready to be away from home for an entire week.  Usually the main reason campers are sent home before the end of the week is due to homesickness. This summer 2016 season 4-H Camp Overlook directed more time training our counselor staff to prevent homesickness from happening.  We set aside many hours to openly discuss ways to nip homesickness in the bud and developed a series of changes to staff training and camp schedule to help keep campers happily involved in our program. We can proudly say we didn’t send one camper home early for homesickness this year. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | Many homesick campers that stay for the entire week will say they are happy they experienced camp for the entire time, and more often than not they will come back again the following year.  Making sure the counseling staff are equipped with handling homesickness is major for encouraging a child to stay at camp and have a good time doing so.  For many families camp can be expensive, when their child has a great experience at camp it is encouraging to parents that their money was well spent and sets us up for more camper return the following year.        |
| **Extension Responses**  | Many meetings during staff training were dedicated to battling homesickness. We held open discussions between senior staff, return staff, and new staff to answer questions or work through any potential homesickness scenarios.  Returning staff shared their stories on what approaches worked on helping campers feel more comfortable at camp and new staff practiced handling potential situations. We also rearranged the Sunday schedule to better meet the needs of brand new campers, the best way of helping campers adapt to a new situation is getting them involved in the program. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | Setting aside important time on homesickness during staff training directly resulted in having no campers sent home for homesickness during the entire summer. The extra discussions also helped the counseling staff work better as a unit and use each other as resources in combating homesickness. |
| **Collaborators**  | Melissa Michno 4-H Camp Overlook Summer Camp Director |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  |  |

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| **Story Title**  | Internship Filled by Long Term Camp Alumna |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Casey L SukeforthMackenzie A. Spillane |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | A new internship position was added to help the year round programming of 4-H Camp overlook this fall. Camp alumna Mackenzie Spillane filled the position in efforts to complete her bachelor’s degree from The College at Brockport, State University of New York. Mackenzie has been a part of camp life since she was 5 years old as a Cloverbud camper, eventually becoming a counselor at 17 and then taking the position of assistant director at 21 in 2015.  Her knowledge of camp contributed to a smooth and helpful transition into leading programs for year round groups and preparation for the 2017 summer camp session. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | This new internship position allows the opportunity for Mackenzie or any local college student to put their education into real scenarios and obtain the experience they need in the work force. This also opens a tie to The College at Brockport, State University of New York, as Mackenzie is currently enrolled as a student. 4-H was able to spend less time training Mackenzie in preparation for her internship as she already understands the workings of the organization. |
| **Extension Responses**  | During her internship Mackenzie has been given the opportunity to facilitate and plan for school groups attending camp for teambuilding activities, teach at conservation field days, edit the handbook for training summer camp staff, market job openings for camp, and assist in developing new class curriculum for the summer camp session.  In accomplishing these tasks Mackenzie will gain a complete understanding of the workings within a year round recreation organization. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | Having an extra hand on year round programming staff has helped camp run in the busy months of October and September without a hitch.  Having Mackenzie as an intern has also welcomed a long term association with The College at Brockport, State University of New York by 4H Camp overlook becoming an approved full semester internship site for the Recreation and Leisure department. Mackenzie learned about the state extension office and the workings of a non-profit, as well as demonstrated and applied ability to assist with planning and implementation our year-round adventure programming.  |
| **Collaborators**  | The College at Brockport State University of New York; Arthur Graham, Internship Coordinator, Dept. of Recreation and Leisure Studies, The College at Brockport |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  |  |

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| **Story Title**  | Mentee Becomes Site Coordinator Family  |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Abby LangdonDaniel Rexford SweetSteve M. McDonald |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Program (OJJDP) grant was awarded to Cornell University Cooperative Extension and subsequently sub- awarded to Franklin County CCE 4-H to establish a Youth and Family with Promise (YFP) Mentoring program at Salmon River Central and the St. Regis Mohawk School. The short term goals are to assist at risk youth academically and socially and to explore additional interests to redirect their attention from crime and drugs. In addition, the grant afforded an opportunity to provide family night outings as means to strengthen family bonds. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | Like many rural communities, the families and youth of the Mohawk Nation and Non-Native communities in which we serve, are limited by their lack of economic stability and the lack of a cohesive family atmosphere. More often than not children will be residing in a single parent/guardian family dwelling; weekends with a separated a parent and/or be under the care of a tóta (Mohawk for Grandmother). The Love our Family Pasta Bash was created to provide families an opportunity to come together and enjoy an atmosphere of open communication. In one unfortunate situation, a family did not “remember” to attend the Family Night Outing. Therefore, the child (Jayden) was let down and was tremendously distraught with his parent’s lack of attendance. Specifically, Jayden is a very high risk 5th grade student that is a product of his “unhealthy” family’s lack of stability. Jayden struggles in school with completing academic’s and often times makes up a story to cover for his inadequacies. |
| **Extension Responses**  | In February of 2016, the 3rd annual Love Our Family Pasta Bash (Family Night Outing) was held at the Salmon River Central School Cafeteria. Building on previous events, the 4-H Mentors and Mentee’s youth worked together to prepare for this event with Mentee’s setting their “family” table in anticipation of each of their families to arrive for the evening event. In an effort to console Jayden, whose family did not attend, site coordinator(s) welcomed Jayden to sit at the “4-H Family Site Coordinators” table. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | Saddened as he was, Jayden was at first reluctant to sit with the 4-H Family Site Coordinators. By creating a welcoming and loving connection, Jayden did sit at the 4-H Family Site Coordinators table. Unlike other Family Night outing participants, Jayden assisted with cleaning up. Perhaps for the first time in his young life, Jayden felt that he was a part of a family. As a result of this evening, Jayden’s attendance to the 4-H Mentoring Afterschool program was steady. Although he continues to have an “unhealthy” family life, Jayden has first-hand experience with 4-H Mentors and Site Coordinators that cannot be taken away. The 4-H Mentoring program has instilled in this young man that there are people in life who do care and are willing to go out of their way to help others like himself to believe in self-worth. |
| **Collaborators**  | Salmon River Central School, Office of Justice Juvenile and Delinquency Program (OJJDP); Franklin County Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Program. |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, National 4-H |

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| **Story Title**  | Program Makes Accommodations for Special Needs Youth |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Steve M. McDonald |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | 4-H Youth Development department of Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County works with host district and parents to makes accommodations for a program participant with Asperser Syndrome. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | Asperger Syndrome (AS) has been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) according to estimates from CDC’s Autism and Development Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. Asperger Syndrome is one of a distinct group of complex neurodevelopment disorders characterized by social impairment, communication difficulties, and restrictive, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior. Special needs youth, especially those diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, can find the after school setting difficult at times of chaos. Such was the case of one nine-year-old program participant of the Bulldog Hour (Chateaugay Central). Staff noticed that this young lady would physically and emotionally fall apart when over stimulated such as check-in, snack time, and times of mass dismissal. Her disruptive behavior during the busiest times of programming was difficult on staff and peers alike. |
| **Extension Responses**  | A meeting was set up with all stakeholders including; CCE Franklin, District Administration, Classroom Teacher, School Phycologist, Special Education Teacher, and parents. Early in the meeting, parents were visibly relieved to see that parties were there for the betterment of their child’s needs. Collaboratively we set a policy in place to ensure this young lady was safe during after school hours, yet able to retreat to a “quiet zone” during those times proven to be difficult to cope. Essentially, upon school dismissal, she would “check-in” and then immediately go to the computer lab where the school Librarian would watch her until Bulldog Hour participants disseminated to their small group locations/activities. From here, she would be given options with regards to participation. Staff would encourage her, but not force her to participate. Special independent, projects, tailored for her interests (Geckos, Cats) would be given to her. Staff would periodically introduce her into whole group activities in an effort to further develop her coping strategies learned by School Phycologist and Special Education Teachers.Chateaugay Central School District Special Education Teacher, Jessica Johnston provided professional development to Bulldog Hour staff on “Understanding Youth with Special Needs”. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | Following the implementation of the afore mentioned practices the student blossomed. She appeared to enjoy the extra independence she was granted and there were no more disruptions (from her) during programming. Periodically staff would schedule time for her to give a presentation on her “special topics/projects” in front of the entire group further developing both her communication skills and social inhibitions. Staff were able to use the “special accommodations” to educate other program participants on Asperger Syndrome and special needs in generals.Parents of this program’s participants truly appreciated our efforts to accommodate their daughter and emailed a heartfelt “thank-you”. District/Association ties strengthened as we collaboratively worked together in the best interest of this family. Additionally, CCE Special Education Teacher, Jessica Johnston has offered assistance with techniques, best practice with regards to other special needs youth attending programming |
| **Collaborators**  | Chateaugay Central School District, Office of Children and Family Services, Jessica Johnston (CCS Special Education), Sheila Simenson (parent), Heidi Sample (CCS Elementary Principal), Loretta Fowler (CCS Superintendent), Suzie Jones-King (CCS School Counselor) |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  |  |

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| **Story Title**  | Summer Day Camp: The root to success for parents and youth alike! |
| **Program**  | Franklin - 4-H Youth Development  |
| **Educators**  | Abby LangdonSteve M. McDonald |
| **Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?**  | No |
| **Executive Summary**  | 4-H Youth Development department of Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County provides a local summer day camp packed with STEM projects, critical thinking and team building activities, and physical activity. The camp is affordable and attainable for families of all incomes with the help of other local community action agencies and scholarships. |
| **Issues/Needs and Audiences**  | “When school's out, kids are actually more likely to engage in obesity-related behaviors such as watching more television, consuming more sugar and eating fewer vegetables, and their exercise levels barely budge, according to a study from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.” (www.mailman.columbia.edu)“Researchers concluded that the school environment plays an important role in helping kids maintain healthy behaviors and suggested school-based obesity prevention efforts go beyond the school year, in the form of summer meal and activity programs.” (www.mailman.columbia.edu)“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 childcare (ocfs.ny.gov, 2015). |
| **Extension Responses**  | Partnering with NYS DOH (Departments of Health) CCE obtained certification to provide a comprehensive and affordable summer day camp for the county community. The day camp included 10 different weekly choices of curricula, including Archery, GIS/Geocaching, Wilderness Education, Jr. and Sr. RASP (Recreation and Sports Play), Arts & Crafts, DDY (Dance Drama & Yoga), and many more. The camp operated from 7:30a-4:30 pm Monday- Friday providing a safe and fun environment for youth 5-12 to learn and grow socially and emotionally during the summer months. Camp counselors of all ages and backgrounds were hired to fully meet the needs of the diverse interests of youth involved. Partnering with the local YMCA and JCEO of Franklin and Clinton counties helped make it possible for this camp to succeed. JCEO provided breakfast and lunch for youth everyday as well as scholarships for families in need. The Greater Malone YMCA provided curriculum for classes and activities associated with physical activity along with assisting in pre-program development and certifications. |
| **Accomplishments and Impacts**  | The directors of Camp Akalaka for the 2016 summer were delighted to be informed of one specific youth’s success during camp. The parent of a 10-year-old male, who attended the camp for the entire 10 weeks it was in session, told directors how thankful she was for the program. The parent has another son who is older and who was released from a juvenile detention facility around week 3 of the camp season. She was afraid her younger son, who had been attending camp, may also be tempted to engage in risky behaviors. His being able to attend Camp Akalaka did away with her fears. The parent shared with directors that she believed if her older son had had the opportunity to attend a camp like Camp Akalaka he would not have been tempted to engage in the behaviors and crime he had. Directors were told that, due to the parent’s income, it was difficult for her to work full time and find a safe, affordable and educational place for her older son to attend during the summer months. Camp Akalaka was the perfect solution for this family. The directors even noticed a positive behavior change of the young camper throughout the summer. |
| **Collaborators**  | The NYS Department of Health, The Greater Malone YMCA, Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton and Franklin Counties (JCEO), Village of Malone |
| **Special funding sources (if any)**  |  |