



News & Views

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2017

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



*Darrell Newvine
Family Enrichment Network
Executive Director*

As we close the year, it is always good to look back and see all the good we have accomplished and new areas we need to look at in the coming year. We continue to grow and prosper. That is a very difficult task in the not for profit world today. We continue to look at what we have done in the past and spend a considerable amount of time and energy looking to the future. We completed a new Three Year Strategic Plan to guide us forward. That plan and our annual community assessment will help us streamline our program development to true needs, as they are now.

As we celebrate the Christmas Holiday season, we take time for reflection. Here is what I see. Every program and service we provide is consistent with our mission and vision. We need to continue to provide quality services in everything we do. We need to step up advocacy to increase revenue so we can increase salaries and benefits for our staff. We need to improve communications internally with staff and externally with the communities we serve. We need to find a way to attract more staff to our Agency. Every little change we make, makes us stronger. We have to take risks, but calculated risks.

We have been very fortunate to have a tremendously supportive and talented Board of Directors. That, coupled with a strong organization, staff, and structure, that has placed us in a great position for the future.

We are not without challenges and have faced our challenges this year with program issues and the increase of minimum wage. Early education is the foundation for success of our children. Advocacy is essential so that we may pay quality child development staff adequately, at least what we pay fast food workers. 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 the number of people in general who want to work in child care decreases. The number of child care centers in the area that have closed or had significant issues this past year is alarming. There are still more centers that are on the brink of closing in the near future. The long-term answer continues to be a cooperative effort between government, not for profits, and the business community.

We thank you for your past support of our Agency and look forward to future partnership opportunities.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Employee Spotlight

Linda Alcantara is the secretary for Special Education Services at Family Enrichment Network. She reports to Katherine McKeever, the Director of Special Ed and is dedicated to the department staff, as well. Linda is kept busy arranging for classroom substitutes, sending children's evaluation summaries, communicating with school district contacts, time sheet collection, staff inquiries, CPSE calendar and many other myriad duties, as needed. Before starting at FEN, Linda worked in a variety of capacities such as pharmacy technician, medical transcriptionist, office administrator and human resources analyst. Up until recently, much of her free time was spent doing the paperwork required to keep her husband's business running smoothly. When not working, Linda enjoys gardening, reading, cooking and spending time with her husband John, their son Louis and Minx, the family feline.



Education and Career Development at FEN-

Did you know that TASC (formerly known as GED) classes are held at Family Enrichment Network each Tuesday? Classes are held from 10 AM to 12 PM at our [24 Cherry Street](#) site. If you are interested in attending please ask the front office for an application.

Career Development classes are held **every other Tuesday** 11/6-1/16 . These workshops are held from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM at [24 Cherry Street Johnson City, NY](#). Workshops focus on job readiness skills to help you prepare for employment.

Child Care Resource & Referral

New Programs:

Tioga Family Childcare:

Kimberly Holland

Child Care Resource and Referral awarded continuation of national accreditation validation! Family Enrichment Network submitted the 5th annual Quality Assurance validation renewal in September 2017. After reviewing all the submitted documents, we are proud to announce that Child Care Aware of America has awarded the continuation of the Quality Assurance validation.



During the Quality Assurance process, every program within CCR&R is reviewed and evaluated. This includes our parent referrals and education, child care provider trainings and technical assistance, as well as the Agency administrative functions.

In the end, the Quality Assurance process continues to establish Family Enrichment Network CCR&R as an authority in the field of Child Care Resource and Referral. This ensures that all families, providers and communities across our area receive outstanding child care resource and referral services.

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, November 4th. The theme of the day was "Going Above and Beyond" and had a variety of workshops to encourage providers to rise above and provide the highest quality child care for their children.

Morning workshops included how children learn through play, PBS materials, and the OCFS licensing regulations. The afternoon group workshop was focused on the Pyramid Model and ways to support young children's social and emotional development to prevent challenging behaviors.

A great day was had by all who attended!

A Message from the Health Office



A Message from Nurse Michelle

Playing Outside in Cold Weather Keeps Children Healthier.

It is not true that being exposed to cold weather causes people to get sick. People get sick by being exposed to bacteria and viruses that are shared indoors. Taking the children outside to play removes them from their germ environment.

Outdoor play motivates children to move their arms and legs more effectively to exercise them. When they are moving a lot and quickly, they will stay warm and get the exercise they need to stay healthy. Moving through snow helps to strengthen muscles and improve gross motor development. Encouraging children in outdoor activities helps them to sleep better and maintain healthy weights.

Children's imaginations are stimulated to create different activities to stay occupied when the playground equipment is unavailable for use. Teachers can teach children how to make snow balls and snow men, food coloring can be added to the snow so that children can see how colors mix together to make new colors. They also learn how to identify and avoid slippery areas so that they learn how to safely walk in the winter time.



Being outside exposes children to Vitamin D, which is vital in forming strong bones and essential in preventing depression.

Family Enrichment Network follows the "Child Care Weather Watch" chart that identifies safe temperatures to be outside. It was developed by the Iowa Department of Public Health, Healthy Child Care Iowa, through federal grant funds from the US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, and Maternal & Child Health Bureau. Wind-Chill and Heat Index information is from the National Weather Service. The chart is endorsed by Head Start as a reliable source for determining when children should play outside. Many sources on children playing outside state that a child should be outside in winter, but for temperatures under 32° F, outside time should be limited to 20-30 minutes. This is a policy that we will be adopting this winter at Family Enrichment Network. Parents are urged to dress their children in winter time to be prepared to be outside for at least a short period of time to promote their health. Donations of coats, hats, mittens, boots and snow pants are welcomed to keep on hand for those children who need them.



Kinship Program

Thanksgiving Turkey Donations for Kinship Families

On Monday November 20, 2017 Larry Holdredge, President of Vietnam Veterans of America 896 and Art Belles chapter member, delivered 30 frozen Thanksgiving turkeys to the Kinship Care program at Family Enrichment Network.

The VVA 896 has been a wonderful supporter of the Kinship Families Program for the last 8 years as one of their members is a kinship caregiver. This has prompted the group to help support other kinship care families in our community by distributing turkeys that are donated anonymously to their chapter.

Kinship Families are families with an adult who is raising someone else's child. This is often a grandparent but can also be an aunt, uncle, sibling, great grandparent, family friend or even neighbor or teacher.

If you know anyone who needs assistance with kinship care or you have any questions about this program please call 607-723-8313 x 831

The Kinship Care Program would like to send out a BIG THANK YOU to VVA 896 and Larry and Art for helping make the holidays special for our kinship families.



FAMILY ENRICHMENT NETWORK

Community Services

What's New in Community Services???

Waiver Services!

Important Points:

- Waiver services are Medicaid funded programs developed to meet specific needs of individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.
- Individuals must be granted eligibility for OPWDD Waiver services by completing the "Front Door" eligibility process.
- Waiver Services are Person Centered and tailored to the specific needs of the individual and family.
- FEN offers agency supported self-directed services and direct provider purchased services.

FEN is Now Offering Respite and Community Habilitation Waiver Services for Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.

Respite Services are designed to provide family members and caregivers relief from caregiving. This service is an important resource to support families in continuing to care for their loved ones at home. Respite is only available for individuals who live with a caregiver in a non-certified, community setting.

Respite services are available during the day, evening, overnight and weekend hours.

Families may hire their own staff who can then become employed by FEN to provide the service to their loved one OR families may choose to interview and select staff currently working in the program. Self-hired staff must meet all the employment requirements of FEN and pass a background check.

The number of service hours is based on the need of the family.

Community Habilitation services are developed to assist individuals in gaining independence in different areas of life, such as budgeting, activities of daily living, and many other areas the person feels they would like support in. This service is also based on Person Centered Planning and can encompass any goal the individual feels they would benefit from. Community Habilitation uses the platform of community integration and exploration to assist individuals in working on and meeting their goals. Most of this service will take place in the community, allowing the individual to become integrated into their community and build relationships with the support of a Direct Support Professional (DSP).

Individuals living in the community, on their own or with loved ones, as well as individuals residing in certified residential settings are eligible to receive Community Habilitation.

The number of services hours per week is based on the need of the individual and can range from 3 to 25+ hours of service per week.

Please contact Jamie LaPlante at phone number 607-723-8313, ext. 1662, or at jlaplante@familyenrichment.org for more information!

24/7 DAD



**Find out how to get along with your family,
make more money, and connect with your children**

TUESDAYS from 10:30am-1:00pm

JANUARY 9—MARCH 13, 2018

WEDNESDAYS from 5:30pm-8:00pm

JANUARY 10—MARCH 14, 2018

24 Cherry Street, Johnson City, NY

**All workshops are free and provide a meal, childcare,
and transportation within our service area**

Please call Dan Lesch to register



(607) 723-8313 Ext. 838

fatherhood@familyenrichment.org

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services,

Administration for Children and Families, Grant #: 90FK0103

These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion.



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.