

Bringing Together School Staff, Students, Families, and Other Community Members to Address Issues of Hunger in Newfield, NY

In the last year and a half, Newfield High School teachers and staff have been working collectively to develop a vision and goals that will help us navigate current educational reforms in ways that are consistent with what we believe is best for our school and community. The vision and related goals that have grown out of this work are best communicated visually, as in a diagram we have created that can be accessed by clicking on this link: [Conscious, Consistent, and Committed to What's Best for Our Community](#). The Partnership in Teaching project proposed here is grounded in this vision and goals work, and, consistent with that work, it addresses an important local issue.

The proposed project will bring together Newfield H.S. teachers and staff, local families and other members of the community, and some IC faculty and students to address issues of hunger and access to food in the Newfield community. We hope, in the process, to identify locally relevant strategies for better understanding and addressing this critical issue that so substantially affects the lives and educational performance of many of our students and families.

The proposed project consists of two main components:

- A Study Group. This group will consist of: IC Professor of Education, Jeff Claus; IC student Tammie Harris (a senior who is in one of Professor Claus' classes and has been volunteering at Newfield High School); Newfield High School Principal, Barry Derfel; two Newfield educators involved in our goals and vision work; and two community members. The group will meet four times during the early part of the project to read and discuss current articles and books describing best practices for building partnerships between schools and families and to relate this work to ongoing efforts at Newfield High School to do this and to address issues of hunger in the community.
- A Community Discussion – *Hunger in Newfield: What is our Current Situation and What Can We Do to Make It Better?* A panel consisting of some long-time residents, food-pantry organizers, Newfield farmers, a town council member, and educators will discuss the current problems of hunger and food access in Newfield and how educators and community members, working together, might address the problem. The panelists will provide information about: the conditions of hunger and food access as they exist in Newfield today, the history of how this issue has evolved over the past 25 years, and ideas for how we might all work together to improve access to food throughout Newfield over the next 3-5 years. This will serve to generate community discussion of the problem and to define specific action steps.

Requested funds: Funds are requested to support both elements of the project.

- Study Group Funds:
 - \$200 for books. Possible titles:
 - *Creating welcoming schools: A practical guide to home-school partnerships with diverse families*. Allen, J. (2007). New York: Teachers College Press.
 - *School, family, and community partnerships*. Epstein, J. (2008). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press
 - \$100 to provide food at the four evening sessions.

- Panel Discussion Funds:
 - \$150 to provide local food for the event.
 - \$50 for honoraria, to be paid to two Newfield H.S. students in the Early Childhood Program at BOCES, for providing provide childcare for the event.

Total funding request = \$500.00

Project Duration – January 15, 2012 – June 22, 2012