



NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH/APRIL 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

Spring is just around the corner. For some reason, it felt like a very cold and long winter and we welcome the change in seasons. The Network continues to prepare for the future even in an era of uncertainty. No matter what happens at the government level, there will be people that need assistance and we will figure out a way to make that happen. This is typically a busy time of year, and this year is no different.

The big item continues to be the covid virus and how it impacts our staff, children, and families. There is light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine. In the meantime, we need to remain vigilant with wearing face masks and social distancing. We encourage all staff and parents to get vaccinated as soon as they become eligible. The sooner we vaccinate, the sooner we get back to normal.

Our big addition is our 19 unit housing project for the homeless, with another state grant, ESSHI, to provide supportive services for those living there. Construction is complete and we will start moving in people in the very near future. We will continue to look at additional housing opportunities as they arise.

We are also in the process of providing transitional housing to people upon release from being incarcerated. They need a safe place to go until they can make long term living arrangements; otherwise they struggle and end up re-incarcerated. If this works out, we will begin looking at providing longer term housing to meet these needs.

We have completed our move to a \$12.50 minimum wage for all staff. With existing

funding sources, this continues to be a challenge.

We could not do so much that 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 to meet the needs of children and families. We thank you for your past support of our Agency and look forward to future partnership opportunities. We look forward to another productive and prosperous year.



*Darrell Newvine,
Family Enrichment Network*

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Child Care Resource and Referral

Infant Toddler Caregiver Services Available

Do you work with infants or toddlers?

We have FREE programs for you!

The Infant-Toddler Specialist promotes high quality infant and toddler care. She is available to assist child care providers, teachers, parents, and or community members with understanding the components of high quality care for children. Through training and on-site consultation, the Infant-Toddler Specialist promotes warm, positive relationships between caregivers, children and families. If you need assistance with understanding a quality infant or toddler environment, room arrangement, activities to do with the children, family engagement, child development, or program policies and procedures, call Cortney! cnornhold@familyenrichment.org or (607) 723-8313 ext. 826.

The Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultant/Specialist works with child care providers to build the capacity of the adult working with infants and toddlers around positive social and emotional growth and strong relationships and on positive adult self-care practices. If you need assistance in classroom management, social-emotional curriculum or the “top of the pyramid” on the Pyramid Model, call Tessa! tstacy@familyenrichment.org or (607) 201-5678.

CCR&R is available to assist child care programs with any other age child as well. Just give us a call for training, onsite assistance, or just to answer your questions. (607) 723-8313 and ask for CCR&R.

New Program:

New Group Family Child Care in Broome - Kristy Hanyon

Housing and Community Services

The Housing Connections project is COMPLETE!

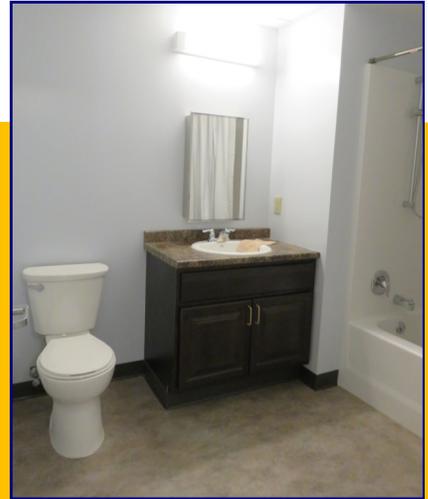


On February 24th Family Enrichment Network celebrated the completion of the “Housing Connections” project with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Mayor Rich David. The project is located at 29 Virgil St. in Binghamton NY. **“Housing Connections”** will provide 19 permanent supportive housing units ranging from one bedroom to four bedrooms. The apartments are fully furnished and come with onsite laundry. The building has a community room that will be available to tenants for workshops and educational classes. In addition, the community room will be available to community members to access for events, by reservation only.

To qualify for housing the individual/family must be homeless and income eligible. The focus will be young families and individuals ages 18-25; individuals with developmental disabilities; domestic violence survivors; veterans; chronically homeless; and formerly incarcerated individuals. The agency's goal is to help end homelessness in the community by providing safe, affordable and quality housing. Case management and life skills support will be provided to meet the individual needs of the tenants. Referrals for housing will go through 211/First Call for Help. We are excited to open our doors.

Housing and Community Services, continued

Take a look inside *Housing Connections!*





SNAP HELPS NEW YORKERS BUY FOOD.

We can help you apply for SNAP.

SNAP provides monthly benefits that you can use to buy food at grocery stores, farmers' markets, and some online retailers. SNAP helps millions of New Yorkers keep food on their tables.

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

Contact the Broome County NOEP today. It is free and confidential.

Family Enrichment Network

Broome County

607-723-8313 Ext. 827

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*Prepared by a project of Hunger Solutions New York; funded by NYSOTDA and USDA/FNS.
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Employee Spotlights

Tessa Stacy, LCSW joined the Family Enrichment Network team in June 2020 as the Infant and Toddler Mental Health Specialist/Consultant. She works with Southern Tier child care providers on supporting and bolstering their services through active partnership. Tessa contracts with sites to collect data in order to not only help the staff and program, but to also provide the Office of Children and Family Services with much needed and lacking data on infants and toddlers' mental and social health. She is also available for general support for classroom staff/admin that may deal with behavioral health. Previous to her work at Family Enrichment Network, Tessa has been a clinical therapist and community mental health professional in the Southern Tier for the last 13 years.



When not working at Family Enrichment Network, Tessa is the mother to 3-year-old Zoe as well as kitties, Bodie and Jake. She enjoys gardening, playing outside with her daughter and spending time with her large extended family. In rare "kid free down time," Tessa can usually be found hunting for treasure at local antique shops, doing some needlepoint, or enjoying a nice Netflix binge!



Dan Lesch has worked at FEN for the past 12 years. In that time, he has been a relationship educator, a family advocate, and a fatherhood program coordinator. Dan is currently working as the Supportive Housing Case Manager for the Housing Connections Program at 29 Virgil Street, Binghamton. He and his family have lived in the Binghamton area since 2006. Before moving to Binghamton, Dan taught English in Fukuoka, Japan, for several years, where he met his wife, Kumi. They have two children—who they plan to replace with pet dogs after they move out of the house. When not working or driving his kids to soccer practice, Dan enjoys gardening, reading, and thinking about running marathons or riding his bicycle across the country... someday!

Employee Spotlights, continued

Jessica Lorman has been working as a Head Start Family Advocate at Family Enrichment Network since November. Jessica previously worked as a Kindergarten Aide at Tioga Hills Elementary School. Jessica has a BA in Rhetoric and Communication, and Sociology. After working with children for years, Jessica is excited to use her skills and expertise to help families as a whole. Jessica has a two year old son Aiden, and loves playing and doing crafts with him in her personal time.



Years of Service



Five Years

Jennifer Lovaglia

Ten Years

Julie Shampang

Twenty Years

Natalie Smith

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.