



NEWS & VIEWS

SUMMER 2020

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
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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Darrell Newvine

We are facing an unprecedented time, COVID-19 (coronavirus) has been a challenge unlike anything any of us have previously encountered.

Since March we have moved to providing services in a multitude of ways. We are all learning to be flexible and provide as much service to as many children and families as we can. We have been blessed to have the full financial support of all of our funding sources to assist us over this very difficult time.

We continue to provide services by e-mail, social media, tele-health, and have moved to, out of necessity, communicating via Zoom and Go To Meeting. We very quickly did what we had to do to match the needs of the people we serve and platforms needed to meet these needs.

The agency and the staff have stepped up to the challenge and found new, creative and interesting ways to keep in contact with as many people as we can. We have kept the Cherry Street site, as well as other sites, open to staff to continue essential services that need to happen. We are following all the local and state guidelines for social distancing.

Our maintenance staff have been hard at work over these past two months completing upgrades to our sites that could not have been done any other time. Fixing, cleaning, painting and rearranging to meet our needs.

Our HHAP housing project has begun construction on the Northside of Binghamton and is on schedule. We continue with Program Development activities and have been writing new grants to meet our needs and fulfilling grants we have in progress. All of our departments including Child Care Resource and Referral; Family Support Services; Head Start and Early Head Start; Housing and Community Services and Special Education Services continue to strive to meet the needs of our community.

I applaud the dedication of our staff. We have learned a lot from this virus and one of the things we have learned is how dedicated our staff is to the agency and the people we serve. Many staff have been creative in their approach to maintain contact over this very difficult time.

Everyone is asking when will we return. The short answer is we do not know. We are looking at a different way to start with a small summer program and hope to be fully open by the fall. That depends on state and federal guidelines, the status of the virus and our ability to open safely for staff and the people we serve. In the meantime we will continue to evolve and meet the needs of our community and thank you for your support during this time.

Stay safe and be well.

Status of Community Child Care and CCR&R

CCR&R staff have remained busy during the end of March, all of April and May working primarily from home.

Constant outreach and communication with all the child care programs was essential to understand the community availability of child care. Most child care programs have seen a decrease in enrollment and attendance during the pandemic as parents work from home or are unemployed. The needs of child care for essential parents were quickly met when community drop-in child care locations for school age children were opened.

In collaboration with New York State Office of Children and Family Services, CCR&R received a delivery of the NYS-made hand sanitizer to deliver to child care programs in the community. CCR&R was also able to receive donations of face masks from the Broome County United Way and the Norwich United Methodist Church to distribute to child care programs in need. CCR&R also quickly purchased supplies to meet the immediate need of programs in the community, including toilet paper, paper towels, bleach, gloves, and Lysol spray.

New York State developed the CARES Child Care Scholarship funding, which we were able to distribute to community child care programs in two ways. First, the child care of essential employees who met income requirements, were able to receive a scholarship to cover the cost of child care to relieve some of the financial burden at this time. Second, supplies were purchased for the open and operating child care programs. Items such as thermometers, touch-less soap dispensers, bleach, paper towels, gloves, diapers, baby wipes, and Clorox wipes have been purchased and are waiting for distribution.

Community partnerships are thriving during the pandemic. Chenango County celebrated The Week of the Young Child with community partners with a Facebook page promoting daily activities with children, instead of the usual Art Gallery throughout

the community. The page received 279 likes for the week and shared tons of activities with followers.

National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day was celebrated on Friday, May 8, 2020. Normally, CCR&R mails over 200 cards to child care programs in the community. Without the option of snail mail, CCR&R developed and emailed an e-card to over 170 programs in the community recognizing them for their important work. CCR&R was also able to work with the Broome County Executive's office for a proclamation for the day. It was announced at his 3pm press conference on the day.

Trainings and professional development for the child care community have not been able to be held in-person. CCR&R is planning the July through December Training Calendar and exploring more virtual options for child care programs to meet their OCFS-required training hours.

The Summer Program Directory is not being published this year due to the pandemic. Many summer camps and programs are still unsure if they will be able to happen. Our Child Care Referral service is still available for individualized assistance locating a summer child care program that meets family needs. Requests can be emailed to referrals@familyenrichment.org.

As always, stay safe and be healthy!

- The CCR&R Team

CCR&R Continued

"Thank you for all you do!"

Child care center board member

"Thank you for all the help and contact family enrichment has done! "

Family child care provider

"I can't say enough how this help is helping us stay open, with income cut in half this really helps " -Group family child care provider, Michelle

Thank you so much for your efforts and help during this time! It is greatly appreciated! Stay healthy! - Group family provider

"I just wanted to send out a huge thank you! You guys have been amazing since the beginning of this daycare journey of mine! Thanks so much for the supplies this morning, you have no idea how much that really helps!" - Family Child Care Provider - Toni

"thank you so much! I really appreciate everything you have done for us through this!"

Family child care provider

Special Education Services

FEN Therapists Provide Tele-therapy

In a typical week, Family Enrichment's staff of 12 therapists including, physical, occupational and speech therapy, provide services to over 100 different preschool students who are in need of therapy for developmental delays or diagnosed medical disorders. When school closures occurred on March 16, 2020, due to the State of Emergency caused by Covid-19, all therapy abruptly came to a halt. When it became apparent that this would be a prolonged closure, FEN's therapy staff not only reached out to families to provide guidance and "at home activities," but pursued learning a new skill – "tele-therapy."

Tele-therapy for therapists involves much more than Face-timing with a child on a smart phone. There are very specific NYS education requirements, Medical insurance and County requirements that must be met in terms of confidentiality, obtaining parental consent, and securing a HIPPA compliant internet videoconferencing platform. There was also a need to acquire additional equipment for FEN therapists to engage in online therapy. Furthermore, the therapists engaged in formal continuing education courses to learn how to technically navigate videoconferencing, and to learn strategies to engage children "on line" which included learning about online visual materials and activity websites, as well as creating their own materials. The therapists engaged in a combined total of over 75 hours of continuing education to learn both new skills necessary for tele-therapy and to improve their own clinical skills.

Starting April 24, 2020, we had the capability to electronically email parents a consent form to allow their children to participate in tele-therapy. At the time of this writing, 50 preschool students have been enrolled in tele-therapy. Therapists are happy to engage in what they are passionate about – helping preschool students develop and overcome their delays and disabilities! However, all agree that they will be very happy to have schools open again so that they can work with preschoolers in person!!



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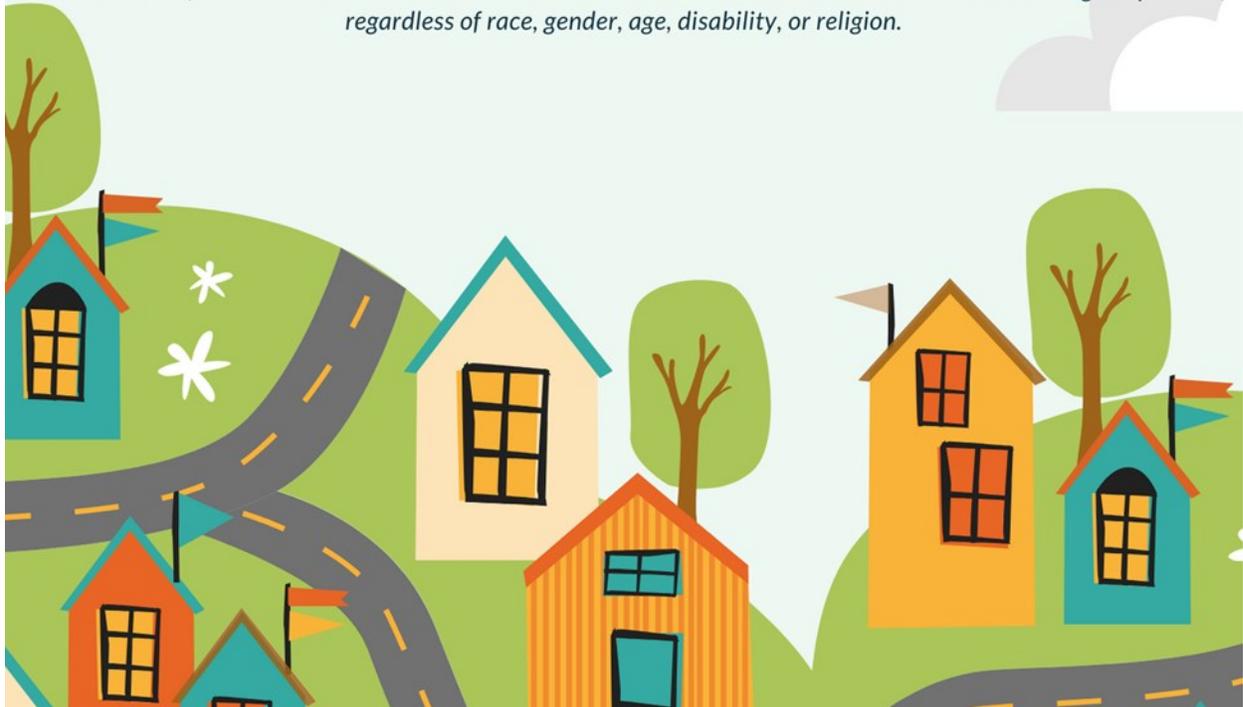
24 Cherry Street, Johnson City, NY

607-723-8313 ext 838

dlesch@familyenrichment.org

Contact us for more information or to register!

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.





You are raising her to be healthy and strong. WIC can help.

WIC helps you buy the food your toddler needs. WIC also offers nutrition advice, referrals to other services, and more.

WIC Help Specialists provide one-on-one services to connect you to the WIC program. We tell you if you may be eligible, help you with documents you need, and set up your first appointment at a WIC clinic. It is free and confidential.

Contact your WIC Help Specialist today— Callie Bullis (607) 723-8313 ext. 1651
cbullis@familyenrichment.org

SNAP

**If you have lost work,
SNAP can help you buy
the food you need.**



SNAP provides monthly benefits to spend at local grocery stores.

You can get and use SNAP while keeping a safe distance from other people:

Everything you need to do to apply for and receive benefits can be done by phone or online—**no need to visit a local social service office.**

Use SNAP to purchase food at local grocery stores. Shop for food online using SNAP benefits and have groceries delivered or picked up. Check with Amazon.com, Walmart and ShopRite

Help is available: If you need help applying for SNAP, call or email a Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinator. NOEP Coordinators can tell if you may be eligible for SNAP, answer your questions, and help you complete and submit your application. It is free and confidential.

Apply for SNAP online at www.MyBenefits.ny.gov or contact your local NOEP Coordinator:

Family Enrichment Network

Broome County NOEP

(607) 723-8313 Ext 827

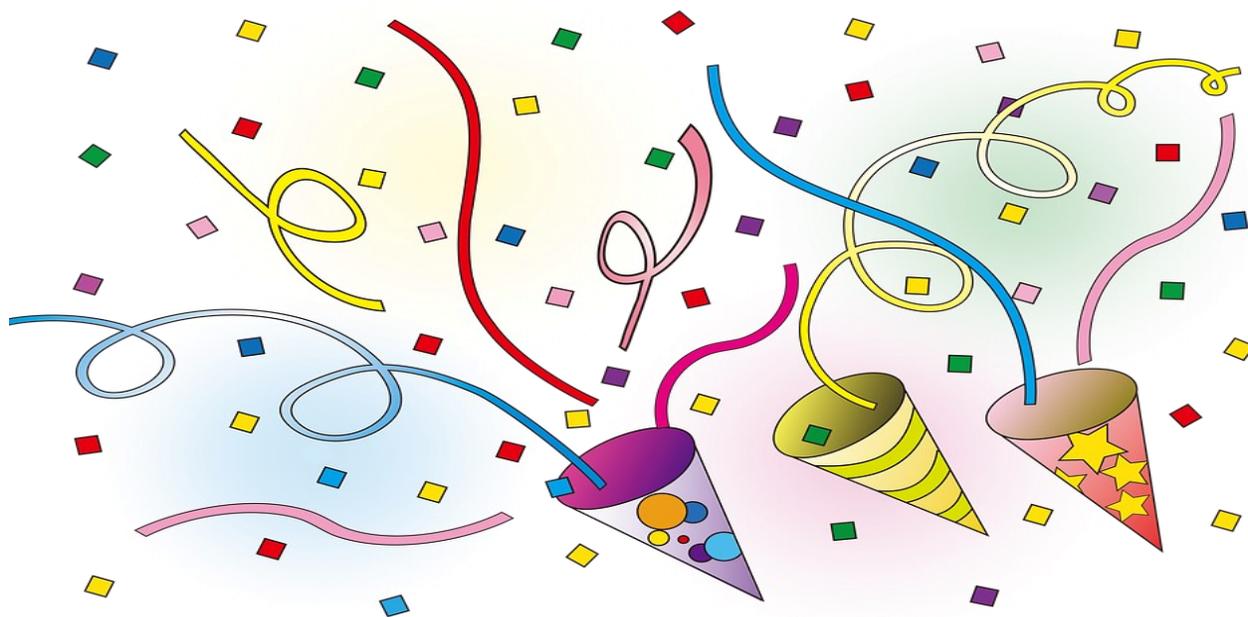
jeichler@familyenrichment.org

Years of Service



Laura Ryder, Secretary, 5 years

Karen Foley, Family/Community Partnership Coordinator, 10 years



FamilySM



Enrichment Network



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

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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.