

# NYS Education Department Learn and Serve Program Summaries



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## **Program Listing**

- Fredonia Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Wellsville Central School Learn and Serve Program
- West Valley Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Yorkshire Pioneer Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Albion Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Pittsford Central School Learn and Serve Program
- Syracuse City School District Learn and Serve Program
- DCMO BOCES Learn and Serve Program
- Elmira City School District Learn and Serve Program
- Plattsburg City School District Learn and Serve Program
- Utica City School District Learn and Serve Program
- Averill Park Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Brunswick Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Guilderland Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Questar III BOCES Learn and Serve Program
- Scotia Glenville Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Kingston City School District Learn and Serve Program
- White Plains Central School District Learn and Serve Program
- Yonkers Public Schools Learn and Serve Program
- East Meadow Union Free School District Learn and Serve Program
- Mineola Union Free School District Learn and Serve Program
- Three Villages Central School District Learn and Serve Program

## Fredonia Central School District

All students in grades K-1, including those with special needs, are introduced to an awareness of the community through participation in service learning activities. At the primary level, at risk students will become involved with the *Beautifying Fredonia* project. Elementary students take part in the District's paper recycling program, the A.C.T.C.L.E.A.N. beach restoration project, and the Caring for the Elderly initiative. The Fredonia Middle School, working in conjunction with the Abitibi/Bowater Consolidated recycling company, has led the District's paper recycling program. Students from general and special education classrooms team up to collect and properly dispose of the paper collected throughout the district. The students will now be taking their initiative to the community by offering recycling forums and fund-raising events to increase the public's awareness and participation in the District's paper recycling program.

The Fredonia High School students will continue to work with the Food Bank of Western New York and participate in the Empty Bowls of Western New York project. Our students first design, then create their own pottery bowls. These bowls are then auctioned off to raise money for the Food Bank of Western New York.

The Fredonia Central School District will be implementing a service learning requirement through the Mentor Teacher Program. All new teachers (those with less than three years of service) will attend monthly workshops devoted to learning how to incorporate service learning into their existing curriculum to actively involve their students in service activities. Another goal of the Mentor Teacher Program will be to have all new teachers participate in individual service learning events in order to give them a better understanding of not only the nature of service learning, but the practical applications of service learning projects. We will also be encouraging our teachers to attend the next annual *Community Works Summer Institute* to gain more knowledge about how to incorporate sustainable service learning into existing curriculum.

The Fredonia Central School District will also be working with the Health and Wellness Committee to develop sustainable programs to ensure adequate community and nutritional food supplies and the related issues of hunger, nutrition education and/or childhood obesity. We will be following this committee's strategic plan to address these issues.

The plan includes the following initiatives:

- Continue to expand the existing Farm to School Program. We want to expand the Fall Apple Program to a district-wide event. Also, we will be working with the high school Student Council and school stores expand the program into other fruit and vegetable seasons and work in classrooms to enhance nutritional education.
- Build school, family and community support for healthy eating and increased physical activity. We intend to host a community/family food fair night featuring the District's dietician consultant that will highlight foods that available locally. We also want to host a Family Fun Night with students from the upper grades serving as leaders for the younger students. Finally, we want to have our local Parent Teacher Association and the F.L.A.S.H. (Fredonia Learns About School Health) committee host informational and training sessions for parents to promote healthy food choices through parental role modeling.

## **Wellsville Central School District Learn and Serve Program**

The LSA partners are: Wellsville Central School (WCS) as the LEA & host site; Immaculate Conception School (ICS), Literacy West NY, Inc. (LWNY), and Allegany/Western Steuben Rural Health Network (AWSRHN) as the not for profit CBO's and Alfred University as the post-secondary educational partner.

The partnership proposes to develop/implement a new program, Service Learning Action in Motion (SLAM), a school/ community-wide SL response to the issues of hunger, *nutrition, and childhood obesity*, literacy, public safety, environmental, and human needs of Allegany County. The partners propose to: (1) ensure an adequate and nutritional community food supply; (2) combat adult & childhood obesity through awareness and activities promoting fitness and making healthy choices; (3) increase civic engagement opportunities for students to serve their community; and (4) engage adults in school-based SL experiences. The hunger, nutrition and childhood obesity issues will be addressed through service, reflection, and the integration of prevention awareness through school and community-wide activities.

Activities will focus on increasing the food supply, healthy choices, nutrition, and physical fitness activities and awareness through a variety of SL opportunities that will engage and educate the students and community, creating a healthier NY. K-12 students will plan and coordinate events that meet the nutrition, fitness, educational, public safety, environmental, and human needs. Students will develop civic responsibility and leadership through rigorous and relevant activities that promote participation, action, reflection, and demonstration to positively impact local, regional, state and national needs.

SLAM anticipates that approximately 1,600 students will participate at some level during the program, with 750 meeting the goal of 40 service hours & 20 hours of reflection. The program expects 250 adult volunteers to serve as well. All outcomes will be tracked quantitatively and qualitatively.

## West Valley Central School District Learn and Serve Program

- Mentoring – Students in grades 7-12 are paired with students in grades 2-6 to meet after school for one hour each week for mentoring. During this time older students help their mentees with homework and then may choose an activity to engage in. Activities include, but are not limited to, playing board games, baking, making crafts, going outdoors to tend the gardens, or playing card games.
- SPCA – Service Learning students collect and deliver donations for the local SPCA in Olean, New York. While they are at the facility, students learn about how to take care of pets and are also given a guided tour of the facility.
- The Pines Nursing Home – Service Learning students provide many services for residents of The Pines Nursing Home. Every year West Valley jazz band and chorus students perform for the residents at the nursing home. Additionally, West Valley elementary art students create placemats for the volunteer appreciation luncheon at The Pines. Art students also decorate the windows of the nursing home during the holidays. And finally, the tenth graders write cards and letters to nursing home patients.
- Senior Citizens Spring Clean-Up – Service Learning students, working with Boy Scout Troop 656, clean the yards of local senior citizens in the spring.
- Senior Luncheon – Senior Citizens are invited to the school for a luncheon and to enjoy a musical or drama performance presented by Learn and Serve students.
- Literacy Activities – *Family Reading Night* takes place monthly bringing students and their families into the school to read together. Learn and Serve students volunteer to read and do crafts related to the reading topic with younger children.
- *Parents as Reading Partners (PARP)* is a 2-week highlight of the elementary reading program. Learn and Serve students volunteer for three events: helping with the Book Fair, reading to younger students, and greeting adult guest readers coming in to the school at specified times during the week to read to elementary students.
- *Writing Books*: English 11 students write their own books, illustrate them and read them to elementary students. The Spanish 5 students read their books in Spanish.
- *Writing and Reading with Veterans*: the elementary classes including kindergarten make cards for veterans for Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day and interact with the West Valley American Legion Post whose members read in the Kindergarten classes.
- St. Bonaventure Warming House Soup Kitchen – (New this year!) Learn and Serve students will volunteer as cooks, meal servers, and cleaners at the Warming House soup kitchen at St. Bonaventure University once or twice every month during the school year. During the summer students will help tend the organic garden near the university that provides the soup kitchen with its produce. Learn and Serve students performing this service are committed to performing 40 hours of service per year. Through this partnership between the Mentoring and Service Learning Program and the St. Bonaventure Soup Kitchen, service learning students will be able to participate events at St. Bonaventure that deal with issues of hunger and nutrition; such as days of fasting and evenings of conversation on hunger.
- West Valley Community Garden – (Also new this year) Learn and Serve students will create and tend to a community garden. Produce from the community garden will be given to local senior citizens and any families in need.
- Student Success Plan – At West Valley Central School struggling students set aside time to work with a teacher or a mentor from the Mentoring Program who will work with the student on the subject they are struggling with.

## Yorkshire Pioneer Central School District Learn and Serve Program

Number of participating students — 2,200

### Objectives

- Increase nutrition education opportunities for elementary, middle and high school students.
- Increase opportunities for parents and community members to learn about good nutrition.
- Increase availability of nutritional food supplies.
- Reduce hunger in the Pioneer District.
- Increase opportunities for healthy exercise.
- Improve local environment.

### Activities — Address needs & objectives.

- Elem./HS: FFA Food for America, USDA Agriculture in the Classroom, Agriculture Awareness Fair; MS/HS: Maple Program, Honey Program, Computer Camp for Nutrition & Health; FIS: FFA Leadership Camp (addresses all objectives)
- MS/HS: Wyoming County Fair Community Educational Cooperative Extension, Computer Camp for Nutrition & Health
- HS: Hydroponics vegetable produce, VFW Fruit Stand; MS/HS: Maple Program; Adult/HS:
  - Pioneer Corps donated food, Community Garden
  - HS/Food pantries: Donations of hydroponics vegetables, Community Garden
  - HS: Arcade Village Park trail improvements, Delevan Nature Center trail improvements
  - HS: trail improvements, Adopt a Stream fish stocking, debris clearing; Elem./HS: Earth Day activities, Arbor Day/Maple tree planting

### Partners

- **Genesee Community College** — Recruit college volunteers for service learning activities; advisory committee - project planning, evaluation.
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension Wyoming County** — Lead Wyoming Co. Fair community nutrition education & safety activities, nutrition education lesson for HS Food Service classes and for MS Computer Camp participants; advisory committee - project planning, evaluation.
- **VFW Hendershott Manness Post 374** — Donate outdoor and some indoor space, volunteers for project Fruit Stand; audience for student nutrition presentations; advisory committee —project planning, evaluation; MOA attached.
- **Pioneer Corps** — School staff service volunteers engage/train HS students to help with small home repairs & distribute donated food with nutrition messages.
- **Waste Management Inc.** — Local business disposes of debris from stream clearing.
- **Pioneer Superintendent, 4 Building Principals, Board of Education** — Facilitate service learning project; interface with teachers and project staff; provide in-kind match.
- **Pioneer Community Technology Center**— MS students research, report on nutrition, hunger reduction; present to community audiences.

### Expected outcomes

- Students learn more about nutrition, improve eating habits, exercise more, engage in service learning activities that address participant and community needs.
- Community members learn more about good nutrition, exercise more.
- Hunger in Pioneer district is reduced by making nutritious foods more available.
- Local environment is enhanced through several project activities.

## **Albion Central School District Learn and Serve Program**

The proposed project links approximately 1200 students in the PreK-12 Albion Central School District (ACSD) with a variety of community agencies, service organizations, businesses, volunteers and secondary education institutes. Partnerships will include Buffalo State College and Community Action of Orleans and Genesee Inc. These partnerships represent organizations in Albion and the surrounding area that are committed to aiding and assisting the District with Learn and Serve America grant objectives.

ACSD has received local, state and national recognition for its service-learning programs and has continued to expand programs in the last several years to all grade levels and subject areas with a focus on making service-learning an essential component of classroom instruction. Students, staff and community will benefit from this program as a district-wide and community-wide focus will look at what we all can do to ensure adequate community and nutritional food supplies, gain an understanding of the related issues of hunger, and become educated about nutrition and issues of childhood obesity.

Albion Central School District continually seeks to provide students with experiences that facilitate skills to assist them in becoming active learners and responsible citizens. In addition to increasing service-learning throughout the district, the grant will continue to enhance the district-wide character education program by connecting service-learning to character education. It will also enhance the high school community service programs by educating community agencies on the difference between service-learning and community service and working with agencies on improving community service opportunities for our students.

The district desires to continue its expansion of service-learning in which every student will participate at some point in their ACSD career. Funding will allow the district to further define and strengthen its relationship between the school and community, target low socioeconomic students to achieve through service-learning programs and to develop civic skills with student participants.

ACSD will continue to provide relative and up-to-date regional professional development opportunities and support services to participating school districts and postsecondary institutes in the Finger Lakes region.

It is envisioned that over 1,200 students (over 50% of student population) will be involved in service-learning projects that will increase their functional literacy and civic skills, 250 community members will become involved in authentic volunteer activities that will promote civic engagement and assist our students in becoming active, concerned citizens of the world. Additionally, 100 post secondary students from local colleges/universities will be educated in service-learning as a teaching methodology. Finally, 50—75 teachers and administrators from the Finger Lakes region will receive service-learning education and assistance from the Finger Lakes Service-Learning Institute, housed at the District.

## **Pittsford Central School District Learn and Serve Program**

*Do Something Great!* A Service Learning Model to engage all Students. *Do Something Great!* is a successful and sustainable Service-Learning program in the Pittsford Central School District in Pittsford, New York. The program is a true school/community collaboration of local partners including the Pittsford Alliance for Substance-Free Youth, Nazareth College, Pittsford Senior Citizens, and the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

Our District mission is to provide relevant curriculum-based Service-Learning opportunities for all students in grades K-12, strengthen our students' character development, underscore leadership and literacy skills, foster civic responsibility, and encourage community participation and collaboration with meaningful and purposeful assessment, reflection, and recognition.

The Program Objectives for Students, Faculty and Community Members in 2009-2010 are to:

- Continue to expand a standards-based Service-Learning model in all curriculum areas through trainings, workshops/conferences and collaboration between participants.
- Foster school/community partnerships, civic engagement, and diverse student/adult participation that include nutrition education and community outreach.
- Develop and strengthen student moral and performance character and life skills through Service-Learning experiences that impact 5400 Pittsford students.
- Continue to share the Pittsford model with other school districts and communities.
- Our expected outcomes in 2009-2010 are to:
  - Impact 5400 Pittsford students through Service Learning and character development efforts.
  - Develop a sustainable service program with Nazareth College that focuses on the nutritional needs of urban and suburban students in the Rochester, NY area.
  - Provide meaningful training, experiences, evaluations/ assessments, and recognition for students/staff/faculty who are engaged in Service Learning and character development.

## Syracuse School City District Learn and Serve Program

The Syracuse City School District (SCSD), in collaboration with Catholic Charities' Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) and numerous community-based organizations, will further their efforts to institutionalize service learning through implementation of the 2009-2010 Learn and Serve America (LSA) Program. During 2008-2009, the District increased the number of students served from 1,200 to 2,060, nearly a 42% increase in participants. The 2009-2010 LSA program will continue to target at least 2,060 students attending the following schools: Danforth Middle School, Frazer K-8 School, Levy K-S School and Nottingham High School. The goals of this program are to improve school wide and community education that addresses issues of hunger, nutrition and wellness, including childhood obesity; to improve literacy skills and academic achievement; to promote positive interaction between youth and adults in an effort to strengthen the schools and community; and to better prepare students to become productive, responsible citizens and civic engagement.

Each participating school will design a project(s) that addresses the state need, which is to ensure adequate community and nutritional food supplies and the related issues of hunger, nutrition education and/or childhood obesity as well as other locally identified needs such as the safety, poverty, human and educational needs of students and the community. Participating students will be involved in assessing the needs of the community. After the community needs assessment is complete, students will design service-learning projects that support their personal interests and meet the identified needs of the community. Volunteers, teachers, support staff and parents will train, guide and assist the students in project implementation. All service-learning activities will be integrated into classroom instruction.

Some planned initiatives are:

- **Spring Health Fairs**- Schools will collaborate with a number of community based organizations to present and promote various aspects of wellness;
- **Commercials for Healthy Lifestyles**- Students will record commercials on healthy living habits and distribute them to other elementary schools at weekly community forums and daily school announcements;
- **Ads for Wellness**- Students will create posters on healthy eating habits, lifestyles, wellness and nutrition and they will be displayed throughout the school;
- **Healthy Snack Store**- Students can purchase healthy snacks with tickets that they have been awarded for showing good character;
- **Wellness Week**- In May, students will participate in a school-wide wellness fair culminated with an annual Suskin Run, which increases awareness and raises funds to fight cancer;
- **Food Preparation** - Various trips to local meal kitchen to help prepare meals for those in need (i.e. Salvation Army, Rescue Mission, Meals on Wheels, etc...);
- **Refugee Welcome Baskets**- students will prepare baskets filled with daily essentials to be donated to the Syracuse Refugee Center;
- **Jump Rope for Heart**- Students will jump rope to support the American Heart Association; and
- **Go Green Murals**- Students will create murals in their schools that promote, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Renew" initiatives.

## **DCMO BOCES Learn and Serve Program**

In response to statewide attention to enable food security and nutrition education, Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), The Place, Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES, Morrisville State College and The RED Group have collectively established the communities. Schools and Colleges in Partnership (CSCP) program to: support K-12 educators implementing standards-based service-learning projects; to foster civic responsibility, service, and knowledge within student participants, and to increase community collaboration in service-learning activities within regional districts.

CSCP commits to: train 80 educators and community partners to the implementation of the CSCP Curriculum; to engage 3,000 student participants in civic activities with a focus on nutrition and food security, and to expand and sustain at least 30 community partnerships with focus on nutrition and food security.

Performance measures for student development and community impact will ensure:

1. 85% of the local partner organizations will indicate that the service learning activities provided by student participants have helped them ensure an adequate and nutritional food supply for their community;
2. 85% of the student participants will demonstrate an improvement in civic engagement skills; and
3. 85% of community partners will indicate positive improvements; in school and community relations, older adult and student interactions, and the perception of students as change agents in the community.

Through professional development; ongoing evaluation; a continuum of technical assistance; and the development of enduring community partnerships CSCP will prepare K-12 educators to increase health literacy, skills and competencies of students to influence attitudes and behaviors to enable improved nutrition, food security and healthy lifestyle choices.

## **Elmira City School District Learn and Serve America Program**

The Positive Citizens Plus program will engage 8,193 Chemung County students from all thirteen schools within the Elmira City School District, all three schools within the Elmira Heights Central School District, and the Holy Family Elementary School in a continuum of literacy-based integrated service-learning that identifies and addresses unmet needs affecting the quality of life in their communities.

Through partnerships with Coming Community College, Cornell University Cooperative Extension and over forty local community organizations, students will:

1. increase the development of character traits related to citizenship and civic engagement through the application of academic, social, and personal skills to identify and respond to community needs;
2. increase their understanding of community assets/resources as they respond to community hunger needs;
3. increase literacy skills across the content areas; and
4. increase success, both in and out of school, through positive relationships with a peer and/or adult mentor.

The Program will include classroom based and school-wide projects as well as opportunities for individual and small group service. Beginning in Kindergarten, students will progressively develop the ability to

1. conduct research for community needs assessments;
2. develop project goals;
3. identify assets and potential community partners;
4. draft and carry out action plans; and
5. reflect upon and report the impact of their actions.

High school students will receive college credit from Coming Community College for successfully completing the *Civic Engagement through Service Learning* elective offered at each high school.

Students in Chemung County live in communities challenged by declining economic conditions. Nearly 20% of children in Elmira Heights, ages 5-17 are living in poverty, an increase of almost two percentage points from the previous year. In the Elmira City School District, nearly 30% of children ages 5-17 are living in poverty. Over 56% of district children qualify for free or reduced price lunch and 22% percent are from families that receive food stamps, the fourth highest rate in NYS. Even Holy Family Elementary, an academically-thriving non-public school, has seen an increase of over 100% from 2008 to 2009 in the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. Administrators in both the Elmira and Elmira Heights school districts have noted an increase in student discipline referrals and an increase in incidents of a more serious nature. Schools are challenged to provide meaningful civic opportunities for students to develop positive character traits. Only 29% of students surveyed identified the adults in their lives as positive role models. Teachers note that students lack literacy skills to engage in critical thinking to form their own ideas. Many lose motivation for learning and disengage from school.

The Elmira City School District, in partnership with the Elmira Heights Central School District and the Holy Family Elementary School, has demonstrated its commitment to its students and the surrounding community through the integration of service learning into the curriculum at all grade levels. The Positive Citizens Plus Program has grown from a seven-school program at its inception in 1995 to a seventeen-school program in 2009. Over the

past fourteen years. The Elmira City School District, as the lead Local Educational Agency, has increased the breadth and depth of its commitment to the implementation of service learning activities across the district and the county. Support from the New York State Learn and Serve America: K-12 School-Based Programs will continue integration of service learning to reinforce the expectation that all students will develop civic responsibility and become problem solvers.

## **Plattsburgh City School District Learn and Serve Program**

Plattsburgh City School District (PCSD) and Champlain Valley Family Center (CVFC) propose to pool their resources with support from SUNY Plattsburgh to continue integrating the Learn and Serve America Program throughout the Plattsburgh City School District. The Plattsburgh City School District's Learn and Serve program grew from 350 students to just under 2000 students during the 06-09 grant cycle.

This proposal will build on the programs past success, with projects like our soldiers and veterans programs which have fostered civic awareness within our students. 91% of students' assessed last year registered an improvement in at least one of the following areas: Connection to Community, Civic Awareness, and Civic Efficacy. Using NYS Social Studies Standards projects will continue to foster student's civic engagement. Projects like our Environmental/Global Youth Awareness Fair, Recycling Programs, Empty Bowls and Children Feeding Children Poetry program have built student assets and helped up to 93 % of participants gain social competencies, and with a wide variety of projects that have created an awareness of youth as a community resource. Last year 94% of all community stakeholders indicated that the project they participated in, or where recipients of, helped them feel more connected to youth. The program will continue to survey all community based organizations partnering with student driven service learning projects as well as community members and organizations that are recipients of projects.

District wide, programs will serve several needs in our community. With the start of a new grant cycle comes a new objective: Adequate and Nutritional Food Supply for our Community. Obesity is reaching epidemic proportions in the United States as well as in Clinton County, NY, one in five New York State children are overweight. Prevention of childhood obesity may be the key to future healthier generations; therefore service learning programs will focus on healthy lifestyle choices, physical activity, targeted dietary practices anti childhood obesity, good nutrition, and adequate and nutritional food for everyone. These programs are necessary to help our students make a positive impact on themselves and their community. With over 47% of students district wide living in poverty the continued need for additional Developmental Assets (or factors that promote healthy life styles) among our youth is evident by high rates of at risk behaviors; the need to foster civic awareness and a feeling of efficacy among our youth; and the need to develop connections between youth and community, at the same while time, helping organizations address issues of hunger, homelessness, poverty and more.

In order to make these changes Plattsburgh School District's Learn and Serve America Program will utilize SUNY Plattsburgh Service Corps Members, volunteers through the office of Service Learning and Volunteerism, RSVP members, and other volunteers to help provide services to students district wide. To better help teachers with educational components the Learn and Serve program will also partner with the Clinton County Health Department's *Ex: Well Play Hard*" program Cornell Cooperative Extension's *Nutrition Program*.

## **Utica City School District Learn and Serve Program**

The Mohawk Valley Regional Learn and Serve Network is comprised of schools/community based organizations that promote service learning programs. The goal is to promote nutrition education, increase hunger awareness, promote current service learning programs and assist other schools and agencies in expanding and beginning programs focusing on the principles of service learning. The expected outcome of program activities will be better educated students and parents in nutrition education.

Activities will include a Health Fair provided by the Regional Network for parents, students, educators and community residents; a Hunger Forum for high school students; and the development of a Healthy Lifestyles/Healthy Eating program for elementary students, developed by high school students from Red Cross Clubs, Proctor NJROTC and the Young Scholars Program of Utica College. Students at Proctor will develop media pieces for the district's cable television station, website and the local media stressing good nutrition and health tips. The elementary program at Kernan will focus on planting a garden, field trips to farms, grocery stores, and local food banks, and piloting the Healthy Lifestyles/Healthy Eating program. Other activities will focus on Citizenship, Homeland Security and Health and Safety. The Regional Network is comprised of the American Red Cross of the Mohawk Valley, Kernan Elementary School LSA Program, Utica College Young Scholars Liberty Partnership Program, the Proctor NJROTC program, and Utica City School K-12 program. Partnerships for this new grant period are: Thea Bowman House, Hope House, ROTC program at Utica's Roman Catholic High School, Notre Dame and the Utica Community Food Bank.

The proposed participants each year will be 1.250 students, 50 teachers. 12 staff from the Red Cross. Hope House. Thea Bowman, and Young Scholars, 25 new volunteers and 50 community based organization staff and/or volunteers in Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

## **Averill Park Central School District Learn and Serve Program**

In 2009-10, a minimum of 1,500 students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels will provide service to school and community under the direction of 65 teachers with the support of 30 adult volunteers through a quality, curriculum-based, district-wide Service Learning program in the Averill Park Central School District, Rensselaer County.

This will be the year of formalized Service Learning in Averill Park. Our continued emphasis is on service, responsibility, and citizenship. Consistent with the state program focus, our primary need to be addressed is helping to "ensure an adequate and nutritional community food supply and the related issues of hunger, nutrition education and/or childhood obesity." Our secondary need is providing for our district's at-risk student population (including our ongoing need to address the problem of substance abuse as identified in all our previous grant proposals). Our at-risk students are especially in need to improve their academic, life skills and social competency, while building attachments within the schools and community. These needs will be developed or enhanced through Service Learning.

Since its inception twelve years ago, the strengths of Averill Park's program are its flexibility; strong teacher and classroom orientation; a large and growing variety of themes (thus increasing the number of learning standards addressed); the availability to students at **all levels** and abilities; as well as broad-based community involvement. Partners for 2009-2010 include Russell Sage College, area food banks, an after school program for at-risk Hispanic children, nursing homes and assisted living residences, area childcare programs, an urban refugee resettlement agency, as well as other community and faith-based organizations.

In the 2006 to 2009 grant cycle, Averill Park met or exceeded all of its performance goals, with an average of 74 teachers participating and 1,900 students providing 46,500 hours of service to school and community annually. Literacy, ATOD prevention, civic engagement, and intergenerational and international awareness are all key elements of Averill Park's program.

For 2009-10, targeted program outcomes include: (a) 1,500 students, supported by 65 teachers and 30 adult community volunteers; (b) reported improvement in literacy as well as civic skills and attitudes; and (c) enhanced school-community relationships and support. Outcomes will be measured a number of ways, including post-project teacher evaluations of student participants, post-project evaluations of projects by community host sites, various records of student participation, as well as feedback from student and teacher participants.

## **Brunswick Central School District Service Learning Program**

The Brunswick CSD (BSCD) graduates citizens who maintain civic engagement and have a lasting impact on our local, regional and global community. Answering President Obama's call to service our 1350 Pre-K-I2 regular/special education students will engage in service learning (SL) through class, grade-level, building level projects, after-school clubs and credit bearing courses to address unmet needs in our community. Recognizing the need to ensure an adequate and nutritious food supply for the local community we are planning projects with farmers, the food pantry and the Cooperative Extension. Best Buddies Club and RAPP students will develop a Community Garden and create Portable Gardens to donate to the food pantry. Key Club has outreach projects planned to supply food locally.

Addressing childhood obesity and nutrition education the Nutrition and Exercise Project will teach students to use and communicate about healthy life choices. Credit-bearing SL courses such as Broadcast Journalism and TV Broadcast Media, will produce video projects to identify food sources in our community and knowledge of our agricultural culture. The Play for Change project will incorporate music education, creating a music CD to benefit our local food pantry. Our Teddy Bear Project will serve critically ill children at the Double H Ranch. Kids Care Club will serve seniors and the disadvantaged. The TLC: Elementary Volunteer older students teach K-S students in an after-school program. CEAP students create murals for the school hallways. Other projects include: the 7th grade Historic Newspaper and Museum Night, a foreign language poetry project and an Advanced Biology Nature Quilt to teach about the environment to benefit BEF. Beginning development of SL graduation requirements we will research other districts as we begin to implement this important change to our curriculum.

Our SL network of adult volunteers includes parents, retired teachers, Baby Boomer volunteers and CBO's. Our service learning web pages, district website and newsletter provide true community connections.

## **Guilderland Central School District Learn and Serve Program**

There are two major objectives for our program. This program would be used to expand and implement a program where the students of Farnsworth Middle School become agents for the ecological restoration of Karner Blue habitat and the enhancement of community awareness and education about the Pine Bush biodiversity and ecological restoration. This service-learning program will be directly integrated into the students' study of ecology in science. Students will be asked to apply the ecological concepts they have learned in science to create and carry out ecological field-research and restoration projects in partnership with the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission. Activities will include an in depth research project on the Pine Bush, field trips to the Pine Bush to conduct restoration work and research, and the operation of a student-run butterfly house where community members will learn from students about the Pine Bush and ecological restoration. Expected outcomes from this part of the program include: a greater commitment by students to community service, empowerment of students as change agents in their community, ecological restoration in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, and a greater community awareness of the importance of understanding their local ecology. We would be partnering with the Albany Pine Bush Commission, the Teresian House and the University at Albany.

Secondly, this project would enhance and expand a program where students and community members work together to grow over one ton of organic produce to be donated to and distributed in partnership with local and regional food banks. This service-learning program will be directly integrated into the students' study of soil and nutrition in science. Activities would include planting, maintaining and harvesting the crops at a 3/4 acre organic garden at the school, a study of soil and nutrition and trips to food banks. We would be partnering with the Regional food bank.

Over 400 seventh grade students would be participating.

## Questar III BOCES Learn and Serve Program

### Columbia Greene Ed Center-

- **The Friends of Rachel** - This program started in 2008 as an off-shoot from local Rachel's Challenge Programs at Catskill and Taconic Hills Schools. The focus is on Character Education; a student driven program focusing on service to fellow students and community members and bringing awareness to social issues and concerns.
- **Shriner's Hospital** - Students began the school year with a recycling fundraiser to benefit Shriner's hospital. They organized a contest between programs as to which class could collect the most soda/cat/dog can lids. These lids will be melted down to scrap metal with the proceeds donated to Shriner's Hospital; benefiting terminally ill children in the area.
- **Stand Up to Bullying Day** -was also facilitated by the Friends of Rachel. 150 pink t-shirts were sold to students and staff for this international day of solidarity. Students conducted a poetry/essay contest, and on November 20<sup>th</sup> wore their shirts with approximately 200 students and staff from the CGEC, greeting students with lollipops as they entered the building. Currently the club is advertising for the **Edith Casey Stocking fund**, a toy drive and one of the oldest community service holiday projects in the city of Hudson.
- **Recycling Project-Auto Services** - This is a sustainable project Auto services inherited from Intro to Employment. A scholarship award was distributed at CGEC awards ceremony last year to two recipients who recycled every week. This year students will continue pick up of all recyclables but also separate soda and water bottles, return these bottles for deposit and recycle the tabs for the Rachel's Challenge fundraiser benefiting Shiner's Hospital.
- **10<sup>th</sup> grade ALP/Culinary/Food & Nutrition** - Each year the culinary program lends its support to the Hudson Salvation Army cooking 3-4 turkeys and preparing the "fixings" for the Salvation Army's annual dinner which feeds approximately 500 people in the Hudson area. For the last four years service learning students from ALP and Food & Nutrition have collaborated through a mentoring program using produce from local farms to create meals to serve to recipients of the Salvation Army's soup kitchen. This past Thanksgiving holiday a group of 7 ALP students prepared a Pasta e Fagiole to serve at the soup kitchen with the support of the Food & Nutrition teacher Teresa Mills.
- **LPN** - On December 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 the students from the LPN program now at Hudson Central school district convened at the CGEC (its former building) to recruit and facilitate a Red Cross Blood Drive. Typically 6 Blood Drives are held each year at the CGEC, REC and SUNY New Campus. Over 200 pints of blood are donated and students are usually eligible for \$400-500 worth of scholarship money in honor of their hard work.
- **Veteran's Day Luncheon** - Another successful Veteran's Day luncheon was celebrated at the CGEC. Over 200 Veterans attended this year's brunch sponsored by the Culinary and the Food & Nutrition programs.

### Rensselaer Educational Center-

- **Veteran's Day Luncheon/Veterans History Project** - As with the CGEC, the REC also hosts a Veteran's Day Luncheon. Because of the confines of space it's usually on a smaller scale. Last year students from the Skills USA program of REC (a leadership club), attended the Veteran's Memorial Day picnic with The Rensselaer Academy students (Special Ed/Challenge students) at the Rensselaer Elks to meet the Veterans from the VA Hospital and to market their Veterans Day Luncheon. This meeting was followed up by invitations from the ALP program at REC who were doing a project in civics. Students invited members of the VA Hospital in Albany to the

Luncheon. This connection will hopefully lead to a larger project conducted by the civics class documenting stories from local veterans from the VA Hospital. December 10<sup>th</sup> students met a Mr. McBain and formally interviewed him with questions provided by the Library of Congress' Veteran's History project. A documentary of this along with other collections of stories will follow.

- **AIDS Council-Outreach/Mentoring** - Other ALP students have been working with the AIDS council on educational outreach. Several students formerly from Mt View Academy who had participated in the pop-up mentoring program with the ARK were selected to do a public service announcement for the AIDS council. It is our hope that these students with the help of Equinox who sponsored the event, can continue with a health/nutrition outreach project that ALP students from REC can share with the ARK for another mentoring project in the new year. Several of these students worked with Albany Senior Services on the on-going Meals on Wheels service project with the delivery of meals to recipients in Albany.
- **Youth Summit-Character Ed Conference** - Students from the Skills USA program escorted and served Veterans at the REC's Veteran's Day Luncheon, they will participate in the Skills USA Christmas caroling event, bringing a little Holiday cheer to the residents of three area nursing homes, and on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 of these students attended the Academy of Character Ed Youth Summit at Russell Sage College in Troy. These students attended a series of character education, leadership and service learning workshops with aspiring leaders from the Rensselaer Academy. These students will continue this on-going mentoring with period collaboration between the schools and leadership meetings in their respective schools.
- **Food Drive** - Students from the REC Honor Society facilitated a food drive for the Thanksgiving Holiday season collecting 250 items within the school to benefit St Paul's Center; a homeless shelter in Rensselaer County.

#### Other Service throughout Questar III

- **Meals on Wheels Program** - Continuing with our "food theme" we have brought back the popular Meals on Wheels program with deliveries of meals and the idea of tying it to our "healthy food" educational outreach project. As students from Goff Middle school work on the labeling of bags for the Meals deliveries we hope to start generating educational healthy recipes/info to distribute with the meals in the New Year. In January we'll have 4 buildings (Goff Middle School, Rensselaer Academy, REC & Sackett) participating. This project will connect hundreds of students from various populations of Special Ed and Career & Tech classes with recipients from Senior Services of Albany with weekly food deliveries and healthy food-choice tips.
- **Goff's Organic Community Garden** - Students from Goff MS will also continue its support and assistance of Goff's organic community garden. It is our hope we can elaborate upon the existing garden at Sackett and create a garden at Red Mill Elementary or Genet (East Greenbush schools which house approximately 7 elementary Special Ed classes of Questar III).
- **Thanksgiving Meal at Goff** - This year the Thanksgiving Meal traditionally prepared by Special Ed teacher, Carol Bluhm's class and several others at Goff included various produce from Goff Middle Schools' *Organic Garden*; onions, garlic, squash, pumpkins and herbs. This program was one of the few who kept the "healthy food choice theme" alive, visiting Governor Patterson's garden this summer and helping to plant and harvest vegetables there. As a token of their appreciation Executive chef Noah Sheetz, who had hosted the students at the Mansion, was invited to the school lunch as an honorary guest. He met with Goff teachers who had facilitated the garden project, brainstormed about further collaboration and toured the remains of the garden. We hope to keep him included with this theme and connect with other local farms in 2010.

- **Equinox** - Last year Questar III Goff students who had participated in Meals on Wheels deliveries in the past and who each year put on their own Thanksgiving meal volunteered to set up for Equinox's annual Thanksgiving Dinner in Albany. This year the need was to recognize each of the 7,500 recipients with a unique greeting card. A call went out to all the supporters of service learning; "Students and Staff labored over cards during counseling sessions/group-time composed cards during physical therapy, occupational therapy, through mentoring or buddy programs with our component school districts, allotted service learning time and during free time. 750 cards were sent to Equinox from Questar III.

## Scotia Glenville Central School District

### GIVE PROGRAMS

- **Adaptive Sports:** Students volunteer on weekends with the Tops Soccer and Fast Break Basketball program helping disabled youths participate in sports.
- **ARC:** Groups of students spend one evening per week at group homes for the mentally challenged. They play games, create crafts, and establish and maintain good friendships with home residents.
- **Bear Hugs:** Students meet weekly with community elders to knit hats and sweaters for teddy bears. The bears are then dressed and hugged at ARC group homes, senior housing or nursing homes. The finished bears are donated to individuals who are experiencing difficult times and loss.
- **Bridge to Friendship:** Students visit elders at Baptist Retirement Center every other Sunday afternoon to play games, share activities and make friends.
- **Brothers:** High school students interact with Sacandaga Elementary School students who may need a friend.
- **Buddies:** Groups of dedicated students spend at least one study hall per week assisting in the High School's BOCES classroom.
- **Community Breakfast:** Fifth grade students and parents learn about the plight of the homeless while making and serving breakfast at a city shelter.
- **Community Connections:** High school students and community elders meet monthly to discuss issues relating to the community and participate in service activities.
- **Community Gardens:** Students created and maintained a community organic garden and donated produce to local soup kitchens and shelters.
- **Dance:** Students with an interest in dance go once per week to Glen-Worden Elementary School to teach students the basics of dance.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Third grade students participate in an animal habitat restoration program in the inner city so that animals could find water, food, and shelter.
- **Holyhood:** Students visit the Holyhood House for adults once per week after school. They plan and carry out a variety of activities with the elders.
- **Homework Clubs:** Students help elementary students with their homework twice per week after school. They form lasting relationships as they see the growth they foster.
- **Hug-A-Heart:** Students make hundreds of Hug-A-Heart pillows to aid heart surgery patients while studying heart healthy lifestyles.
- **Key Calls:** High school students call senior citizens on a daily basis, providing a check on their daily welfare and fostering long-lasting, warm relationships. In case of emergency, students must notify proper authorities.
- **Mission Meals:** Students visit the City Mission every other week to serve the Community Meal and interact with those who need a nutritious meal and a friendly face.
- **Open Arms:** Twice a week GIVE students visit young children at the Northwood's Rehabilitation Center pediatric unit to provide comfort and attention to the young patients.
- **Pen Pals:** Middle and high school students serve as literacy pen pals with at risk elementary students.
- **Penny Harvest:** School wide penny harvests are held with a student board deciding where the donations will be allocated.
- **Recycling:** GIVE students coordinate a year round school wide paper-recycling program.

- **Regional Food Bank:** Twice a month, students go to the Regional Food Bank in Latham to help sort and package food; students will also go to a food pantry to distribute food and interact with the people that they are helping.
- **S.C.A.P.E.:** Students will focus on keeping the grounds around the high school and the village looking neat and nice. They will also conduct projects from time to time to keep areas like the courtyard and memorial gardens weed and trash free.
- **Shelter Helpers:** Students volunteer at the SPCA animal shelter helping the staff with their chores and taking the dogs for walks on the bike path.
- **Sisters:** High school students interact with Sacandaga Elementary School students who may need a friend.
- **Sunnyview:** Students visit a local rehabilitation facility to work with children and young adult residents for two hours on a bi-weekly basis.
- **Trashion Show:** To help understand the importance of recycling a Trashion show was held with outfits created using 100% recycled materials.
- **Wall of Honor:** Students visit a local VFW and create a wall of honor at their school for local veterans.
- **Walk and Talk:** Eighth grade students developed a walking club with faculty and parents

## **Kingston City School District Learn and Serve Program**

The Kingston City School District (KCSD), in partnership with the City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Department, the Friends of Forsyth Nature Center (FNCC) and the State University of New York at Ulster (SUNY-Ulster), seeks renewed support from the Learn and Serve America (LSA) grants program to continue to integrate Service Learning (SL) into our schools and provide students in grades K-I 2 with opportunities to volunteer their service for the benefit of their community while enhancing their ability to perform academically to meet New York State learning standards.

The next iteration of our ongoing LSA program is specifically targeted to ensure adequate community and nutritional food supplies and address the related issues of hunger, nutrition education and childhood obesity by involving 900 students in the Community Gardens project already piloted on the grounds of several KCSD schools thanks to our last LSA grant. Students will establish gardens at schools that do not already have them and expand them at those that do, with the goal of generating ample fresh produce for distribution both to the families of needy students and to the soup kitchens that serve the hungry in Kingston. Food distribution will provide opportunities for nutrition education, while improved health through outdoor physical activity will be promoted through continuation of existing LSA Environmental Education activities in the city's parks.

To sustain the regional impact of KCSD's LSA programs established through past grants, we will establish a Community Garden Fund to provide mini-grants of cash and supplies to other schools and not-for-profits throughout Ulster County wishing to replicate our SL model. We will also implement an expanded menu of professional training workshops including Service Learning 101 and Remote Sensing Technology, through collaboration with the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center (MHTC), which serves educational professionals throughout the entire Hudson Valley.

## **White Plains City School District Lean and Serve Program**

White Plains City School District in association with the Youth Service Opportunities Project and Pace University propose a three year Service Learning project *Food for Health*.

The aim of *Food for Health* is to make students aware of the role that food plays in their lives and in their communities and to help ensure adequate community and nutritional food supplies. Students will meet the New York State learning Standards for Health and Physical Education and learn about healthy food choices, proper exercise, and about hunger. Students will then take the knowledge they have gained and bring it back into their communities in a series of service projects to help educate the community as a whole.

During *Food for Health* the students will form a Student Service Leadership Team made up of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from White Plains High School. The students will have leadership training, participate in an overnight team-building service trips and will conclude with a reflective retreat in the spring to process their achievements.

Students will begin to take charge of their eating choices by examining the food options available at their schools and exploring how they could be improved. They will begin to examine the way their families eat at home and learn how to implement simple changes that will maximize the nutritional values of their family's meals.

Students will also take the lead in educating their communities by creating and distributing brochures about healthy eating in various languages, creating a multi-lingual exercise video and developing a community garden.

On the broader scope, students will learn about hunger in their community and will work directly in local soup kitchens and food pantries and learn about how these organizations are working towards providing food to those in need. The program will be enhanced by a series of Service Learning Trainings for Teachers.

## **Yonkers Public School District Learn and Serve Program**

The Yonkers Public School District is faced with many needs. There are needs in the areas of Community and Economic Development, Education, Environment, Housing, Homeland Security, Human Needs, Public Safety, and Health and Nutrition. The Yonkers Public School District has been responding to these needs since 1995 and is committed to continuing these programs. The primary focus of NYS is the need for adequate community and nutritional food supplies and the related issues of hunger, nutrition education and childhood obesity.

The objectives of our Program are:

- To identify and address unmet community needs with organized programs, trained participants, volunteers, and community partners to benefit participants, volunteers, community partners, service recipients and the community.
- To enable participants to meet New York State Learning Standard as by motivating academic engagement, enhancing student learning, and providing opportunities to practice classroom skill and reinforce classroom knowledge in the real world.
- To develop civic skills, civic responsibility and create a community of service learners.
- To ensure adequate community and nutritional food supplies and address the related issues of hunger, nutritional education, and/or childhood obesity are addressed by each Learn and Serve program.

Our Service Learning activities include:

- Training for Service Learning
- Addressing the needs for adequate community and nutritional food supplies, and related issues of hunger, childhood obesity and nutrition
- Developing civic engagement
- Developing academic engagement
- Providing benefits to the community
- Strengthening school-community partnerships

The Yonkers Public Schools Service Learning programs responded to community needs with 990 participants supported by 102 dedicated community partner organizations.

Service Learning expected outcomes include:

- Trained Participants
- Activities to respond to community needs are planned and executed
- Community partnerships
- Skills and civic engagement Increased civic
- Improved attitude toward academics
- Increased community support for service learning

## **East Meadow Union Free School District Lean and Serve Program**

The focus of The Community as Classroom: Middle School Service Learning is to continue and expand our interactive middle school community character education/service learning program with the goal of encouraging early adolescent students to develop academic, social and emotional skills that will enable them to become caring and responsible citizens of the future and reach the New York State Standards.

Students in grades six through eight will learn about themselves and their community as they interact with others at a local preschool, schools for the physically challenged, local elementary schools and senior centers as part of their regular school day. Literacy and problem solving skills will be enhanced as students apply these skills in "real-life" situations. Students in home and careers and computer classes will enhance their communication and technical abilities as they are given opportunities to apply these skills in meaningful situations. For example, eighth grade students will develop entrepreneurial skills as they own and operate their own temporary service agency, providing an array of services to staff members in their own schools. In addition, this grant will enable diverse student populations to interact in meaningful situations as students become neighborhood "problem solvers" with the goal of identifying and exploring relevant issues facing themselves and others, and then creatively brainstorming and implementing services that will be of aid to their communities. Reflection is a "key" component of the program as students reflect on their personal experiences as well as the experiences of others. Reflection takes place during class, led by the teacher using a variety of techniques that promote active dialogue and students also maintain individualized journals.

The establishment of a Human Dignity committee, comprising administrators, teachers, parents, and community members, addresses the issues of Homeland Security, Anti-School Violence, Tolerance and Character Education in the curriculum. The program has become a national model of successful in-school service learning and its lead middle school, W.T. Clarke Middle School, has become a National Service Learning Leader School, receiving an award from the President in June 2001, and renewal in June 2002. The program was part of a comprehensive national service learning study conducted by CUINY Graduate Center's Center of Advanced Study. Survey and related measurements are used to monitor and assess student development. The program has been featured in a number of periodicals and references including a U.S. Department of Education video entitled, "Building Bridges to the Community."

Participating schools in the grant consortium are centrally located in New York City and Nassau County with diverse student populations, creating the ideal situation for program replication and dissemination to other schools within the state.

The consortium includes the following schools:

- W.T. Clarke Middle School, East Meadow UFSD
- Woodland Middle School, East Meadow UFSD
- J.F.K. Middle School, Bethpage
- William Alexander Middle School, Brooklyn
- Dodd Middle School, Freeport
- Louis Armstrong Middle School, Queens

## Mineola Union Free School District Learn and Serve Program

SPARC (School Partnership Collaboration) is a service-learning network of schools that encompasses a wide range of diverse K-12 students, educational settings, and geographic areas guided by two high schools with well established service-learning infrastructures. The lead educational agency is Mineola High School and its faith-based partner Holy Cross High School in Queens. Since its inception in 1997, SPARC continues to afford its students quality service learning opportunities to foster a better relationship between schools and students, and serving the unmet needs of diverse communities

SPARC's aims are: (a) to share its service learning experience & infrastructure thereby affording educational opportunities for a diversity of schools by interfacing with each other, and exploring the unmet needs of respective communities (b) to ensure adequate community and nutritional food supplies and the related issues of hunger, nutrition education and/or childhood obesity are addressed by each program (c) to spiral outward toward targeted populations of the disadvantaged, youth at risk and students with developmental disabilities (d) to foster a renewed culture of citizenship to combat civic disengagement through participation in thoughtfully organized intentional service. All these aims are integrated into the academic curriculum of students and help achieve literacy skills and competency, abiding by New York State's New Learning Standards. Civic & social issues that will be addressed include: the homeless/hungry, the mentally/physically challenged, the environment, literacy needs, intergenerational concerns, diversity, and veterans and community outreach.

The LEA of SPARC is Mineola H.S. Our partner schools for the 2009-10 school year include 2,000 students (K-12) from lead schools, Mineola H.S. and Holy Cross H.S. (Queens); Abraham Lincoln H.S. (Brooklyn); Carle Place Middle and High Schools, Mineola Middle School (Nassau County); Special Education Elementary Schools at P.S. 23 (Queens) and the Queens High School for Teaching. **Our** higher education partners are Molloy College & Adelphi University. The links at Molloy include the School of Education & the Social Concerns Center & Research Center. Molloy will assist us with character education, literacy resources and evaluation instruments. At Adelphi University's the Ruth S. Ammon School of Education we will partner with professors teaching the required service learning methods course for pre-service teachers. They will also assist us with evaluation instruments. Our primary faith-based community-based organizational partners are: St. Mary's Hospital for Children, the Congregation of Holy Cross and Catholic Charities Office for the Developmentally Disabled, Brooklyn Diocese

Our CBO list totals over 30 and includes these lead organizations:

- Long Island Volunteer Center;
- YSOP (Youth Service Opportunities Project serving the homeless, NYC);
- The Interfaith Nutrition Network at the Mary Brennan Inn,
- Alley Pond Environmental Center and the NYC Parks Department,
- Clearview Assistance Program for the elderly,
- Hour Children (for former female offenders and their families)
- Veterans of Foreign War. Post #1305 Pvt. Adolph Block Post in Mineola and Post #536 in Flushing.

SPARC has a 13 year history of partnership with almost all our community based partners and they represent an array of service categories.

## **Three Village Central School District: Learn and Serve Program**

Three Village Schools have been fortunate to participate in the Learn and Serve Program for the past seven years. We have used the program to enhance and expand knowledge and application of service learning methodology in our district and surrounding area.

The past two years, using the Learn and Serve program, we have focused new efforts on Social and Emotional Literacy, and identified and trained building coordinators and task forces in each school to implement programs in these areas. We plan to strengthen and expand the good work of these task forces. With the new challenge from New York State, our existing staff network is ready to develop a coordinated effort to expand district involvement in issues of community food security and nutrition education.

In partnership with the Stony Brook University, the Interfaith Nutrition Network, Sustainable Long Island and the local Hobbs Community Farm, Inc, our task forces will work with teachers, students and the community to become actively engaged in making our local community and our nation more food secure, food aware, and hunger-free.

The main programs that we will be promoting to achieve this include:

- Expansion of our long-established Read to Feed program where high school students become mentors for elementary classrooms and help them become advocates for the less fortunate
- Development of healthy growing initiatives” with the local Hobbs Community Farm
- Piloting a food equity education program being designed by Sustainable Long Island and
- Promotion of the growth of “victory gardens” and edible schoolyard” programs on the grounds of local schools.