



## FOR BUILDING EFFECTIVE & RECIPROCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Communicate Significance.** To inspire prospective partners to get involved, communicate the purpose and scope of your event and program. Share your organization's vision and mission, related accomplishments and successes, and the direction in which you want the event or program to go.

**Create Buy-In in Your Own Organization.** Identify how a community partnership will supplement work that you are already doing (i.e. draw connections to educational standards and curriculum). Solicit input from staff and participants who will be impacted by the community partnerships to foster a united, well-informed team.

**Identify Your Level of Partnership.** There are four partnership levels: communication, cooperation, coordination, and collaboration. Each level reflects increasing levels of involvement and interaction and ranges from informal to more organized relationships. Decide which level you want to engage in based on your needs and goals.

**Identify Partnership Ambassadors.** Think about who has an existing connection with the organizations you are trying to involve and would be likely to get a "yes" (i.e. board members may be best to reach out to other community leaders). Faculty, staff, parents, and volunteers can serve as recruiters. Prepare them to make the "ask."

**Define Goals and Desired Outcomes.** Be intentional in what you are looking for in your community partnerships. Work with your partners to explicitly define your shared goals and intended outcomes so that you know you are moving toward the same vision. Identify key individuals who share and can communicate this message to others.

**Clarify Roles and Responsibilities.** Define clear roles and responsibilities for each partner by designating specific individuals who will serve as points of contact and carry out specific tasks. Communicate these often in different formats (i.e. email, phone, literature) to ensure that these shared understandings remain at the forefront.

**Inclusive Decision-Making.** Community partners bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Through ongoing communication, provide opportunities for them to ask questions and voice their ideas about how they can integrate their practices into your events or programs to enhance ownership and empowerment amongst partners.

**Reciprocate the Partnership.** The partnerships that you develop can form the basis of long-term relationships. Find out what your community partner needs, evaluate the resources that you can offer, and identify ways in which you can support them. Make yourself available to participate on partner committees or volunteer your time.

**Celebrate Your Community Partners.** Thank your partners for working with you. Share their contributions by publishing the event or program on your website or social media. Send them thank you cards or letters with pictures of the event or other sentiments. Create a sponsorship page displaying their logos or host a celebration to honor them.

**Keep Partners Informed.** Include your partners in your organizational community. Where appropriate, invite them to attend events and celebrations and include them on weekly or monthly newsletters to stay up-to-date on current news and information. This makes partners feel valued beyond the event or program to which they commit.



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**NEW FOUNDATIONS  
CHARTER SCHOOL**  
A Caring Community of Learners

The mission of the New Foundations Charter School is to provide students with the academic, social, and emotional foundations and skills necessary to become high achieving, socially competent stewards of their communities.

New Foundations Charter School ensures a commitment to lifelong learning and achievement of all our students by creating an atmosphere of caring that pervades every aspect of school life, and promotes attachment to and responsibility for all members of our school community.

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