

# ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

## Housing

Lack of safe and affordable housing remains a problem in Broome and surrounding counties. Many housing options are considered substandard, and tenants often complain about absentee landlords. In his first year as mayor for the City of Binghamton, Mayor Kraham has demolished 16 blighted homes. He plans to turn those lots into green spaces or community gardens. Prior to Mayor Kraham, Mayor Rich David demolished over 30 blighted homes during his time as mayor. The city of Binghamton is committed to revitalizing Binghamton and housing is a top priority.

There is also 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. The fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the area is \$750, a two-bedroom is \$950, and a three-bedroom \$1250. This rental amount makes it a significant challenge for families on a fixed income to find and maintain housing.

The increased cost of housing paired with the housing shortage puts tenants at risk of homelessness. Family Enrichment Network has joined in the effort of combatting homelessness in our area. We are currently in the application process for a second HHAP/ESSHI project. This project will mirror our current supportive housing program at Housing Connections.

Our current housing program Housing Connections, located at 29 Virgil St in Binghamton, offers 19 apartments and 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. Since opening its doors in March 2021, Housing Connections has housed 26 families. Most recently, the program offered classes to our tenants and opened the classes up to outside participants. We provided Anger Management, Healthy Relationship and Parenting classes. The classes were well attended and we have received several inquiries for our next round of classes beginning April 17th.

For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at [www.familyenrichment.org](http://www.familyenrichment.org) or call (607) 723-8313.



*The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.*