Community Networking and Partnership
Dansville Networking

- 1996 received Community came together to look at the possibility of funding for an after-school program.
- 1997 Dansville contracted with a firm from Buffalo to write an Advantage After-School Grant.
- I was asked to be a member of a writing team.
- The proposal was unsuccessful.
Finally Success

- I continued to have conversation with the then Principal Adel Bovard and Vice Principal Amy Schavi.
- Adel, Amy and I worked together updating and expanding data for a second try in Spring 1998.
- Dansville had a tremendous juvenile delinquency problem (over 300 cases) as well as a major drug problem.
- Randomly drug sniffing dogs were brought into the building where they found liquor in student lockers as well as drugs.
- 1998 Was our first year of funding for a Middle School Program.
Amy and I continued to talk about additional concerns and needs in the school district.
1999 We did an expansion grant to cover both the Elementary and Primary Buildings.
In the fall of 1999 Adel became the School Superintendent and Amy moved into the Principals position.
As with all new program the Middle-School continued to struggle within the school as we were the new kid on the block.
At this point Adel and Amy began including the After-School staff in staff meeting and trainings.
New Grant

- The number of juvenile delinquency cases began to drop as we picked up more students in the after-school program.
- 2004 We received our second round of funding which continued all three building.
- The delinquency level was now down to 50 and continued to slowly decline.
- Drugs and Alcohol was still a problem.
- Now a new community also emerged with the same problems – Networking began with Mount Morris who became funded in 2008.
- The Dansville Grant ended in 2009 and the programs still continues today as Fee-Based
In the Fall 2013 Dansville After-School was taken over by our New Community Center.

This added another level of community coverage as there was now a place for students to go on weekends and evenings.

Mount Morris grant funding ended and moved to first year of fee-based which lead to a different networking focus: how to stay open in an extremely poor community.
New Focuses

- Amy and I now developed a new focus
- Drugs and Alcohol still remained a problem joined by bullying.
- We were now concerned with both the Middle and High School.
- I began talking with Amy about PROSPER.
- Then began positioning us for selection.
- We were successful which lead to tremendous networking.
What is PROSPER

- Promoting School–community–university Partnerships to Enhance Resilience

- A system that supports the sustained, quality delivery of scientifically proven programs for middle school youth and their families
Began with:

- Selection of Community/School District
  Dansville Central School District

Select School Representative as Co-Leader
Amy Schiavi
Selection of Team Members

- Amy and I sat down together and asked ourselves; “Who are the best matches and hold power in the community and the county.

- We looked at
  - Who we already had relationships with
  - Who was vested in the focus of prevention
  - Who would be key within the school
  - Who would be key within the community
  - Who would be key parents
Once we had the organizations selected we began looking for key individuals

Characteristics:

- Knowledge of child and youth development
- Knowledge of the community and connections
- Individuals with connections to other prevention programs or curriculums
- School personnel trusted by students and parents
- Two High School Students who could relate with younger children and youth and had leadership skills.
Dr. Joan Flender

- Very interested in the Strengthening Families Program.
- Talked to staff about being trained as facilitators.
- Offered to pay them for their time.
- Recruiting families in her office
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community/County Members</th>
<th>Representatives/Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **School**               | • 7–9<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal  
                          | • Elementary Principal –grades 3–6  
                          | • Curriculum Coordinator  
                          | • Dean of Students  
                          | Health Teacher (provide in–school program)  
                          | Students/SADD (volunteering)  
                          | PTA |
| **County**               | • Livingston County Youth Bureau  
                          | • Healthy Communities the Care (provided Risk & Protective Factor Surveys)  
                          | • Livingston County CASA (Full time Caseworker)  
                          | * Livingston County DSS (Caseworker)  
                          | * Livingston County Health Dept.  
                          | Livingston County Youth Advocate |
| **Community**            | Village of Dansville Mayor  
                          | Dansville Board of Education  
                          | * Parents  
                          | Pediatric Doctor (providing PR and paying staff to facilitate) |
Networking Results

- One Example: Recruitment/PR
- Through Team Brainstorming the Team came up with something for “Winter In The Village” “The PROSPER Tree”

During Winter in Dansville organizations line the Church Park sidewalks with decorated Christmas trees.

So we need a tree PTA donation
The Bare Tree

- We need to decorate the tree!
  Blue Lights DONATED BY
- The tree was still pretty blaw! We needed decorations
- Members of the Team began brainstorming
  PROSPER ---The Logo---Blue---Decorated

- Networking done by:
  Prosper Team Teachers
  Children SADD
  PTO Principals
  Parents Village
The PROSPER Decoration
The finished PROSPER Tree
Networking worked

Recruitment:
Children had assignment to take parents to the PROSPER Tree find their ornament and take it home. Each ornament had the dates of the program and where to find the registration form.

PR The PROSPER Tree was our advertisement available to everyone who came into the park. And it reached many Community Residents.