

To the Editor:

The United Way of Seneca County would like to thank everyone who contributed to or attended *Lights on Afterschool*, an annual event that celebrates and emphasizes the importance of after school programming across the nation. We would especially like to thank Surge Staff, State Assemblyman Brian Kolb, Waterloo Mayor Ted Young, Waterloo Village Trustees Bonnie Hosford and David Duprey, Seneca Falls Village Trustee TJ Ikewood, and Seneca Falls School Superintendent Bob McKeveny for their attendance and for recognizing the significant impact the Surge After School Program has had on our children and families in Seneca County.

More than one hundred Surge After School Program students from Romulus, Seneca Falls, South Seneca, and Waterloo school districts attended the event. In his address, Seneca Falls Superintendent Robert McKeveny described the importance of the Surge After School Program in Seneca County as a vision that a few community members had years ago which grew beyond expectations, and has now become an important and meaningful asset to our community. He also shared the fact, that our Surge After School Program is dependent on yearly New York State and Federal funding which will expire in June 2009. Superintendent McKeveny pointed out, "It is our hope that our community residents will join us in advocating in favor of continued funding for after school programming."

The benefits of the Surge After School Program are clear: it keeps our kids safe and healthy, inspires them to learn, and relieves working parents of worries about their student's activities during afternoon hours. Please help us communicate the positive impact of after school programming (or the Surge After School Program?) in our community by lending your voice and showing your support. For more information on how to do this contact the United Way of Seneca County office at 315-539-1135 or email [uwseneca@rochester.rr.com](mailto:uwseneca@rochester.rr.com).

Once again thank you to everyone who attended *Lights On Afterschool*, your support for the Surge After School Program is very important and appreciated.

Thank You,

Karen Beals

Executive Director, United Way of Seneca County

