



# NEWS & VIEWS

JULY/AUGUST, 2018

*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*

Believe it or not, summer is half over and we have started planning for the start of school. We will have a very interesting and busy fall.

We continue to write grants and look for program development that meets our community assessment needs. We have been very successful in that area and will spend more time developing and assimilating those programs into what we do.

As of this writing we have purchased 29 Fayette Street in Binghamton which many of you may know was our main site for a number of years. We are close to completing the renovations to make the site OCFS licensed which should be done by the end of August. Our CCR&R Department as well as our Housing and Community Services Department is now housed at this site.

With our early childhood programming we recognize the importance of promoting the social-emotional needs of the children we serve. Across our programs, we are seeing an increasing number of children with challenging behaviors including in the classroom and look to meet their needs with additional supports and adding full day programming.

In the last issue I mentioned minimum wage increasing We continue to be supportive of increasing the minimum wage. The minimum wage in New York State will increase over several years to \$12.50 per hour in our area. That is great as long as the funding is available to accomplish that. Advocacy groups recognized the challenge this places on non-profits and strides have been made for increased state funding. Our agency is funded from multiple sources including federal, state, and county governments. We will continue advocacy with other funding sources to meet this need.

We look forward to the rest of summer, wrapping up some programming, and gearing up for new development. Thank you for your support.

## A Message From Our Head Start Director

### Orientation to Head Start

As summer turns to fall, Family Enrichment Network Head Start staff are busy preparing for children and families who are entering the 2018-2019 program, and one of our objectives is to ensure a successful transition to the program for each child participating in our programs in Broome and Tioga Counties.

Prior to their first day at Head Start, all families are offered an opportunity to participate in an orientation event. Each family is invited to spend time in their child's classroom with their child and learn more about what to expect from their child's Head Start experience. Head Start staff provide information on child development, literacy, health, nutrition, mental health, dental, transportation, family partnership, and parent involvement opportunities that families will participate in throughout the program year. This orientation event assists families as they transition into the program. For children and parents who have never experienced preschool, it gives them an opportunity to begin that journey together, while alleviating the anxiety that can be a part of their new experience. Additionally, families receive a program calendar and handbook at their enrollment visits, and their Family Advocates review the information contained in both during their first home visits.

Meaningful transitions are an important part of the Head Start experience, and throughout the program year, each transition that families experience occurs with preparation and planning to ensure that they are meaningful to both the child and family.

If you are interested in learning more about the Head Start program please call Network offices at 723-8313.

## Community Garden

Family Enrichment Network is pleased to be the home to the Village of Johnson City's first Community Garden in partnership with Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments, INC. (VINES). We constructed our community garden in just one day in the fall of 2017 with the help of approximately 50 volunteers. The community garden is located at 52 Sherman Street in Johnson City. Today, 17 of the 18 beds are being utilized in the first growing season. Our gardeners take great pride in their garden beds and neighborhood and helped make this beautiful haven. On September 21st we'll turn our attention to adding in flower bulbs, perennials, and other landscaping that will really make the garden beautiful. If you are interested in helping us on this day please contact April Ramsay at [aramsay@familyenrichment.org](mailto:aramsay@familyenrichment.org) or Dan Lesch at [dlesch@familyenrichment.org](mailto:dlesch@familyenrichment.org).



## CCR&R Receives Contract

CCR&R is pleased to announce it has been re-awarded the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) contract for 5 years through the Office of Children and Family Services after successfully submitting a proposal to continue services in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties.

Through the CCR&R contract, parents receive free assistance and referrals for regulated child care programs in the area. Child care programs receive assistance and training to meet their licensing requirements, as well as any needs to provide high quality child care. CCR&R helps educate the community on child care needs and issues, including the lack of child care available, the cost of child care for parents, and the struggle child care programs have financially.

For questions on CCR&R services, please call CCR&R Director, Jennifer Perney at 723-8313 ext. 872.

## Women In Human Services Hall of Fame

Family Enrichment Network is proud to announce that CCR&R Director, Jennifer Perney was nominated by Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo for the Women in Human Services Hall of Fame. Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo stated the reason for the nomination, “She is a staunch advocate for quality, affordable child care. I admire her perseverance and dedication in the face of numerous challenges facing the child care industry.”

The human services workforce is 81% women. On March 13th, we honor some of the women providing critical services across New York. We must invest in women like these to ensure nonprofits can recruit and retain quality staff, and so our communities do not lose leaders like these. Strong Nonprofits supports key investments in this year’s budget: \$23 million to fund the minimum wage for nonprofits that contract with the State, and \$65 million for salary adjustments for human services workers left out of last year’s direct care increase.

To see all the nominees, visit: <https://www.strongnonprofitsny.org/halloffame>





## Lots of Congratulations for CCR&R Referral Specialist Norma Bergmann

After 31 years as the Child Care Referral Specialist, Norma Bergmann is retiring on August 17, 2018. Norma has helped thousands of parents find child care throughout Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties through the years. She has been a valuable team member of CCR&R and will be greatly missed!

We also are proud that in May, Norma received the Cindy Chaplin Humanitarian Award through the Children and Youth Services Council. This award is given yearly to an individual in the community who has in some way exemplified a commitment to children and children's services. Norma has definitely done that during her career.



If you have worked with Norma through the years, please call to wish her well!

### New Providers:

**County Family Child Care:** Megan Decker

**Broome County Group Family Child Care:** Kiddy Kare Daycare



# "SYEP 2018" Summer Youth Employment Program

Please Welcome SYEP 2018! The 2<sup>nd</sup> FEN Summer Youth Employment Program is in full swing! The program runs from July 2 - August 24... for a total of eight weeks. We would like to introduce you to our team:

*Jesus Alyalle*  
*Shelby Guarnieri*  
*Rezheen Avdel*  
*Christopher Bunt II*  
*Joe Duckett*  
*Lexi Gross*

*Joari Wallmar*  
*Jawad Muhammad*  
*Joey Muniz*  
*Kaleb Pearce*  
*Vershai Rodriguez*  
*Madi Stewart*

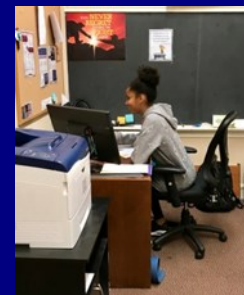
SYEP Staff work Monday through Friday 8:30 – 1:00. The youth are employed in the following areas: Maintenance, Clerical, Kitchen and the Classroom. Work activities are scheduled Monday-Thursday. Fridays are educational days!

Youth learn about budgeting their earnings and how to start a checking or savings account. Career exploration and job readiness activities are also provided. Youth will earn money and gain meaningful work experience; learn and develop the skills, attitudes and commitment necessary to succeed in today's world of work; gain exposure to various career opportunities; and interact with dynamic working professionals in a positive work environment.

In the photo below, the youth are participating in Financial Wellness & Planning presented by Visions FCU:



**Hard at Work...**



This year's addition to the program is a Mural/Logo project! The youth will work together to create a design that they believe reflects the SYEP program. Stay tuned – we're looking forward to seeing what these hard-working & creative young adults will prepare. **If you see them in the hallways or common areas, please say Hello!**



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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“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.