



NEWS & VIEWS

MAY/JUNE 2021

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.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

We are excited to share our Spring Newsletter. It's time to get outdoors and enjoy the semi-warm weather. It has been a memorable winter we will not soon forget: it was a long, snowy, cold season, and just hung on. I am not sure we wanted the award for the most snow in the state but we certainly got it. Despite that, it continues to be an exciting time at the agency. Sometimes good exciting and other times scary exciting.



*Darrell Newvine,
Family Enrichment Network
Executive Director*

The item that has been our major concern over the past year has obviously been COVID. We shut down for a couple of months at the start of the pandemic, but since then we have been operational. Staff and parents have been great and thankfully patient. We are at a crossroads with the virus. We need to continue with community safety measures and encourage everyone to get the vaccine. We will have a long and dangerous road if we do not get as many people vaccinated as soon as possible. Protect yourself, your family, your co-workers and the families and children we serve.

Our Housing Connections apartments on Virgil Street have finally opened and they are filling up. The one thing we realized quickly was the need for more one bedroom apartments. We continue to look at more cooperative housing opportunities with the city and county.

If there something we are doing well, tell us. If there is something we could do different or better tell us. Our sole purpose here is to meet your needs and community needs. Help us do that.

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Child Care Resource and Referral

Provider Appreciation Day is Friday, May 7, 2021!

Long before the pandemic, we knew child care providers were essential, but this last year has just highlighted the importance of loving, nurturing, and educational environments for our young children. Provider Appreciation Day® is a great opportunity to recognize the heroic efforts of the child care community and to say 'thank you.'

Celebrated the Monday before Mother's Day every year, 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.



Are you struggling to get enough to eat because of COVID-19?

SNAP benefits have increased during the pandemic. If you are eligible, you will have more to spend on food.

The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) can tell you if you may be eligible for SNAP. We can also help you complete and submit your application.

Call today. It is free and confidential.

Family Enrichment Network

Broome County NOEP

607-723-8313 Ext. 827

607-765-0425

jeichler@familyenrichment.org

Donation

Thank you to the Broome-Tioga Chapter of Project Linus for their donation of 20 handmade fleece, knitted, crocheted, and quilted blankets. These blankets went to children in our Head Start, Early Head Start, and Kinship programs.

From all of us here at Family Enrichment Network, thank you so much for thinking of us and the children we serve.



A Message from Nurse Michelle



You can help stop the pandemic
by getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

You will not only be protecting yourself but your family and friends.

The Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines are over 90% effective and side
effects are mostly mild.

Where can you get the vaccine?
Go to <https://www.nyuhs.org/southerntiervax>



Michelle M. Codner, MS, RN
Health Services Coordinator

Department Spotlight

Here at Family Enrichment Network, the programs we offer are always changing and evolving to meet the needs of our children, families, and community we serve. It can be hard to keep up with all the wonderful programs we offer (even for us!). In each issue of *News & Views* we will now be highlighting one of our departments and the services they provide. We hope to shed a spotlight on every program and the work they do.

Our inaugural Department Spotlight we're featuring the Family Support Services (FSS) Department. If you want to find out more about any of our programs visit us at our website: www.familyenrichment.org

The Family Support Services Department currently runs four different programs:

The Courthouse Children's Center – Broome County

This is a free drop-in child care center at Broome County Family Court for any family needing child care while taking care of Family Court business. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the center was closed by the judicial system. The center will reopen once Family Court deems it safe to do so. Family Court will notify families with court hearings when the Center re-opens.

Kinship Care Program – Broome & Tioga Counties

This program provides supportive services, advocacy, community connections, referrals and up-to-date information for kinship caregivers. A kinship caregiver is any adult who is raising someone else's child. This means the adult is responsible for the feeding, clothing, schooling and taking care of the child on a fulltime basis. The Kinship Care program staff helps kinship caregivers navigate various systems such as the local departments of social services, the courts and the schools as well as providing weekly support groups and the assistance of peer mentors who are kinship caregivers themselves. Services are provided in Broome and Tioga counties. The kinship staff is located at the Cherry Street site. For Broome County services contact Tony Carr at ext. 840 and for Tioga County services please contact Julie Morgan at ext. 840.

Department Spotlight, Continued

NOEP (Nutrition Outreach & Education Program) – Broome County

The NOEP Coordinator (NC) provides hands-on assistance for any household of one or more that would like to apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the new name for Food Stamps). The NC provides free confidential pre-screenings to help determine if a household is potentially eligible for SNAP. If eligible the NC will assist with the completion of the SNAP application including copying needed documents, submitting the packet to Broome County Department of Social Services and setting up the SNAP unit telephone interview. The NC provides any needed advocacy with application problems. The NC is mobile and travels around Broome County to meet people in locations that are most convenient. The NOEP Coordinator is located at the Cherry St. site and for more information on NOEP and SNAP eligibility please contact Jenn Eichler at ext. 827.

Walk With Me – Broome County

Walk With Me (WWM) staff offer boots-on-the-ground services for those individuals recently released from the Broome County jail. The goal of the program is to help provide the resources and assistance that promote a successful reintegration back into the community. WWM staff assist with basic needs such as food, clothing, shoes, hygiene items and transportation to help bridge the gap while individuals are waiting for SNAP and cash assistance to begin. The WWM staff also assist in finding emergency housing, re-establishing benefits and providing training on how to re enter the workforce. Peer mentoring services and advocacy help individuals address the challenges and barriers that often arise for those with a criminal history. Support groups are also available through a collaboration with JUST (Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier). The WWM staff are located at the FEN Fayette Street site. For more information on these services please contact Rozann Greco or Tina Gunther at ext. 1675.



Employee Spotlight

My name is Julie Morgan and I work with the Kinship Program as a Kinship Peer Mentor, which means I am also a Kinship Caregiver. I started out being a part of this program and now proud to say that I am able help others, just like the program helped me. I love being able to work in a field that allows me to help others, as well as give back to the community that I grew up in. I have been able to cultivate strong connections with my clients, the community and continue to further my knowledge to help others. In the year and a half that I have been with Family Enrichment, I have obtained my Family Peer Advocate (provisional) Credential for NY State; have helped grow our Kinship Talk Time Virtual Support Group and learn daily the resources that can help our families.



Years of Service



Five Years

Twenty Five Years

Asma Sheikh

Peggy Marcello

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.