



NEWS & VIEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2021

From the Desk of the Executive Director

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.

24 Cherry St.
Johnson City,
New York
13790
Phone:
607.723.8313
Fax:
607.723.6173

Believe it or not we are gearing up for a very busy and exciting summer. We will again be operating the Summer Youth Employment Program. We will also be holding early childhood education programs and will be a host site for the Johnson City Promise Zone.

We continue to navigate the COVID-19 protocols and it appears more restrictions may be lifted. We will keep abreast of these protocols. One of our biggest challenges over the next few months is finding staff for the multitude of positions we have available, upgrading our technology, and improving agency communication. These will be areas we address over the summer months.

We continue to write grants and look for program development opportunities that align with our community assessment needs. We are in a position where we have had continued growth over the past couple of years. We must continue to grow but also continue to maintain our high level of quality the community and families expect.

As always, if there something we are doing well, please tell us. If there is something we could do different or better, please tell us. Our sole purpose is to meet your needs and community needs. Your feedback will help us do that.



*Darrell Newvine,
Family Enrichment Network
Executive Director*

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Summer Food Services Program (SFSP)

Family Enrichment Network is operating a Summer Food Services Program. The Food and Nutrition Services, USDA Summer Food Services Program assists families in obtaining **FREE** nutritious meals and snacks when school is out. Community children 18 years of age and under are welcome to participate in this morning snack and lunch program. The program runs from **July 6, 2021 through August 27, 2021**. Breakfast will be served from **8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.** and lunch will be served from **11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday** each week at 24 Cherry Street, Johnson City, NY 13790 as a grab and go program.

The grab and go model is set up to ensure that we are keeping children and families healthy given the COVID-19 Pandemic. We do not have a space large enough to ensure proper social distancing, but we are able to offer breakfast and lunch meals through the USDA Summer Food Services Program offered by NYSED. For more information about the program, contact Network Offices at (607) 723-8313.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Child Care Resource and Referral

Family Enrichment Network is excited to announce our partnership with the NY Early Childhood Professional Development Institute to bring the Early Childhood Career Development Center and Leadership Initiative to the Southern Tier region. These services will provide important career and leadership development supports to all early childhood professionals across the eight counties of our region. Christine Duffy-Webb, Early Childhood Regional Coordinator for the Southern Tier region, will lead the coordination and implementation of these projects.

The Career Development Center provides comprehensive career development services to all current and aspiring early childhood professionals. The Center's services include academic planning and advisement, scholarship support, career and vocational assessment and planning, resume review, teacher certification supports, and an Employment Network. Please visit our website to learn more about the services available through the Career Development Center: <https://www.earlychildhoodny.org/cdsc/southern/>

The Leadership Initiative provides early childhood leaders, as well as those who aspire to leadership roles in the future, with leadership development opportunities focused on leadership and management, entrepreneurship, career mobility, and high quality early childhood education. Members of the Leadership Initiative access opportunities to engage with their peers, supports for higher education and credentials, and resources such as peer learning, mentoring, career advisement, speaker series, book study groups, panel discussions, and networking meetings.

Please visit our website to learn more about the Leadership Initiative: <https://www.earlychildhoodny.org/leadershipinitiative/southern/>

For more information about either of these initiatives, please visit the websites listed above or contact Christine at Christine.Duffy-Webb@cuny.edu.





Kids and teens ages 18 and under can get free summer meals at nearby sites.

SNAP can help you buy the food you need to feed your family.

Call the **N**utrition **O**utreach and **E**ducation **P**rogram (**NOEP**) to find local summer meal sites. **NOEP** can also help you learn if you may be eligible for **SNAP**.

Family Enrichment Network

Broome County NOEP

607-723-8313 Ext. 827

Employee Spotlights



Zoe Miles works in the Special Education Services Department as a 1:1 aide in the mornings and as the "Evaluation Coordinator" in the afternoons. In the classroom, children love Zoe mainly because of her calm, caring nature and the fun activities she helps them with. As an Evaluation Coordinator, she has been a huge asset to the SES Department. While both roles are essential, Zoe has been instrumental in helping to streamline our entire evaluation process. We have cut down the timeframe from several months, from start to finish, to an average of one month. Zoe is the pleasant voice that sets up and guides parents through the evaluation assessments which, at times, can be complicated. Her positive attitude makes her very easy to work with. Zoe says she "loves being there to support the parents and make them feel more at ease." We are fortunate to have Zoe helping to navigate this often new and confusing process with parents. In her free time Zoe loves to bake. Her specialty is making cheesecakes!

Hello, my name is Adrieana Woodard and I am in my third year working at Family Enrichment Network as a Family Advocate. I grew up in Binghamton, NY and then lived in Ithaca for eight years where I finished my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education —(birth through second grade). I also minored in American Sign Language. I was a toddler teacher for a few years, then worked at a school for at-risk boys, and then as a kindergarten teacher/substitute, until I made the decision to be a stay at home mom. I then moved to the Vestal area to raise my family. My husband and I started dating when we were 15 years old and currently have two young ladies who are eight and nine-years old. I spend time taking my daughter to her gymnastics and my other to dance and karate. In my spare time I love crafting and making things on my Cricut. We love spending time together as a family by going to lakes, hiking, parks, and swimming. I love listening to all types of music and watching true crime shows/movies. I truly love working with my families and the kids here.



Employee Spotlights, Continued

My name is Tonya Lindow and I am the Center Director at our Fayette Street site. This is my fifth year with the agency and my first year as a Center Director. I previously was a Binghamton UPK teacher with the Agency for four years. I have a total of 12 years teaching experience. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education from SUNY Cortland. I have gained a well-rounded view of the organization by working both in the classroom and outside the classroom supporting teaching staff and families. I truly enjoyed working with families, children, and staff this program year as center director. I look forward to continue learning and growing within the agency. When I am not working I enjoy skiing, running, going on adventures, and being with my family.



Hi! My name is Terri Riley and I am the Waiver Coordinator for the Family Enrichment Network. I am currently in my third year here. My experience with individuals with developmental disabilities started as a driver for BC Lift. I would pick up and take home many individuals each day and came to know and really enjoy being with these great folks. This led to a 12 year position as a Site Based Pre-vocational Counselor for ACHIEVE where I had the privilege to guide, instruct, plan, develop, and learn from many individuals through those years. I was able to develop great relationships with not only the individuals but also all of the Care Managers who diligently advocated for services and have watch care for these folks. It is because of this experience and personal growth that enabled me to take the next step and become the Coordinator for Family Enrichment. My heartbeat is to teach and I hold a Master's Degree in Education which helped develop the love for teaching.



I grew up in the town of Maine, NY. I taught school in Clarksburg, WV, Ross Corners Christian Academy in Vestal, Central Baptist Christian School in Chenango and Substituted for the Susquehanna Valley Central School District. I am very active in my local church, Park Avenue Baptist Church in Binghamton and have been there for 30 years teaching Sunday school to all ages and much more. I LOVE to be outside, camp, hike, climb, fish, knit, crochet, do counted cross stitch, travel and many other things.

Department Spotlight

Housing and Community Services

Housing and Community Services is comprised of three distinct programs. We work with people with developmental disabilities through OPWDD (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities). We work directly with the city of Binghamton through our ESG program and we offer housing opportunities through our housing program.

Family Enrichment Network's ESG program, known as the *Caring Homes* program, serves individuals and families at-risk of becoming homeless due to rent arrears and/or utility shutoffs as a result of a hardship. Additionally, we are able to provide a security deposit to those facing eviction. Participants must reside in the city of Binghamton, NY to receive assistance.

COVID-19 impacted many of us throughout 2020-2021. The state has recognized the financial hardship this has caused and has allocated funds to specific regions throughout NYS to financially support families and landlords. The funds will support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities. Available funds may be used to support costs, including but not limited to: hotel/motel vouchers, rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, security deposits, rental arrears and utility arrears. These funds are available in the city of Binghamton and Chenango County. The program will run for two years.

Most recently in Chenango County, New York State awarded FEN with a one year grant known as ERAP. ERAP, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, will provide significant economic relief to help low and moderate-income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance, and utility arrears assistance. Households approved for ERAP may receive up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rents accrued on or after March 13, 2020, up to three months of additional rental assistance if the household is expected to spend 30% or more of their gross monthly income to pay for rent.

In March 2021, we opened the doors to our first homeless housing project, *Housing Connections*. *Housing Connections* provides 19 supportive housing units, comprised of four one-bedroom apartments, ten two-bedroom apartments, four three-bedroom apartments, and one four-bedroom apartment. The program 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. Supportive services will include: rental assistance, trauma informed assessments and case management, adult literacy, parent education, child care, job readiness training, digital literacy training, financial literacy, housing education, referrals to substance abuse and mental health counseling, benefit advocacy, life skills training, and transportation.

Department Spotlight, Continued

In addition to Housing Connections, we own three single family homes that we rent to individuals and families. We have two properties located on Roberts Street (11 Roberts St and 51 Roberts St.) as well as a single family home located at 241 Charles Street.

Under the Community Services umbrella we provide Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS). These services are funded through Medicaid and support individuals who receive services under the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Currently FEN offers Community Habilitation and Community Prevocational services. Community Habilitation Program is designed for adults 18 or older who reside with family or independently in the community. This program aims to build skills that will increase independence in their home as well as providing opportunities for community inclusion. The individual has a direct support professional (DSP) that implements person centered plans based on the individual's needs and abilities to assist and support the person in living as independently as possible.

Community Prevocational services is similar to community habilitation, however it focuses on employment skills. The job specialist implements a habilitation plan detailing the person's individualized goals pertaining to community employment. The service setting generally takes places at various voluntary work opportunities within the community. The goal of this service is for the individual to gain employment skills that will assist them in obtaining paid, community employment.





DEAR FEN FAMILIES

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR AND FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT IN WORKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN. THIS YEAR WAS A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO COME TOGETHER AS A FEN COMMUNITY TO MAKE IT WORK!

AS SOME OF OUR CHILDREN ARE MOVING ON TO KINDERGARTEN, WE WISH THEM ALL THE BEST SUCCESS AND WE WILL FOREVER KEEP THEM IN OUR HEARTS!

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR FEN FAMILY!

- HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START STAFF

Job Opportunities

As our agency prepares for the Fall, we will have a number of job opportunities available at our Broome, Chenango, and Tioga sites. If you are interested in working with children and families, adults with disabilities or serving the greater community, Family Enrichment Network has an employment opportunity for you. We offer competitive benefits and paid time off. We are recruiting for a number of openings from entry level up to senior level positions, and are willing to provide education and training.

Please go to www.familyenrichment.org to see our current list of openings or email your resume to mdifulvio@familyenrichment.org.

Years of Service



Five Years

Katie Hoyt

Jillian Dischinger

Dazriel Rivera

Fifteen Years

Marlene Creston

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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“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.