

AFTER SCHOOL & WEEKEND
PARTNERSHIPS REPORT
2015-2016



GET ACTIVE!

CHANGE THE GAME!



Husky Sport
Department of Educational Leadership
249 Glenbrook Road, Unit 3093
Storrs, Connecticut 06269

AFTER SCHOOL & WEEKEND PARTNERSHIPS



2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Hartford Catholic Worker	3
Salvation Army	4
CRT	5
Parker – Village	6
Volunteer Engagement	7
Testimonials	8
Looking Ahead	9

*Get Active!
Change the Game!*

Program Overview

The Husky Sport After School & Weekend Partnerships served over 100 students from grades K-12 across a range of Hartford area schools. Working with five Hartford community partners, six days a week, Husky Sport provided homework help, structured physical activity, free play and education in nutrition while encouraging healthy lifestyle habits. Continuing to build upon relationships between Husky Sport and the families and partners of Hartford's North End community, the After School and Weekend Partnerships aligned with the objectives and practices of Hartford and UConn stakeholders.

HARTFORD CATHOLIC WORKER

Husky Sport's partnership with the Hartford Catholic Worker (HCW) began in 2003 when Director, Jennifer McGarry built strong relationships with three Hartford Catholic Workers who ran an after school and weekend program in the Hartford North End community. Over the past 13 years, this relationship has grown to be one of our most consistent after school and weekend partnerships.

Five days a week, Husky Sport staff and volunteers support the HCW programs for students in grades K-12. Visits to the HCW include building relationships, homework help, book club, Husky Sport lead nutrition education, indoor and outdoor games and activities, sharing in healthy snacks and arts & crafts. Once a month, Husky Sport Directors and staff prepare and serve a healthy lunch for students, families and volunteers who attend the Saturday program.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The sheer number of times that volunteers have the opportunity to participate in HCW programming each week provides a great platform for building meaningful relationships.
- When students are interested in various activities they are given the opportunity to start their own group or mini clubs within the program, which helps to gain leadership skills and grasp a better sense of community.



SALVATION ARMY

Through the Salvation Army partnership, Husky Sport staff and volunteers provide students in grades K-8 with homework help, nutrition education, healthy snacks and valuable physical activities.

Husky Sport staff and student volunteers collaborate with the Salvation Army three days a week to offer/assist with:

Mondays: Homework Help & Physical Activity

Tuesdays: Homework Help & Husky Sport Lesson Plan

Saturdays: Salvation Army Recreational Basketball League



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Consistent communication with Salvation Army staff allowed us to develop our program and grow as a unit.
- Every interaction presents us with an opportunity to create long lasting relationships.
- Providing space for Hartford students to be a vital part of the lesson planning process leads to better lessons and more engagement.



COMMUNITY RENEWAL TEAM INC.

Husky Sport partners with Community Renewal Team Generations (CRT) twice a week to provide support to about 15 students living with their grandparents in the CRT community. Supported by student volunteers, Program Leaders provide homework help and create innovative and exciting activities and games for students in grades K-12.



This year, through Husky Sport's partnership with AmeriCorps Public Allies Connecticut, CRT students worked with a Hartford artist to create artwork that was submitted into an art showcase. Students and families attended the hARTford: Connecting Creators art showcase that was held right in the North End community at Parker Memorial Community Center.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Having a scheduled van of student volunteers allowed Program Leaders to diversify lessons and create teams for interactive lessons and activities.
- Consistent attendance of student volunteers allowed UConn students to learn about CRT 's values and community and connect with the children living in this unique "grandfamily" community.



PARKER MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER THE VILLAGE FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN

Husky Sport partnered with Clark School's The Village for Families and Children After School Program to host students in grades 2-5 at Parker Memorial Community Center.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Clark School students joined Husky Sport at Parker for 30 minutes of homework help and 30-45 minutes of structured physical activity in the gym.

On Thursdays, student volunteers joined Program Leaders, providing homework help and leading team games for students in grades 4 & 5.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Through communication with students, we found it best to provide different options for the students each week, in order to keep each visit exciting.
- Splitting up the younger grades (2nd and 3rd) allowed for better engagement among students and managing behavior.



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

UConn students who took the Sport Based Youth Development (SBYD) courses helped the After School and Weekend Partnerships run smoothly, six days a week. Monday thru Saturday, at least one Community Outreach van of up to seven volunteers traveled the 26 miles from UConn to Hartford to build relationships with the Hartford Youth. This year, there were nearly 100 student volunteers who traveled regularly to assist Program Leaders at partner sites or create and implement their own lessons as required by the SBYD courses.

Student volunteers were essential to the success of many of our After School and Weekend Programs. Having volunteers allowed for diversified lessons, more small group activities and team games, and helped to foster successful and mutually beneficial relationships with our partners and stakeholders.



6 DAYS A WEEK – 7 VAN TRIPS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hartford Catholic Worker	North End Salvation Army	Community Renewal Team	Parker Memorial Center & The Village	Hartford Catholic Worker	North End Salvation Army
Community Renewal Team	Parker Memorial Center & The Village	Hartford Catholic Worker	Hartford Catholic Worker		Hartford Catholic Worker
North End Salvation Army				* White text signifies van trips from UConn to Hartford	

TESTIMONIALS



“Building strong relationships is one of the most important aspects of out of school time. Learning names and getting to know students helps build a comfort level where they can open up and be themselves.” – Husky Sport Program Leader



“It is great seeing Hartford and UConn students interact out of school. It's an opportunity for the students to share more about their own experiences, as well as learn about college and other aspects of their lives.” – Husky Sport AmeriCorps Public Ally



“I really enjoyed participating in the After School Programs because it allowed me to further my relationships with the students that I worked with in the In School Program.” – Husky Sport Program Leader



LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, we hope to continue to be a consistent presence at our longstanding afterschool and weekend partnerships.

- We hope to build off of the positive relationships fostered this year and in years past. We look to continue to implement strong nutritional lessons at least once a week and engage students in discussions about the choices they are making during snack time!
- We will continue to provide homework help and healthy tastings to students in the after school program and engage in lessons based on the Husky Sport values: nutrition education, life skills, physical activity, and literacy development.
- We hope to use the information we have been collecting on successful lessons and activities and incorporating them into future programming.
- We hope to build off of the positive relationships fostered this year and in years past. We look to continue to implement strong nutritional lessons at least once a week and engage students in discussions about the choices they are making during snack time!
- Because of the deep-rooted relationships that have been made, we hope that our continuing communication surrounding structured activities would greatly capture the interest of the children.

