



# NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH/APRIL 2023

## 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.*

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February is here and it has been a mild winter. It's hard to believe that 2023 is here and as you look back at 2022 it was a roller coaster year. We continue to have staffing issues and we are doing everything we can to hire staff, including sign-on bonuses for new staff and continuing to identify sources to provide incentives for existing staff. We continue to try and find a way to increase staff salaries and fringe benefits to attract and maintain quality staff. In spite of all that, the Agency completed another great year of growth, development, and financial stability.

We recently completed our three year strategic plan, which identifies goals and objectives to help us streamline our program and services. We continue to look at ways to develop additional non-programmatic revenue to assist us in meeting the many programmatic and agency needs we have. Grant writing and program development will continue to be a major focus for the next couple of years. Our new community assessment will refine our needs for this year.

Our housing program continues to grow. This month we will submit for a new ten bed Permanent Supportive Housing Program. We are also exploring transitional housing opportunities house for people leaving the corrections system so they have at least 30 days in a safe environment.

We continue to complete upgrades to all our sites. We recently completed some window replacement at our main Cherry Street location and will start upgrading our HVAC units for air conditioning as well. In Tioga County, we are looking at applying for federal funding for a new facility for our Owego site.

We could not do 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 meet the needs of children and families. We thank you for your past support of our Agency and look forward to future partnership opportunities.



*Darrell Newvine,  
Family Enrichment Network*

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## Head Start

### Parent and Family Engagement

“Parents are their child’s first teachers.” This is a statement that is echoed regularly by folks in the Head Start and Early Head Start community. The statement is profound not only because parents are their child’s first teachers, but they are also the most important/significant teachers. Head Start embraces this concept and seeks to ensure that each family receives robust family engagement opportunities. The pandemic altered our ability to conduct in person activities and for a significant time our home visits were remote. Things have gotten back to normal and families are playing an active role in center activities and in person home visits.

The Office of Head Start has worked tirelessly over the past fifty-seven years to ensure that recipient agencies are equipped to make parent and family engagement at the very heart of the work they do in their programs each day. And as with everything in Head Start it happens in a manner that is most conducive to the community.

Family Enrichment Network’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs place a clear emphasis on parent and family engagement through our work with families. Family Advocates work with their families each month throughout the program year to ensure that families understand their roles as educators, and they support families in achieving their personal and family goals. Through monthly home visits, families receive the support and assistance that they need to take on the challenge of primary educator of their children. Through Parent/Teacher Conferences and Education Home Visits, parents engage with their children’s teachers and conversations about working to ensure their children’s school readiness occur. Parents are encouraged to participate in activities with their children that will advance their development and abilities. Parents and family members are always welcomed to participate in activities at their children’s Head Start or Early Head Start Center but they are also charged with participating in meaningful activities at home, including: reading books, telling stories, eating a meal as a family, and taking part in community resources.

If you would like to learn more about parent and family engagement in Head Start, please contact Network Offices at (607) 723-8313.



**SUNY BROOME AND NYAEC  
INVITE YOU TO**

# **EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

## **40TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S FAIR**

**On Sunday, April 30th, 12-4 pm at  
the SUNY Broome Campus!**

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The Annual Children's Fair offers FREE family-friendly afternoon full of fun, hands-on activities. For 40 years, this event has been bringing together our community, showcasing family-support agencies and family centers.

**SUNY  BROOME**

BINGHAMTON CHAPTER

 **nyaec**  
New York Association for the  
Education of Young Children

**New Family Child Care:**

Kiddie's Club House, LLC—Olivia Folkes

## Department Spotlight

### Community Services

Community Services involves being aware of community needs and finding ways to meet those needs. We currently offer Community Habilitation, Community Based Prevoc, and the Summer Youth Program.

As an approved OPWDD Provider Agency, Family Enrichment Network provides Community Habilitation (Com Hab) and Community Based Prevocational (Community Prevoc) services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) are hired to provide these services. This is often a very rewarding position and there is always a need for more staff.

If someone with a disability has a desire to be more involved in their community, engage in hobbies and other areas of interest, learn new or develop healthy, safe and good independent living skills, then Com Hab is for them. They will develop a person centered plan with a member of our staff and care walking programs, exercise programs, money management to name a few.

If someone has the desire to seek out a job in the community, then Prevoc is for them. Prevoc will help us discover their capabilities through a variety of skill building experiences in local businesses. This is accomplished through volunteer experiences, classes, skill building activities, shadowing, hands-on experiences, and more. A person centered plan would be developed with a member of our staff and care manager.

In the summer, we have the Summer Youth Program where young people (ages 16-21) have the opportunity to learn important work skills in various positions such as working at the Humane Society, working at the Greater Good Grocery Store, or working in the kitchen, maintenance department, or front office here at FEN. This year, we are pursuing a possible opportunity to involve the Ross Park Zoo.

Overall, we have a great opportunity to be part of the Community, reaching out and helping where we can.

For more information, call (607) 723-8313 ext 1676

## Years of Service

### Five Years

Rob Smith



## Employee Spotlight

### Missi Quick

I have been with the agency since July 2022. Prior to working for FEN, Housing Connections, I spent 21 years as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC2). I have worked in mental health, detox, outpatient, inpatient, the prison system, halfway residential housing as well as homeless shelters. I received my AS in Applied Science, Chemical Dependency Counseling. I am currently holding an anger management and healthily relationship group at Housing Connections.

I have four grown children and two grandchildren. I have a dog named King George. I always say, he rescued me two years ago! I also have two cats that I somehow inherited from my children. I am the Vice President at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Binghamton. We participate in raising money for local charities. My favorite past time is playing pool; I currently play in two leagues and have recently joined a shuffle board league.



# Community Events



FAMILY ENRICHMENT  
NETWORK

# CRAFT FAIR

Crafts | Jewelries  
Housewares

Saturday,  
**March 11**  
10AM - 2PM

**FREE  
ENTRY**



24 Cherry St  
Johnson City, NY 13790

# Family<sup>SM</sup>



## 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!*

**VISIONS**  
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### The Crescent Academy

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Contact Amber Harris, Principal • 1 Endicott Ave • Johnson City, New York 13790  
(607)729-3431 • info@thecrescentacademy.org • www.thecrescentacademy.org

### Associates of Psychotherapy Welcomes MaryLou Popielarski, LMHC

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**Serving Broome & Tioga counties**

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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.