

ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

Kinship Care Peer Mentoring

A kinship care family is created when an adult is raising a child that is not their own. This means they are responsible for the care, clothing, feeding, education and medical needs of the child. Typically a child is only living apart from their parents because there have been issues such as addiction, mental or physical illness, incarceration, abandonment, abuse, neglect or death of a parent. This creates a stressful situation for the kinship child and the new kinship caregivers.

The Family Support Services Department of Family Enrichment Network has been running a Kinship Care Program for the past 17 years in Broome County and, when funding has allowed, in Tioga County as well. Happily for the past four years the program has been offered in both counties. This funding from the NYS Kinship Navigator has required peer mentoring services to be offered by our program along with participation in a NYS peer mentoring certification.

Our kinship care peer mentor has been working diligently to obtain her NYS professional accreditation as a Family Peer Mentor and currently is provisionally certified. New kinship caregivers enrolling in our program are often relieved to talk with our peer mentor as she really understands what they are going through because she has been a kinship caregiver for the past six years. She intimately understands the struggles they face and the mixed feelings they have about the kinship children's parents.

One of the valuable services offered by our peer mentor is a weekly virtual group, Kinship Talk Time offered on alternating Wednesday and Thursday nights from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is a safe venue for kinship caregivers to meet and discuss the challenges and share the joys of kinship care.

Any kinship caregiver who is interested in talking with our peer mentor or attending our Kinship Talk Time, can call (607) 723-8313 ext. 831 for Broome or (607) 723-8313 ext. 840 for Tioga.

For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at 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.