



News & Views

MARCH/APRIL, 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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*Darrell Newvine
Family Enrichment Network
Executive Director*

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Finally our winter is winding down and hopefully spring is just around the corner. It's time to move on to what we hope is a long and warm spring and summer. In the coming months we will be implementing our new strategic plan. We are continually tweaking our website and making it more user friendly and improving how we communicate with staff and the public.

We have just finished an update on our community assessment which defines what our community needs are. This assessment will drive our program development over the next year. We are proceeding with a housing project in the City of Binghamton for 19 apartments for the homeless. We will continue to expand our Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver and Nursing Home Transition and Diversion programs in the future.

We continue to make progress making all of our sites neat, clean and well maintained. It's important to show we provide high quality services in everything we do, which includes facility cleanliness and maintenance. We have a list of items we want to complete this year, pending funding availability. We have purchased our Fayette Street site and will be getting that ready to be licensed. We are continuing plans to move more classrooms and expand other programs at Fayette Street. We will keep everyone apprised of our progress.

There continues to be challenges hiring staff and the New York State minimum wage for upstate is going to \$12.50 per hour when fully implemented in 2020. We are diligent working with state and federal representatives to find ways to fund this.

We look forward to another exciting year. We could not do this without the support of the staff, the Governing Board and the entire community. Our staff this past year has worked tirelessly to assist us in moving this agency forward and meet the needs of children and families. We thank you for your past support of our Agency and look forward to future partnership opportunities.

Community Services

What's New in Community Services???

FEN Is Now Offering Community Based Prevocational Services!
for Individuals with
Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.

Important Points:

- **Community based prevocational services are Medicaid funded and developed to meet specific needs of individuals with Developmental and Intellectual disabilities.**
- **Individuals must be granted eligibility for OPWDD Waiver services by completing the "Front Door" eligibility process OR by the individual's MSC completing a waiver approval request.**
- **The services are provided Monday- Friday, between 8:30am-4:30pm.**

Community Based Prevocational services are designed to assist and support individuals in obtaining, building and utilizing employment skills in various integrated settings within the community. These settings are generally local businesses and agencies which allow the individuals we serve volunteers at their sites while working on job skills with the support of a one-to-one direct support professional (DSP).

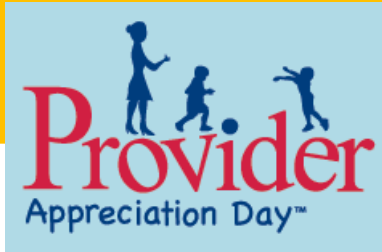
Some of the program goals that individuals may work on might include, but are not limited to;

Exploring different community employment settings to learn and discover different job requirements, work interests, and opportunities; transportation between service activities and job readiness training, i.e. hygiene and dress, interview skills, completing applications, job searches, following a schedule, coping skills and other related skills.

Please contact Jamie LaPlante at
607-723-8313 ext. 1662 or at
Jlaplante@familyenrichment.org

for more information !

Child Care Resource & Referral



Provider Appreciation Day is Friday, May 11, 2018!

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize and thank the child care work force, which includes family child care providers, child care center teachers, and other educators of young children everywhere.

Child care professionals are truly among the ranks of the unsung heroes in today's society. Child care providers are notoriously underpaid, yet have one of the most important jobs. Early childhood is one of the most critical periods of development in a person's life. With little recognition, early childhood providers make a difference in the lives of children every day. Provider Appreciation Day offers an opportunity to let your child care provider know how much you appreciate their tireless and dedicated commitment to your child!

Here are some ideas for parents from Child Care Aware of America:

- Get together with other parents to create a surprise
- Send flowers, cards or a handwritten note of appreciation
- Prepare and deliver a healthy meal or snack.
- Work with your child to create a special remembrance
- Buy something for your provider's play area
- Give your provider a paid day off, a raise, or a bonus
- Key in on your provider's hobby and buy an appropriate gift
- Check to see if your employer provides scholarships for toys, equipment or training that you can sponsor as a parent

It doesn't really matter what you do, the point is to recognize and say thank you! Do not let this day go by without a special thank you to this person who is so important to you and your child! And don't forget to let your child care provider know how much you appreciate all they do on social media. Use #ProviderAppreciationDay when you post.

You can also nominate your provider for "Provider of the Month" through Child Care Aware of America. Visit www.providerappreciationday.org/provider-of-the-month/ to nominate your provider any day of the year!

Employee Spotlight

Jessie Daglio has been employed with Family Enrichment since 2006. She has worked as a Classroom Teacher, Site Supervisor, Mentor, GED Teacher, Center Director, and is currently the Program Operations Coordinator for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. In her role as the Program Operations Coordinator, Jessie visits all 7 of our Head Start/Early Head Start centers. She works with the Center Directors, Maintenance Team, and staff in ensuring that all centers are safe for the children in our programs. Jessie assists in structuring the year with Professional Development to ensure staff are learning the most up-to-date approaches and procedures. She also works with our Coaches in developing our new Practice Based Coaching program that work with classroom staff to build on their strengths and methods in the classrooms. Jessie oversees many of the committees and events that are held during the Head Start/Early Head Start program year.

Jessie has lived in the Broome County area most of her life, with the exception of a few years living in Colorado. She loves dogs and boyfriend (who is also named Jesse), have 2 dogs, Remy & Rocky. Jessie loves football and is a die-hard NY Giants fan. She loves to attend games and is hoping that Eli and Beckham can bring that 'Dirty Dancing' back to the field this coming season.



Children's Courthouse Center

Fun Time Activities from the Courthouse Children's Center

Here is a fun activity for your child from the staff at Family Enrichment Network's Courthouse Children's Center. The Center provides free drop-in child care for adults with business in Family Court or Drug Court. **For more information on the Courthouse Children's Center services please call (607) 240-5818**

Make Your Own Musical Maracas

Supplies for 2 Maracas:

- 2 plastic Easter eggs that come apart
- 4 plastic spoons
- Filling: beans, popcorn, rice...use different things to get different sounds
- Masking tape or other fun tape (Duct tape comes in colors)
- Markers or crayons

Method:

- Hold the spoons facing each other and tape the handles together.
- Help the child put a little bit of filling in their egg, use just a tablespoon.
- Close the eggs and squeeze them in between the two spoons.
- Put a piece of tape around the egg and spoons, to keep the egg tightly closed.
- Let your child use markers or crayons to decorate the tape.

Now your child has a maraca to shake in time to music.



FEN's Community Garden

Family Enrichment Network has 18 community garden beds available for rent at our community garden site located at 52 Sherman Street in Johnson City. The cost to rent a bed for the entire season (May-October) is \$20. Here is your chance to have your very own raised garden bed right in your community and the opportunity to grow and harvest your own produce, herbs, and/or flowers. Applications are available by emailing April Ramsay at aramsay@familyenrichment.org or Dan Lesch at dlesch@familyenrichment.org.

Applications and fees will be due by April 15th. More information to come about orientation day and various gardening workshops.

SUNY Broome Teacher Education/Early Childhood Department presents:

38th Annual Children's Fair

CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Things That Go, Bus Extravaganza!

Saturday, April 14th from 10 am to 2 pm

SUNY Broome Community College Student Center

~ ~ **FREE Family Event** ~ ~

CHOW Donations Welcome!

Drive on in for Hands-on Activities/Creation Stations from:

- SUNY Broome Teacher Education/Early Childhood Students
- NY DOT ✦ Finch Hollow ✦ Child Safety Seat Check
- Sherriff's ID Cards ✦ Chenango Gymnastics ✦ Fire trucks
- Community Exhibits ✦ Low Cost Snacks available
- BECA Basket Raffle to support the BC Center



Touchable Trucks and activities based on the Book:

"A Bus for Us" by Suzanne Bloom



Literacy Legacy Project

Supported By: BAE Systems, NYAAYC-Binghamton Chapter, Suzanne Bloom and Broome Educator's of Children Association



FamilySM



Enrichment Network

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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Advertising Space Available

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

“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.