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CONNECTED
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

CONNECTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

MONTH YEAR

"The infrastructure of having [these community schools], both the organizing, the activism – made ensuring that we could feed the community much more effective, because it was there - the relationships are there, the community engagement is there, the understanding, the funding formulas - are there. [Community Schools] become both service entities and organizing entities at the same time, and it creates community between community allies, parents, educators…working together on how to solve community problems and how to ensure that people can climb up that ladder."

-Randi Weingarten, AFT President
Discussing Executive Director Melissa Roys
and Connected Community Schools

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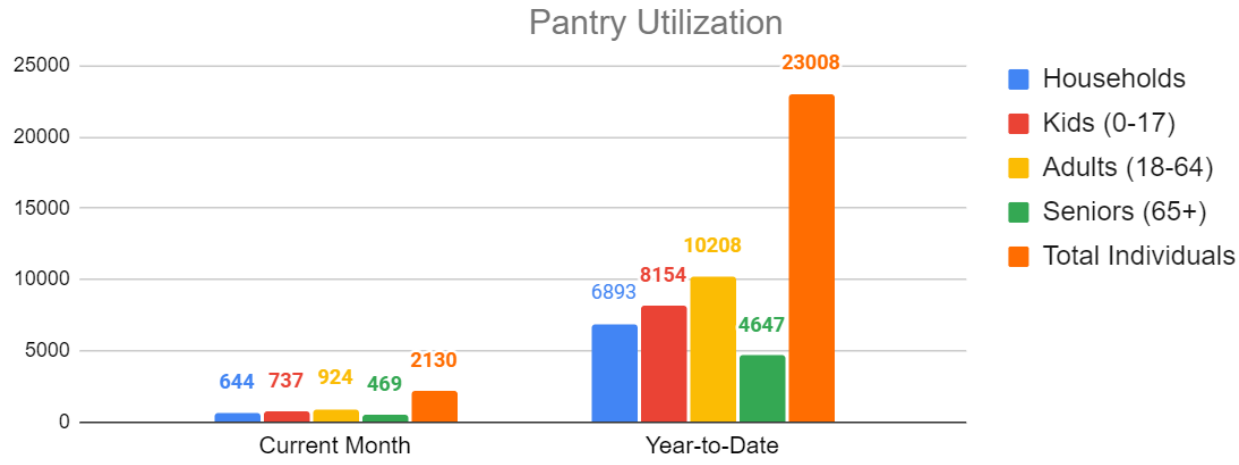
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Connected Community School Monthly Report – Month YEAR

Universal Supports

Youth and Family Community Resource HUB:



Pantry	Households	Kids (0-17)	Adults (18-64)	Seniors (65+)	Total Individuals
Current Month	644	737	924	469	2130
Year-to-Date	6893	8154	10208	4647	23008

In districts where approximately 54% of all students qualify for free or reduced lunches, needs often go unmet when schools are closed. Many families rely on the school food services for 2 out of 3 meals per day, 5 days a week. With COVID-19 bringing about a new normal for schools, many of which that have adapted either a hybrid or fully remote model, the community relies heavily on food coming out of our Community Resource HUBs.

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Since March 19th, our expanded Marketplace has been ground zero for the distribution of over **1,000,000** pounds of food to our Connected districts.

This month we saw a rise in the number of participants for the monthly food giveaway, serving a total of 644 unduplicated households. Since the beginning of the year, our pantry operations have served **#### families**, and a total of **#### families from July 1 to [current report month]**.

School Climate - Community Engagement and Assistance:

(examples of past and current programs)

Community Kids Snack Program:

- With the implementation of regularly scheduled snack in the elementary classes, many families struggle to provide food items for their children. Connected Community Schools strives to ensure that snack shaming is a thing of the past and all who need a snack have free access – whether it's a teacher looking to find snacks to give to the whole class, or an individual student who forgot their crackers that day.
  - Total: **1551** snacks handed out in February, with a Y-T-D total of:

6457 Snacks Provided to our Students!!

#CommunityKidsSnackProgram

Ongoing Community School Programming & Activities:

- SNAP Ed, provided by Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension
  - 5 classes were seen by the SNAP Ed instructor, with an average of 23 students per class
  - Returning for the Spring
- SSMV Lunch groups daily with high-risk students as identified by Assistant Principals.
- Adult Education in the Adult Learning Center (ALC)
  - February: SNAP Ed Parent class held during the elementary PTG event; IT info sessions and tax prep classes were held both during the day and in evening hours
  - YTD – 11 hours of instruction, 23 attendees
    - Topics: Library 101 (offered twice), Time Management, IT Assistance, Life Skills, Budget/Banking, SNAP Ed for Parents

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- Pro-Social Skills Groups - A total of 62 students participated, with this month's focus being on awareness, acceptance, and bullying prevention
- Coffee cart, teaching student's valuable life skills while providing a well-deserved service to the school faculty in the form of fresh coffee courtesy of Spresso's
    - YTD Stats – 12 students, 53 teachers, 18 hours, cost of $135
- First Monday of every month at the Community Resource HUB, representative from MVP is present from 12:00 to 2:00 to assist families in getting insurance.
    - YTD – 7.5 hours, assisted 4 families

Student and Family Engagement During Remote and Hybrid Learning:

- Over 5,000 individuals have watched and engaged with 4+ hours of virtual content, totaling 104 hours and 28 minutes of virtual interaction
- Post COVID, over 600 student contacts have been conducted, covering the topics of academics, mental health, food, and general well-being of those students and their families
- The CCS team continues to assist schools in outreaching disengaged students and families and overcoming the new barriers that come with a remote learning environment

Current Month Community School Programming & Staff Activities:

- Elementary Site Committee meeting – building administration, school faculty and community schools staff discussed planning for mid-winter break activities, and programs to help kick off One School One Book and solidify plans for the mid-winter break activities
- Project Manager attended the elementary PTO meeting – she will be running the "Ask a Scientist" table at the science fair this April
- The CCS team welcomed our new intern, Stephanie Stovall of MVCC, who will be assisting Santina and learning more about how we strive to meet the needs of our community

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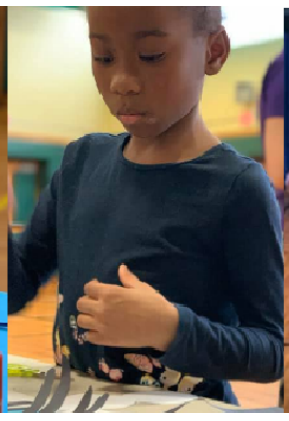
- LINK Team meetings were held for our elementary schools to review LINK referrals and brainstorm strategies to best help our students and families.
- LINK Team meetings were also held in the middle and high schools with additional attention paid to those students struggling with absenteeism and providing comprehensive assessments to determine their level of need
- Project Manager, Safe Schools supervisor, and Director of Counseling Services for the district presented at various school faculty meeting about the work being done for the McKinney-Vento identified students and families through the community schools model and the ESSA funding (*DISTRICT* is one of 5 CNY districts to receive this state funding, authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, which is a component of the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA)
- The monthly advisory board meeting was held, with 20 individuals in attendance, representing 13 different agencies and organizations
- Elementary site coordinator arranged for a family-friendly SNAP Ed presentation for parents and kids to enjoy prior to the PTG's Family Art Night
- Valentine's Day was celebrated in our elementary site - Parents of K-12 kiddos came in to spend the last half hour of the school day reading together. Each student was able to

select a stuffed animal to take home as a reading buddy

- On the 18th and 19th, the CCS team was joined by some wonderful kiddos to Break up the Break with arts and crafts, dance aerobics, snacks, and lunch. There was a SNAP Ed



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presentation about the importance of physical activity and healthy choices – including a game of "Octopus Tag" – and a reading station with a librarian from Jervis Library.

- Melissa Roys had an interview with Megan from New York State TAC regarding our rebranding from Rome Community Schools to Connected Community Schools
- Melissa Roys also joined the District Equity Task Force, which aims to foster the district's ability to interact and engage effectively with people of different cultures, races, and/or ethnic backgrounds to ensure the needs of all community members are addressed

School Supply Drive

- John Capraro, who runs Sweet Mae's bakery in Oriskany, reached out to us with a desire to assist in coordinating a school supply drive. Utilizing his own community connections and partnerships, we were able to place collection bins to collect donations at the following locations:
  - Nola's – Clinton
  - Howard Hannah Realty – Utica
  - The Pizza Box – Utica
  - The Hub Eatery – Utica
  - Arizona Tacos – Rome (offered discounts to their patrons who made donations)
  - Dr. Sheridan Mish – Lifepower Chiropractic
- The team has already distributed 20 school supply bundles and counting to students in need

CCS Advisory Board Minutes: *(this is a sample from Feb. 2020)*

I. Welcome and Introductions

a. Partner Information Forms/Sharing of brochures and materials

Representation from the following agencies/organizations/groups were present:
-Central New York Health Home Network (CNYHHN)
-Safe Schools Mohawk Valley (SSMV)
-Fidelis Care
-MOBOCES
-Rome City School District
-Workforce Development
-Rome Art Association
-The Neighborhood Center
-ICAN
-MVP Healthcare
-Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
-Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency (MVCAA)
-Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

II. Updates of Connected Community Schools Initiative

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a. Recent/Current/Upcoming Site Programming
   i. Book bingo

Community schools assisted with an evening program that included the scholastic book fair, family bingo (coordinated and MC'ed by the wonderful Alicia Mangino!), and 5th grade presentations on their travel research projects. Pictures are on the Connected Community Schools facebook page.

   ii. Santina Peters
      1. Adult Education Classes/Tax Prep

Flyers for upcoming classes in the Adult Ed center were distributed.
Tax prep by Jervis library - Feb. 27th from 11-3; registration is required. Info can be found on their website.
Feb. 27th from 6-7 there will be an IT info session, open to all. No cost, no registration.

      2. Valentine's Day Reading Buddies

All K-2 students will receive a stuffed animal "reading buddy" on Valentines Day; they will wear pajamas to school and read with their parents at the end of the day. Look for pictures on facebook after!

   iii. Breaking up The Break – activity days during the mid-winter recess next week

Two of the elementary schools will open on 2/18 and 2/19, respectively, for 2 hours of fun. Students will have snacks, activities from Eat Smart NY, arts and crafts, Zumba (or "wiggle, giggle, and shake" – name credit goes to Dr. Hampe!, and lunch.
Spots are still open – registration sent home with students; people can also register by contacting Santina (info on our Facebook post).

   iv. Ag in the Classroom/School Garden

Site committee members met with Mary Ellen Wiley from CCE to plan for the re-vamping of their school garden and in-class presentations on the importance of agriculture and how s much of what we do can be connected back to the farm. Classroom activities begin in April.

   v. More to come!

b. LINK Resource Books
   i. Ongoing request for brochures/flyers/intake forms

Any new brochures or marketing materials can be brought to this meeting or emailed to Miranda at any time and it can be shared with the group. LINK coordinators compiled info for resources in the community and we ask and welcome all to share their materials as they are available; need info for Herkimer Co. resources as well.
Connected Community Schools also has excellent engagement on Facebook – if you would like for us to share information about upcoming events, email Miranda.

III. January 2020 Report Overview

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IV. Partner Updates/Presentations/Discussions

CCS is working with Hannaford, who will be partnering with us after their opening of their new location in Rome.

CCS staff shared success stories from the past month:

-Site coordinator of the high school had been working with a student who was struggling with his emotions and temper, and he now feels safe and comfortable enough to seek her out when he needs to vent, rather than resorting to less effective coping skills like lashing out inappropriately.

-Our middle school site coordinator was able to utilize the marketplace for a student who shared the he had no food in the home.

Helen Madden, CCE, shared the upcoming launch of opioid prevention education program, to be debuted on March 14th at the 2020 Early Childhood Educators Spring Conference, where they will be the keynote presenters. They can present to any and all ages, from young children all the way up to seniors. The point person for this would be Ellen Olson. We hope/plan to have them present at an upcoming advisory board meeting.

DeQuan Watson, MVCAA, informed the group of their upcoming event on March 3rd for enrollment and employment. There will be two sessions, 11-1 (with lunch), and 3-6, at which times people will be able to enroll their little ones in early head start and attend their career fair. During this event, families will also get to tour the classrooms to see where their kids will learn and where they may potentially work.

MVCAA is offering free tax prep, assistance in completing the census, and their Angels program which can help provide hygiene items, clothing, and various other material items to those in need.

Kayla Slater, central region SNAP-Ed senior nutritionist from CCE, shared flyers for upcoming workshop for community partners to learn about becoming a role model and #Champoin4Change to prevent obesity and food insecurity in your community. This event will take place on Thursday, 3/26/2020 at 1:00 pm and flyers were shared.

V. Next Meeting

a. No meeting 3/10 due to conflict
b. Vote on date of next meeting

Board agreed to hold next meeting on March 24th at 2:30pm.

Still looking to have presentations at each meeting – if you would like to present at the next, or any upcoming, meeting, let Miranda know and you can be put on the agenda. No deadline.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24th, 2020 at 2:30 pm – 509 N. James St.

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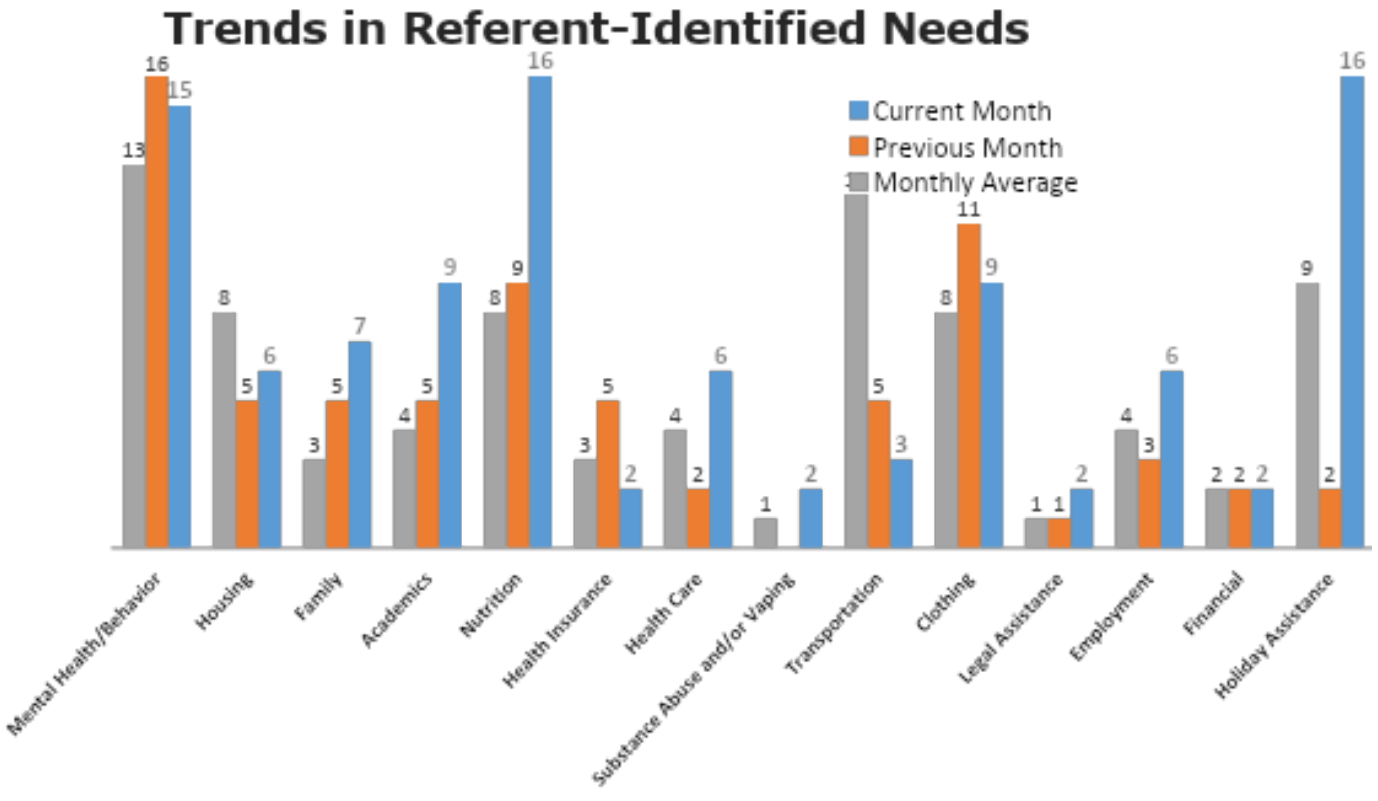
Targeted Interventions

Total Number of LiNK Referrals Since July 1 2020: ### Total for Current Month: ##
Number of Unduplicated Students Supported by SSMV Services: ###

Individuals/Families Identified By School:

Location	#-MONTH	#-YTD
School1	#	#
School2	#	#
School3	#	#
District Office	#	#
Self-Referral	#	#
From Community	#	#
Total	#	#



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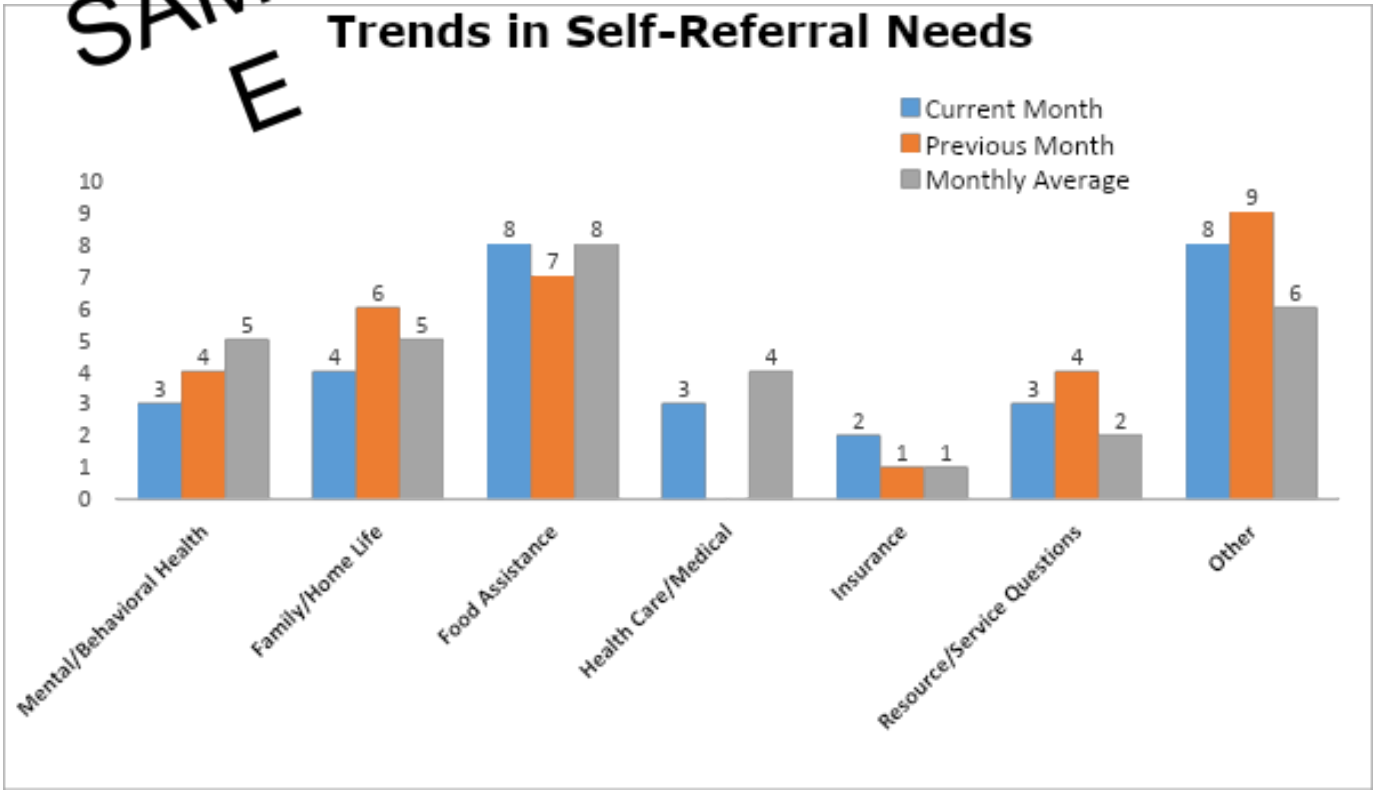

In response to these trends, CCS has:

- Opened **3** school-based Community Resource Hubs
- Created **6 school-based mental health clinics**, partnering with both The Neighborhood Center (NC) and Community Health & Behavioral Service (CHBS)
    - These satellite clinics serve **a total of # kids across all connected districts**
- Partnered with MVCAA to form direct relationships with programs that assist with housing and runaway and homeless youth
- Partnered with UCP's BASE program and BOCES Access to assist transition-aged youth in completing their education and preparing for their next phase of life

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Intensive Individual Services

Ever-Growing list of Interventions Offered for LiNK Referrals:

- Care management
- Food pantries
- MVCAA
- DSS
- Rescue Mission
- The Neighborhood Center
- CHBS
- YMCA
- CareNet
- First Baptist Church
- Rubies Project
- Reflections Counseling
- Homeless Shelters
- Apartment Listings
- Medicaid/Insurance Assistance
- Cuda Counseling
- Operation Sunshine
- MCAT
- Jervis Library
- CFTSS
- SPOA
- Stand Tall Clothing Closet
- Kinship Care
- Beacon Center
- SSMV
- CRC
- Medical Providers
- Dental Providers

Month	Site	HHCM	DSS	MVCAA	Food Pantry	NC	CHBS	Other
Current Month	*District 1*	30	12	25	26	9	2	37
	District 2	1	1	1	1	1	0	3
	District 3	2	1	0	1	2	0	3
	District 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other/Self-Referral	1	2	0	6	1	1	13
	Total	**34**	**16**	**26**	**34**	**13**	**3**	**56**

**Other* includes referrals to any of the other above-mentioned organizations and partners, such as the Stand Tall Clothing Closet, dental providers, insurance navigators, and more.

Success Stories

Success stories and testimonials would be included here.
Ex: This is a message one of our team members received from a parent we were able to assist with holiday gifts for the children:
"Thank you so much for all you are doing for us, you have no idea how much this truly means to us right now. You have helped bring my stress levels down and even my depression has been better, this time of year is not a happy one for me anymore because I lost my grandmother 4 years ago today, my grandfather passed away in September of 2007, and my aunt passed away in May of 2017 plus [name] is the only one of 3 kids still home. My oldest daughter doesn't talk to me so Christmas is one of my hardest holidays to get through but I have been trying this year for [name] and thanks to you it's not going to be a really bad one this year. Thank you for being my Christmas angel this year."

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