

USSHS School Coordinators

In 2009-2010 USSHS had a coordinator in each of the 12 buildings in the Utica City School District and 5 Coordinators covering 6 buildings in the Rome City School District. Combined the Coordinators worked directly with **3962 unduplicated students**.

The Coordinators ran **245** different groups focusing on pro-social skill development, aggression reduction, conflict resolution, enrichment, and recreation. This represents an **11% increase** from our 08-09 totals.

In addition, USSHS Coordinators made 2054 Parent and Family contacts. They increased their referrals to School Resource Officers (SRO's) by 63%, increased the number of Homeless students supported by 60%, and finally increased referrals both to outside agencies and to USSHS by 71%.

This year an emphasis has been placed on collecting more data to capture USSHS's impact on three key components to student success; grades, attendance and discipline.

Over the year, significant trends of improvement have been noted in each of the three identified areas across all buildings. For instance, at Staley Upper Elementary in Rome there was an **88% reduction in unexcused absences** among program participants. At Watson Williams Elementary in Utica, we saw a **57% reduction in Office Discipline Referrals** for students involved in the program. Finally at John F. Kennedy Middle School in Utica, **83% of the students involved in the Leadership and Resiliency Program improved their Grade Point Average (GPA)** as compared to the previous year.

Each building that receives USSHS services has seen similar improvements to Grades, Attendance and Discipline



After School Programs

USSHS currently operates two successful afterschool programs with the assistance of NYS Advantage Afterschool Program funding, one at Donovan Middle School and the other for Proctor High School Students at the Underground Café.

Both programs endeavor to provide youth with a variety of unique opportunities designed to both educate and enrich the lives of program youth. Students enrolled in these programs are offered the opportunity to partake in activities such as Boxing Club, Guitar Instruction, Drum Lessons, Break dancing, Art, in addition to Community Based Programming provided by contract agencies that focus around pregnancy prevention, conflict resolution, and drug and alcohol awareness.



As with our other school based programs, we have noted tremendous success in the areas of Grades, Attendance, and Discipline in both of our afterschool programs.

Donovan Advantage Afterschool program had an **85% reduction** in unexcused absences among its 159 participants. The total reduction resulted in approximately 930 fewer days missed as compared to the previous year. **77% of program youth in the Proctor Advantage Program improved their GPA's and 72 % of Donovan enrolled youth had an 80 GPA or better for the 09-10 school year.**



(As a Service Learning Project the Donovan Advantage Afterschool Students made this quilt in celebration of Black History Month. The quilt traces the past 200 years of African Americans in this country. The quilt has been displayed at Donovan, Hamilton College and Munson Williams Institute)

The Underground Café



2009-2010 was a year of growth and prosperity for our Underground Café Program. In addition to the Proctor Advantage Afterschool Program running out of the Café we have recently partnered with the Utica City School District to now house both their Newcomers Program and the GED program. This partnership has allowed USSHS to move forward with the necessary renovations to accommodate the needs of area teens.

The Underground also housed USSHS's summer program, which ran, Tues-Sat from 3pm-10pm, for the entire 8 weeks of summer. The program averaged between 30-40 youth per night.

Finally, the Underground was the milieu for The Urban Leadership Institute (ULI). ULI was a collaborative effort between USSHS and 4 other partnering agencies, which came together to offer a weeklong Leadership training for 25 area youth.



Program Spotlight

Initial Response Team (IRT)

In 2009-2010, USSHS launched its Initial Response Team Program Family Group Conferencing (IRT-FGC) Program at Donovan Middle School. This program was modeled on the success of USSHS's IRT program in Rome.

Over the year, 70 youth were enrolled in the program and tracked and monitored throughout the school year. During this time, Pre-PINS (persons in need of supervision) were reduced from 36 in the year prior to program implementation to 8 after the program began (78% reduction). Additionally, formal PINS were reduced from 10 in 08-09 to 1 in 09-10 (90% reduction).