



NEWS & VIEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2022

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
13790
Phone:
607.723.8313
Fax:
607.723.6173**

Believe it or not, summer is here. Our early childhood education summer programs are taking place and we will once again be operating the county Summer Youth Employment Program for youth ages 14-20 and will be hosting the Free Summer Food Services Program for community residents (July 5, 2022 through August 26, 2022).

One of our biggest challenges over the next few months will be finding staff for the multitude of positions we have available. Hopefully this will turn around in the near future. We continue our pursuit of housing opportunities as they present themselves. Our multi-family Robinson Street site is full and we have another HHAP project in the works. All of this makes for a very busy and exciting summer.

We continue to write grants and look for program development that meets our community assessment needs. We have been very successful in that area. Fortunately, we are in a position where we have had continued growth over the past couple of years. 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. 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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CCR&R

Expand Your Child Care Program

More child care spaces are needed throughout Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties, especially for infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and non-traditional hours. If you an existing registered/licensed child care program and want to expand, CCR&R can help.

Visit OCFS for more information on the Invest in New York: Child Care Desert Grant opportunity: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/>



OR give us a call! Jenn at (607) 723-8313 ext. 872 or Julie at (607) 723-8313 ext. 1616.

New Programs:

Broome Family Child Care: Fatima's Family Day Care

Congratulations!

CCR&R is excited to announce that our Infant Toddler Specialist, Cortney Nornhold, has been awarded her New York State Early Learning Training Credential and is now a credentialed Training and Technical Assistance Professional.

Cortney has also been recently certified as a PITC Trainer by completing the Program for Infant Toddler Care Trainer's Institute and completing the certification process.

Cortney is available to offer high quality professional development and assistance to any child care program caring for infants and toddlers.

Congratulations!



Summer Food Program

Family Enrichment Network Offers Families a Free Summer Food Program

For the past fourteen 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 four 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, 2022 through August 26, 2022. 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. During the first two years of the pandemic, our center was closed to in person programming for the Summer Food Services Program; but, this year, our program is open for in person dining for both breakfast and lunch.

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.

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

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](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (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:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of 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.



Free Summer Meals for Kids!

Summer meals and SNAP help families have enough to eat.

- Kids and teens ages 18 and under can get free summer meals at nearby sites.
- SNAP can help you buy the food you need to feed your family.

Call the **Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)** to find local summer meal sites. NOEP can also help you learn if you may be eligible for SNAP.



Family Enrichment Network
24 Cherry St, Johnson City, NY
Broome County NOEP
(607) 723-8313 x 827

Department Spotlight

Housing

Although the Housing Department is fairly new, housing is not new to Family Enrichment Network. In April of 2013, Family Enrichment began its commitment to address the need for safe and affordable housing. FEN purchased its first two unit property at 11 Roberts Street in Johnson City. This home is located directly beside FEN behind the visitor parking lot. The developmentally delayed population was identified as a population in need of safe affordable housing in the community and in September 2015, 51 Roberts Street, Johnson City was developed for this purpose. The house allows multiple (two to three) individuals to reside in a single family home. This model allows individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to live independently in the community while having roommates to share and support that experience. In February 2016, we purchased a single family home at 241 St. Charles Street in Johnson City. In December 2021, we purchased a two unit home at 11 Crocker Avenue in Johnson City. Our most recent purchase is a four unit home at 146 Robinson Street, Binghamton.

In December 2018, Family Enrichment Network was awarded their first Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) and Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) grants, which allowed us to construct a 19-unit structure. In February 2020, the project broke ground at 29 Virgil Street in Binghamton. The project was completed in March 2021. Housing Connections was created! We opened our doors in March and were at full capacity by July 1st. The program 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; 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. The program offers free onsite laundry, free garbage removal, onsite parking and a playground for children to play safely in the neighborhood. As of June 1, 2022 we continue to operate at full capacity.

On the other side of housing you will find our Caring Homes Program. The Caring Homes Program is a housing assistance program funded with Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds through the City of Binghamton. The goal of this program is to prevent homelessness through financial assistance and supportive services for homeless individuals/families and those at risk of becoming homeless. For those who meet eligibility requirements, financial assistance can be obtained for rent arrears, security deposits and utility arrears. In addition, case management services are provided to create a plan for housing stability.

In March 2020, COVID-19 shuttered the state of New York. Housing, employment, schools, daycare and most day-to-day activities were directly impacted by COVID-19. During this time, the governor of New York State instituted a state moratorium on residential and commercial evictions to ensure no tenant was evicted during the height of the public health emergency. The Governor signed the Tenant Safe Harbor Act on June 30, 2020, which went into effective immediately. The moratorium protected renters from being evicted should they directly be impacted by COVID-19. New York State granted the city of Binghamton monies to financially support those directly impacted by

Department Spotlight, continued

COVID-19. It provided tenants with financial assistance for up to three months to help with rent arrears. Initially the moratorium was expected to end on May 1, 2021 but given the instability of the economy and COVID still on the forefront the moratorium was extended to January 15, 2022. Still very much impacted by COVID, the City of Binghamton recognized the need for additional financial assistance to support those facing eviction. In April 2021 the city of Binghamton allocated additional monies to fight the eviction battle. The monies provided up to nine months in rent arrears and three months moving forward (12 months total) as well as security deposit with a maximum of 12 months of financial support. Furthermore, FEN received a grant through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to assist those in Chenango County directly impacted by COVID-19. This again supports families with financial assistance with rent arrears to stabilize their housing or a security deposit to relocate to safe and affordable housing. To date, we have rehoused or maintained housing for over 115 families.

Look around...Stop...and really look around. What do you see in Binghamton and the surrounding areas? Lack of safe and affordable housing. Many housing options are considered substandard, and tenants often complain about absentee landlords and/or maintenance repairs that go unattended. In addition, many complain that options in their income range are typically located in unsafe neighborhoods. Families are especially concerned with this, as they fear for the safety of their children. Rental costs have nearly doubled due to the pandemic. The increased cost of housing paired with a housing shortage is putting tenants at risk of homelessness or unable to afford housing. Families are being displaced due to buildings being condemned and building safety issues. Furthermore, there is an increased strain on the local housing market directly related to student housing. Landlords are converting family housing over to student housing leaving the housing stock depleted.

FEN will be ever diligent in pursuing ways to meet the never-ending need for safe, affordable and stable housing. Stay tuned for our newest project!



Head Start

KINDERGARTEN

HERE
we come

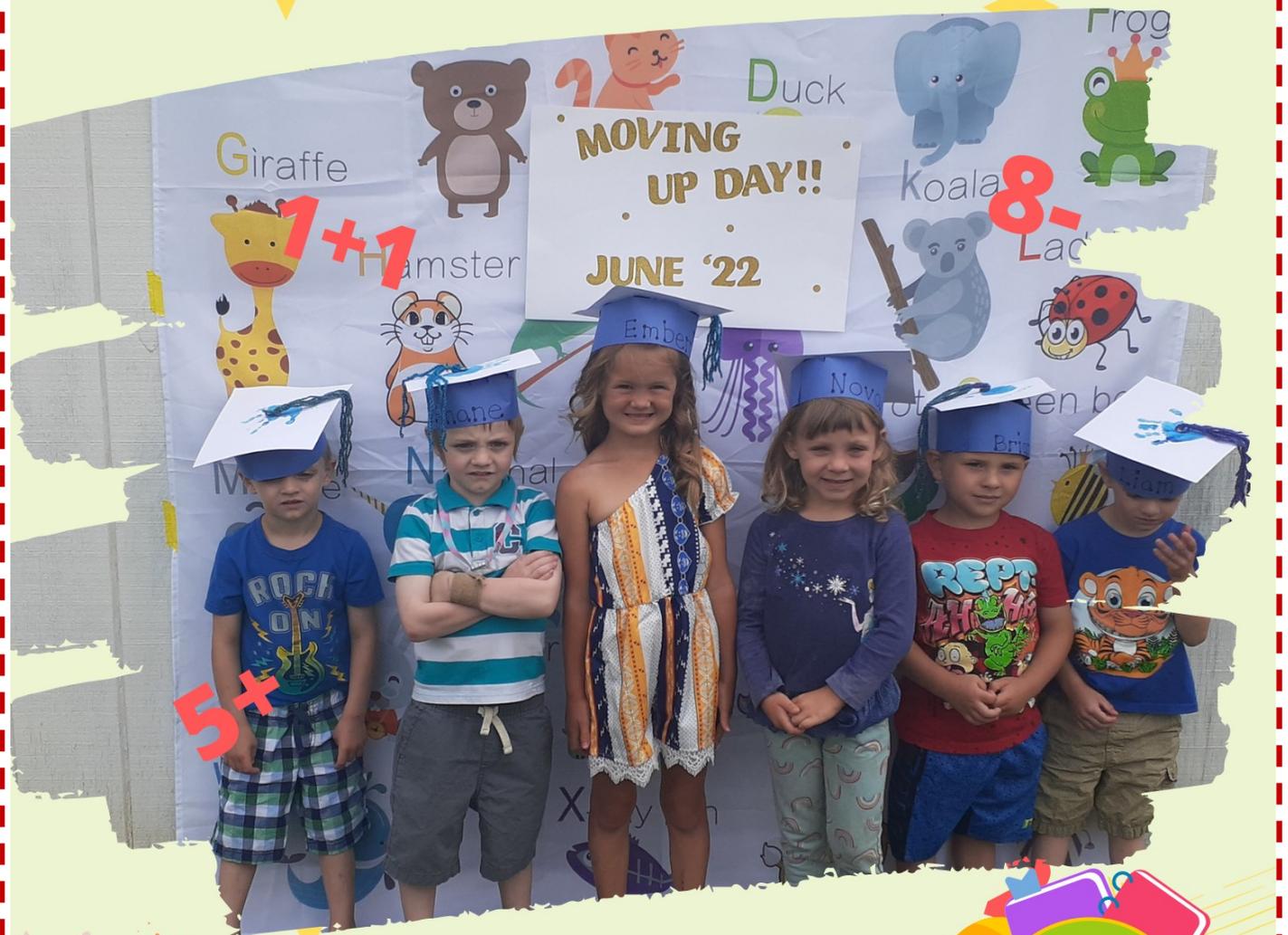


ANOTHER PROGRAM
YEAR COMES TO AN
END AND SOME OF
OUR OWEGO LITTLES
TOOK A TRIP TO
KINDERGARTEN!



Head Start continued

OFF TO KINDERGARTEN WE GO!



The Waverly littles are
all set for new adventures!



Employee Spotlights

Erik Lasky



Erik began his career as a facilitator for the New Pathways for Fathers Program in 2016 and remained at his position until the end of the grant in 2020. Wanting to stay at FEN, Erik looked for new opportunities to support and assist FEN clientele he found his way to the Housing Connections Program. He worked as a Life Skills Instructor and transitioned over to Housing Case Manager. Erik's professional background includes Special and Inclusive Education K-12 as well as teaching at the University level, where he continues to teach. Erik was a former Division III athlete, Ice Hockey Goaltender, and played professionally at varying levels for the Elmira Jackals, Binghamton Senators

and Binghamton Devils. Erik graduated from Elmira College with a Master of Fine Art as well as a Master of Education. Erik's devotion for art, painting in particular, has led him to exhibit his paintings in both regional galleries and museums. Erik is a fervent gardener, extensive traveler, enjoys cooking and has seen his favorite band, Counting Crows, 31 times. He and his partner have two rescue dogs, Marty and Demi, two rescue cats, Felicia and Vicky, and five horses they ride on the weekends at their property.

Kelsey Burbank

I have been with Family Enrichment Network since 2017. I started as an EHS teacher and then found my dream position as the Lead Head Start teacher in the three-year-old classroom at Owego. I love that I get to do what makes me happy and I get to do it with my best friend who works right beside me! I grew up and currently live in Chemung, New York with my two dogs (Mandy and Zoey). I love to read, crochet, and have fun with my friends and family. I love to watch baseball (Go Cubs!) and enjoy going camping in the summertime. My favorite animals are llamas and owls. I hope to one day go to Disneyland and meet all my favorite Disney characters.



Employee Spotlights, Continued

Marisa Mooney



I joined Family Enrichment Network in July 2017 as a Speech Language Pathologist. I earned my bachelor's degree in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology from Bloomsburg University of PA in 2015 and my Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology from Ithaca College in 2017. I enjoy evaluating and treating a variety of pediatric speech and language delays and disorders. It is very rewarding to watch the kids build communication skills and see them interact with peers and other staff members. Each child is unique and teaches me something new! Outside of pediatric therapy, I have also done some work in acute care medical settings working with adult populations.

When I'm not providing direct services, I am collaborating with Binghamton University's Division of Speech Language Pathology to build a partnership with their new department and graduate program. I have also mentored and supervised undergraduate students and SLP Clinical Fellows as they begin their careers.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, shopping, a good TV show to binge, being outside in the sunshine, spending time with family and friends, and walking with my one year old cavapoo, Willow.

Erica Hazard

I have been with FEN as the CCR&R Specialist for three months so I am very new around here! It has been a great new adventure for my family and myself. I have six children; my oldest boys will be 18; Jaykob and Miles. My four girls are Jozlyne, Bailee, Summer and Jordan. I have been married for five years to my wonderful husband, Jerry. Prior to FEN I worked as an infant and toddler teacher for several years before going into Family support work for mothers and children who had been exposed to domestic violence as well as many other hardships. We bought our house last year which has brought a new found love for plants (something I was never good with)! We spend a lot of time outdoors kayaking, hiking, and soaking up the sun on the lake with our children. If we are not at home, we are most likely on our Harley cruising around. We have a beautiful Old English Bulldog named Saylor and my little Chi-weenie named Henry. I look forward to many more years with FEN.



Employee Spotlights, Continued

Mary Ann Higgins



My parents came here from a village in Portugal. The first time I visited, when I was seven, there was only one house with a bathroom and most did not have electricity. I loved the freedom of running through the streets after the ducks and long walks in the fields.

I grew up in Connecticut where my parents worked in a factory. My mom worked the dayshift and my dad the nightshift. There are many scary stories of the shenanigans my sister and I would get into when my father inevitably fell asleep watching us. When I started school, I can still remember how frightened I was not understanding what anyone was saying. My kindergarten teacher held me back insisting that I needed to improve my English. So my parents let me watch lots of TV.

I went to college in NYC and got my bachelor's in child psychology. After years of doing nothing with that expensive degree, I met an OT while waitressing at a sushi restaurant. She told me about her work with children and, within a year, I was back in school at 36. That year I met my husband, Jason, and we have two boys, one dog, and two cats. Liam is 12, loves sports and guitar. Evan is 10, loves history and drums. I feel incredibly lucky to have them and to get to do what I love every day.



Job Opportunities

We have a number of job opportunities available at our Broome, Chenango, and Tioga sites. If you are interested in working with children and families, adults with disabilities or serving the greater community, Family Enrichment Network has an employment opportunity for you. We offer competitive benefits and paid time off. We are recruiting for a number of openings from entry level up to senior level positions, and are willing to provide education and training.

Please go to www.familyenrichment.org to see our current list of openings or email your resume to mdifulvio@familyenrichment.org.

Years of Service

5 Years

April Midyette
Marisa Mooney
Mary Ann Higgins
Kelsey Burbank
Teresa Thorne

10 Years:

Michelle O'Brien

15 Years:

Rozann Greco



Celebrate

FamilySM



Enrichment Network



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*Thank you
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.