



# News & Views

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER, 2016

*The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children 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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## From the Desk of the Executive Director

The Agency just completed its annual meeting and training day for staff at Traditions at the Glen. I would like to thank the Traditions staff for making the event very easy and very successful. During my presentation, I reviewed what we have done over the past year and the challenges we face in the coming year.

Everything we do or don't do makes a difference. We are in an okay funding cycle with Early Childhood Development. We have been successful in developing new program slots but not successful in increasing the rate for those slots. We need to be forward-looking and assertive, bordering on aggressive, in terms of future program development. The children and families of this community need it and deserve it.

We are encountering ongoing funding challenges for making our programs competitive. These funding issues make it difficult to maintain and attract new staff to our Agency. Our main competitors are health service agencies and schools. As they increase their salaries and we remain stagnant, it worsens the situation. Add that to the significant decrease in the



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

Southern Tier population and the situation becomes even more difficult.

The next issue is the recent state mandated increase in minimum wage. As I have stated before, we fully support a minimum wage increase, but only if fully funded. This mandate is not funded in any manner. We are making some progress with legislators, but have a long way to go.

Other fixed costs such as Workers Compensation, New York State Disability, Unemployment Insurance and Health Insurance are increasing with no corresponding increase in funding. These too become unfunded mandates. All of this puts increased pressure on our budgets.

We have built an organization and a staff structure that has placed us in a great position for the future. In the past, we have been able to weather the funding challenges and

continue to be in a good position. Because of what we have done in the past, we are positioned better than most not-for-profit organizations. We have been forward thinking and assertive and we must continue to be so. We have started the process to serve a new population; working with adults with disabilities in a number of different areas. This will add a new dimension to our Agency.

The most important job in the world, caring for our young children, should not be the lowest paid. In childcare, cheaper is not better. "Cheaper" results in poor quality, high staff turnover, and a decrease in people pursuing careers in child care. The long-term answer continues to be a cooperative effort between government, not-for-profits, and the business community.

We could not function without the support of the staff, the Governing Board and the entire community. Our staff this past year, has worked tirelessly, to assist us in moving this Agency forward and meeting the needs of children and families. We thank you for your past support of our Agency and look forward to future partnership opportunities.

## FEN's Clinic Plus Program



It is natural to measure your child's height and weight, or to assess their hearing, vision or other health concerns. It is equally important to assess children's emotional development. Emotional health issues can affect how children perform in school, how they relate to family members, and their ability to make friends. Family Enrichment Network and Broome County Mental Health are pleased to make a *free, voluntary, and confidential* questionnaire available to help you assess your child's emotional health.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire will be distributed to parents of Head Start students via their Family Advocate. Parents/guardians should take a moment to review the packet, complete the questions with the advocate, and return the survey to school in the envelope provided. The Clinic Plus Coordinator will score the assessments and return results *only to the parent/guardian*, unless they have provided consent to share the results with Head Start staff.

Questions about the assessment can be directed to 607-778-1111 or [kdutcher@familyenrichment.org](mailto:kdutcher@familyenrichment.org).

## Community Habilitation...What is it?

Family Enrichment Network is now offering Community Habilitation services. Community Habilitation is a waiver program funded by Medicaid and is available to children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Individuals residing in certified settings and also in the community, either with family or on their own, are eligible for this program. The goal of Community Habilitation is to provide community integration and independent living skills. The individual will either have the option to choose and hire their own staff or they can choose to work with an agency hired staff. The number of hours of Community Habilitation that a person can receive can range from 3- 20 hours per week or more- depending on the needs of the person. The Community Habilitation staff provides all transportation to individuals in the program. Community Habilitation is a self-directed service, meaning that the individual decides what goals are important to work on and how the goals will be met. This is a fun and educational program that supports independent living and is a great opportunity for people to get involved in their community and learn new skills. **For more information on FEN's Community Habilitation Program call 607-723-8313 ext. 1662**



**Keep our community's children and families warm this winter by dropping off a new or gently used coat at one of the following locations through November 25th:**

**Raymour and Flannigan Furniture**

**Tri-Town Insurance, Owego**

**Hatala Orthodontics**

**Harter Hill Insurance Agency, Endwell**

**SERVPRO, Binghamton**

**Taylor Garbage**

**FREE Coats of all sizes will be available to the public the week of November 7th-November 30th at Family Enrichment Network's JC Location:**

*24 Cherry Street*

*Johnson City, NY*

**Visit FEN's Facebook Page and Website for updates on coat delivery.**

## Fatherhood Program

The New Pathways for Fathers Program proudly serves fathers and families throughout Broome and Tioga Counties. Since July, we have enrolled more than 40 adults and 7 youth. Our Fall 2016 programming includes weekly groups in Johnson City, Owego, and Waverly. We continue to seek out partners in the community who share our goal of engaging fathers, connecting them with support and resources, and helping them build healthy relationships at work, school, and home. Our grant partner, Family Planning of South Central New York, helps us reach youth in school settings and men who are incarcerated. We look forward to a wonderfully successful program year, while we highlight the impact fathers have on their children's lives. For more information, or to enroll in one of our fun groups, contact Dan Lesch at 607-723-8313 ext. 838 or [dlesch@familyenrichment.org](mailto:dlesch@familyenrichment.org)

### New Providers:

**Broome County  
Child Care Center:**  
ISA Center for Youth  
Success

**Broome Group  
Family Child Care:**  
Marnita Johnson



## CCR&R Holds Fall Professional Development Days!



The Child Care Resource and Referral department held the annual Chenango County Fall Conference in Norwich on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The "Make and Take" day provided the opportunity for hands-on workshops for child care professionals and early childhood students. The keynote and group workshop was focused on Early Childhood Project Learning Tree, where participants learned more about bringing the environment into the program through activities in science, math, and reading. Each person walked away with the curriculum and a musical CD for their program, among other resources.

What a great day!



The Broome County Saturday Seminar was held on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at Family Enrichment Network, Johnson City. Workshops included an overview of the heroin epidemic, how to help children who have been exposed to trauma, yoga with kids, and an overview of the Pyramid Model.

# Employee Spotlights

## Adine Lewis



Hi all, I'm Adine Lewis. I work over at the Binghamton Courthouse Children's Center on Hawley St. as the assistant teacher. I started at FEN as a child care sub and have been at the Courthouse Center for the past year. I love waking up every morning knowing that I get to work with children. I absolutely love seeing the children's smiling faces. Outside of work, I love to play with my 2 dogs and spending time with my boyfriend and his family. I also am a HUGE hockey fan and absolutely love going to games and watching it on T.V. GO SABRES!!

## Penny Holmberg



Hi, my name is Penny Holmberg, I am the lead teacher at the Courthouse Children's Center, which is in the Family Support Services Department. Although I have only been with Family Enrichment Network since August 17th this year, I have been in the child care profession for the past 14 years. I enjoy working at the Courthouse with the various ages of children. It's fun and interesting to see how the different age levels react and interact with each other and the staff when they come to the center. I have a good co-worker in Adine, she is knowledgeable and fun to work with! I am glad to be part of the Family Enrichment program.

## Pillow and Blanket Fun! Indoor Game

Now the weather is getting colder outside, use this idea from the staff of the Courthouse Children's Center (located at Broome County Family Court) to have indoor fun with your children. Pillow and blanket play is fun for toddlers and preschoolers. Even school age children enjoy this game.

Take pillows off your couch or the bed. Find a blanket or throw and let your children build a simple fort or cave with the blanket and chairs or other large stable objects. Small children will need help. Put small pillows inside and let the pretending begin!

Materials:

- Pillows (as many as you want)
- Blankets (as many as you would like)
- Couch
- Chairs
- A table (optional)
- Your imagination!



**For more information on the Family Enrichment Network's Courthouse Children's Center at Broome County Family Court, please call Penny or Adine at (607) 240-5818.**

## Agency Upgrades

### New Sidewalks...

Family Enrichment Network is happy to report that thanks to funding provided by the Town of Union Community Development Block grant and the Village of Johnson City's 50/50 program we will receive much needed new sidewalks on both Cherry Street and Roberts Street. These improvements will greatly enhance the safety of these walkways used by program children and families, staff, and the community.



# Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program

*Would you like to make the holiday season a little brighter for a special family?*

**Consider participating in FEN's Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program!**

- All families are enrolled in one of Family Enrichment Network's programs and receive no other outside assistance during the holidays.
- Wish lists for each child are provided to donors. There is a \$50.00 minimum for each child.

For more information about this program and how you can help a family in need this holiday season

**Contact Shannon Fallon:**  
**607-723-8313 ext. 847 or**  
**[sfallon@familyenrichment.org](mailto:sfallon@familyenrichment.org)**





24 Cherry Street  
 Johnson City, NY  
 13790



We are a proud sponsor of Family Enrichment Network, and the positive changes they make in our community

*Thank you  
 for all you do!*



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**Advertising Space Available**

Space is now available to send your valuable message to OVER 1,000 community members.

“Blocks” approximately 2 1/2” x 3 1/2” are now available, become an advertising partner of Family Enrichment Network for \$15 per year, and receive 3 issues of “free” advertising.

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

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