



NEWS & VIEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2023

From the Desk of the Executive Director

The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children, adults, and families.

The vision is that all children, adults and families in our service area have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

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Johnson City,
New York
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607.723.8313
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607.723.6173**

Believe it or not, the spring programs are winding down and we have started planning for the summer programs.

We are excited to once again host the Summer Youth Employment Program. We have a number of opportunities available in house and also partner with the Broome County Humane Society and Greater Good grocery store to offer a variety of employment opportunities.. Over the summer months we continue to provide Early Head Start programming and several Head Start and integrated preschool classes.

We continue our pursuit of housing opportunities as they present themselves. Our Robinson Street site is full and we have another HHAP project in the development. and are also working with the City of Binghamton to identify affordable housing opportunities.

We are in the process of purchasing a building on Washington Ave in Binghamton. This will be used to relocate our classrooms from Saratoga and Carlisle apartments, and allow for additional agency wide program development.

While we continue to write grants and look for program development that meets our community assessment needs. We recognize the need to spend time developing and assimilating those programs into what we do.

We continue to upgrade our technology as funds present themselves. We have a technology replacement plan so we continue to search for funds to accomplish this. One of our biggest challenges is remains finding staff for the multitude of positions we have

available. Hopefully this will turn around in the near future.

All of this makes for a very busy and exciting summer. Even though we continue to grow and expand, providing high quality services is our number one priority. We must continue to grow but also continue to maintain our high level of quality the community and families expect.

Also as we continue to grow we must continue to communicate with all of our staff and families more often and in a timelier manner. This will be a priority for this year.

If there something we are doing well, please tell us. If there is something we could do different or better, please tell us. Our sole purpose is to meet your needs and community needs. Your feedback will help us do that.



***Darrell Newvine,
Family Enrichment Network***

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Head Start

Family Enrichment Network Offers Families a Free Summer Food Program

For the past fifteen years, Family Enrichment Network has hosted a summer food services program. In the early years we provided a morning snack and lunch program, in the past five years we have offered breakfast and lunch. We are an open site, so all interested children and their families are able to participate in our program daily.

Hunger is a local, state-wide, and national challenge that our families deal with on a daily basis, and providing these services allows families to better stretch their food dollars; offers them an opportunity to eat as a family; and provides them with nutrition and healthy meal ideas that they can prepare for their children at home.

The Food and Nutrition Services, USDA Summer Food Services Program assists families in obtaining **FREE** nutritious meals and snacks for their children when school is out.

The program runs from July 5, 2023 through August 18, 2023. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday each week at Family Enrichment Network in the Cafeteria.

Parents attending our program with their children will be invited to enjoy a free meal, too. The adult meals are paid for through local contributions secured specifically for these adult meals.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

For more information contact Network Offices at (607) 723-8313.

(1)mail:U.S.Departmentof Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2)fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3)email:program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Child Care Assistance Program

Childcare is expensive!

Did you know parents can pay over \$12,000 a year for child care for one child, which is more than the cost of college. New York has the Child Care Assistance Program to help parents with child care costs.

The parent eligibility rates increased last summer, and have recently increased again!

If you previously applied and did not qualify for DSS child care assistance, you can try again and see if you qualify.

Family Size	300% SIS
1	\$43,740
2	\$59,160
3	\$74,580
4	\$90,000
5	\$105,420
6	\$120,840
7	\$136,260
8	\$151,680
9	\$167,100
10	\$182,520
11	\$197,940
12	\$213,360
13	\$228,780
14	\$244,200
15	\$259,620
16	\$275,040
17	\$290,460
18	\$305,880
19	\$321,300
20	\$336,720
Each Additional Person	\$15,420

Call your local DSS to see if you qualify and apply today.

Broome County: (607) 778-2628

Chenango County: (607) 337-1500

Tioga County: (607) 687-8500

To find part-time or full-time child care, contact the Child Care Referral Specialist at referrals@familyenrichment.org or call (607) 723-8313 ext. 829.

Department Spotlight

Housing

The Housing Department was formerly the Housing and Community Services Department, but separated in 2022 in order to better focus on our growing housing programs.

Family Enrichment Network has received ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) Funding from the city of Binghamton for over ten years to offer homeless prevention programming, known as the Caring Homes program. The Caring Homes program serves individuals and families at-risk of becoming homeless due to rent arrears and/or utility shutoffs as a result of a hardship. With the ESG funding, we are able to provide a security deposit or rent arrears for those who are homeless or facing homelessness, as well as utility arrears for those who have a current shut off notice. Participants must reside in the city of Binghamton, NY to receive assistance. In 2021, we provided financial assistance to 89 families while in 2022 we provided financial assistance to 162 families. This clearly demonstrates the need for financial assistance two years after the pandemic.

COVID-19 impacted all of us throughout 2020-2022. New York State has recognized the financial hardship this has caused and has allocated ESG- COVID funds to our region to financially support families. The funds allow us to offer additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities. Available funds may be used for rental assistance, security deposits and utility shut offs. Participants must reside in the city of Binghamton and have been directly impacted by COVID-19 to receive assistance.

In March 2021, we opened the doors to our first homeless housing project, Housing Connections. Housing Connections provides 19 supportive housing units, comprised of four one-bedroom apartments, ten two-bedroom apartments, four three-bedroom apartments, and one four-bedroom apartment. The program prioritizes homeless youth ages 18-25 years old; formerly incarcerated (non-violent offenders); survivors of domestic violence; individuals with a substance abuse disorder; people with an intellectual or developmental disability; chronically homeless; and disabled military veterans who have an unmet housing need. Supportive services include: rental assistance, trauma informed assessments and case management, adult literacy, parent education, child care, job readiness training, digital literacy training, financial literacy, housing education, referrals to substance abuse and mental health counseling, benefit advocacy, life skills training, and transportation.

Since opening, we have housed 28 families. In 2022 we started offering classes to our families and opened it up to the community. We offer Healthy Relationships, Anger Management and Parenting. The classes have been well attended and we plan to offer them as long as people continue to show up.

Although we provide support and assistance we also recognize the need for specialized services. Each family is unique in their needs and it is important that we recognize this and meet the family where they are at. Wrap-around services and referrals are an important part of a tenant's success. We have developed and fostered relationship with agencies such as Prime Care Coordination, CPS, CHOW, Lee Barta Center, Catholic Charities Diaper Bank (through Jessica's Corner), Baby Book Buddies, Mothers and Babies, Office of Veteran Affairs, Weis, Planned Parenthood, Phil Financial Group, Rise Shelter, and the New Hope Center, just to name a few. This is a snapshot of agencies that we collaborate with.

In addition to Housing Connections, we own five properties in Binghamton and Johnson City that we rent to individuals and families. We own two properties located on Roberts Street (11 Roberts St., and 51 Roberts St.), a single family home located at 241 St. Charles St., a two unit home located at 11 Crocker Ave and a five unit building located at 146 Robinson St. All of the homes are Section 8 certified.

Employee Spotlights

Traci Decker

I joined FEN in mid-March (2023) as an Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultant (ITMHC), and my experience so far is that the work is very compelling! I enjoy supporting the wellness of the adult caregivers working with infants and toddlers and increasing their capacity so we can improve the mental health outcomes for the children in their care.

Prior to this position I've had a (long :) varied career in the early childhood education and behavioral health fields, most recently working as a clinical supervisor and therapist at an outpatient substance use disorder program. In my free time I enjoy riding my ATV, hiking, paddle boarding, reading and listening to podcasts.



Ursula Flavien

Hi FEN fam,

I am a PT assistant here at FEN and I have been for the past 10 years. I am also a registered nurse but physical therapy was my first love. Michelle Codner once told me that at FEN we work for love! At the time I laughed it off but soon after I started here I realized what she meant. It truly is a labor of love and I love the kids and have made many good friends here. At this time of year we are always sad to see our little friends leave, but it is even sadder to see staff leave as well. It always seems that I get left behind!

FEN is a great place to work. The benefits are good as well as the atmosphere. I look forward to coming to work each day and hope everyone else does as well.

Thank you

Keep smiling!!



Employee Spotlights, continued

Jason Goldman

I have been working in the human services field for over 20 years and enjoy helping people in all facets of their lives. I have been employed at FEN for five years as the Housing Case Manager for the Caring Homes program.

The Caring Homes program provides homeless prevention services to families at risk of homelessness. My true passion in life is competing in, and coaching the sport of wrestling.

I was introduced to wrestling at age seven and I haven't stopped. I was a NYS High School State Champion at Maine-Endwell & two time NCAA Div III All-American for Binghamton University and while earning my BA degree in Psychology. In 2013, I won the Veteran's Freestyle World Championship while competing in Sarajevo, Bosnia. I continue to wrestle and just recently won my fifteenth National Championship while competing in the Master's Division in Las Vegas in April 2023. I currently coach wrestling at Deposit-Hancock High school and I'm the head coach of Xtreme Wrestling.

I reside in Endicott and have a 13 year old son who keeps me busy with sports and school activities. In my spare time, I enjoy lifting weights, running, hiking and obstacle course racing.



Dawnn Smith

Hi! My name is Dawnn and I work part time as a custodian at Housing Connections on Virgil St. I have worked for the agency for over a year.

I was born in Johnson City but I have lived in a variety of places throughout my life. I have a three-year-old son who will be starting Head Start in the fall. I am very excited!

I love reading, listening to music but most of all being a mom. My favorite shows are Naked and Afraid and Hell's Kitchen. If I could live anywhere in the world I would love to live in Tokyo.



Years of Service

Five Years

Julie Henry
Adrieana Woodard
Rey Lui
Christina Garlick

Ten Years

Ursula Flavien

Fifteen Years

Crystal Rozelle

Congratulations.

New Programs

New Programs:

Broome/Tioga School Age Child Care Programs:
KCE Champions, LLC

Broome School Age Child Care Program:
Broome County Urban League

Broome Family Child Care:
Kiminu Goodson

Chenango Family Child Care:
Emilee Komarisky

NOEP

Kids and teens can get free, healthy summer meals nearby. No application or sign-up needed!

Call the Broome County Nutrition Outreach & Education Program (NOEP) to learn where summer meals are served.

(607) 723-8313 ext. 827



FamilySM



Enrichment Network



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for all you do!*

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For more information on available space or to set up your ad,

please call Laura at (607) 723-8313 ext. 815.