

# Family Enrichment Network



Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

## Annual 2021-Report 2022

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# Our Mission, Vision, and Values

## Mission Statement

Through partnerships with families and community agencies, Family Enrichment Network provides supportive services and programs for the optimal development of children, adults and families.

## Vision Statement

The vision of Family Enrichment Network is that all children, adults and families in our service area have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

## Value Statements

We value:

- Empowerment of parents to more effectively meet the needs of their children and responsibilities to the community.
- All children, adults and families regardless of race, religion, sex, age, ethnic origin, or disability.
  - Efficient use of resources.
  - Avoidance of duplication of services.
- Staff contribution to the success of our organization.
  - Stakeholder and community partnerships.

# A Message from our Board Chair

Once again, I am very proud and grateful to have served another year as Board Chair of Family Enrichment Network. A tremendous thank you to our employees, volunteers, Board of Directors and our community partners for your dedication to our mission. We will continue to provide superior supportive services and programs for the growth of children, adults and their families in our communities.

*Jackie Watson*

*Board Chair*

# A Message from our Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that we present this 2021-2022 Annual Report. It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. And what a year it was. COVID is still ongoing. Through it all we were open as much as we could following CDC guidance. We continued to provide as many of the very valuable service we could. It does appear we are near the end, and a return to the new normal.

This has been a year of growth for us. Opportunities presented themselves and we pursued them if they were consistent with our mission and vision. The communities we serve have been very helpful and supportive of our efforts. There will be many challenges ahead. Our long range planning and aggressive program development has allowed our Agency to weather the economic storm and years of state and federal budgetary challenges. We have plans to expand our re-entry series and our housing services. As we complete the strategic plan we will use that as our programmatic blueprint going forward.

We hope that the information in this report will be informative and enlightening. Our Agency's accomplishments continue to amaze me and we celebrate our diversity, but there is more to do. There never seems to be an end. Our Agency continues to grow but the core of what we do will not change: we will continue to offer a diverse array of services to children and families to help improve their lives. We will look to continue expanding services to meet the needs of our community. We could not have done all that we have done without lots of support. I would like to thank the Board, Staff and the entire Community for their dedication and hard work for our Agency and the families we support.

*Darrell R. Newvinen*

*Executive Director*

# Our Board Members

**JACKIE WATSON, BOARD CHAIR  
BRIAN TETA, VICE CHAIR  
WIL MIDYETTE, TREASURER  
FRED MEAGHER, SECRETARY  
JESSICA AURELLIO  
MELISSA LANTZ  
CHRIS LEE  
ANDREA MASTRONARDI  
ELIZABETH MYERS  
PAMELA SWARTS  
KENYETTA TORRENCE**

# Our Policy Council

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-  
KENYETTA TORRENCE- POLICY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON  
CASSANDRA MARTIN- POLICY COUNCIL VICE  
CHAIRPERSON  
ERIKA HINCKLEY- POLICY COUNCIL TREASURER  
KERRY O'BRIEN- RECORDING SECRETARY  
CHAKARIS GLOVER - CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

**PARENT MEMBERS-  
CHRISTINE AYALA  
SHAUNTEL BESS  
LATOYA BROWN  
LEONA CARSON  
CHELYSSA CLARKE  
KEDAR CLARKE  
DIANA FRANCO  
ELIZABETH JACKSON  
LESLIE NOLL  
QUINIECE PERRY  
JONTE THOMAS  
SORJOUNER TRIBBLE**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS-  
CHRISTOPHER LEE  
DENISE LEE  
KELSEY MATOUSHEK - BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY (AT LARGE MEMBER)  
ANGEL SHERIDEN  
MEG WARD**

# Our Senior Staff

**DARRELL R. NEWVINE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**JOSEPH BENNETT, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**

**NORA BUSH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

**MARY DIFULVIO, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

**DEB FAULKS, FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**RACHEL FAULKS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**KATE E. GRIPPEN, HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START  
DIRECTOR**

**TAMARA IVAN, SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES  
DIRECTOR**

**CHASTITY MCEWEN, HOUSING DIRECTOR**

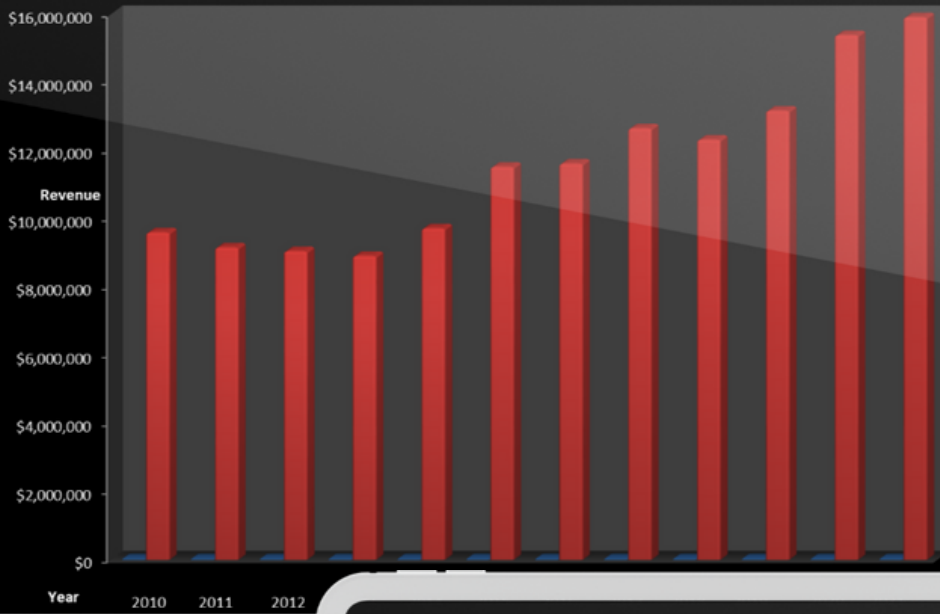
**JENNIFER PERNEY, CHILD CARE RESOURCE &  
REFERRAL DIRECTOR**

**APRIL RAMSAY, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR**

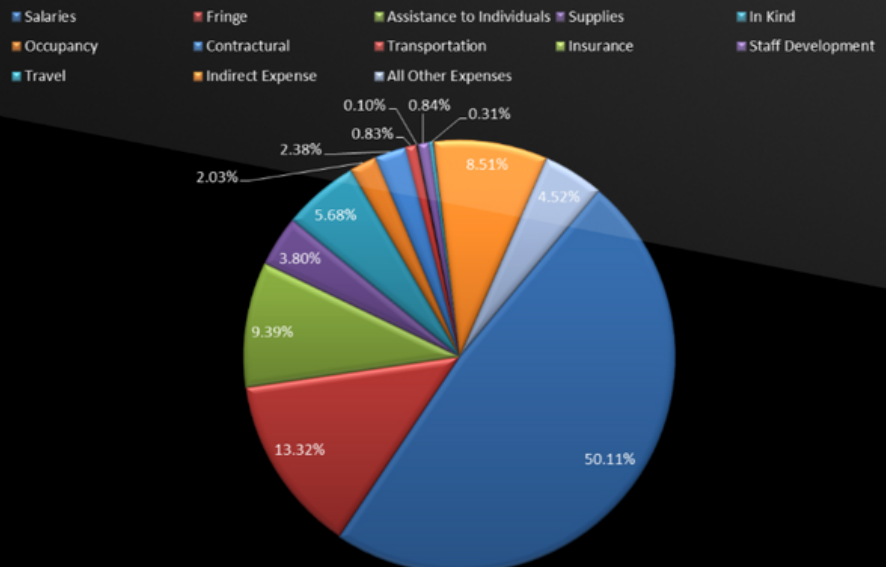
**TERRI RILEY, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

# Financial Overview

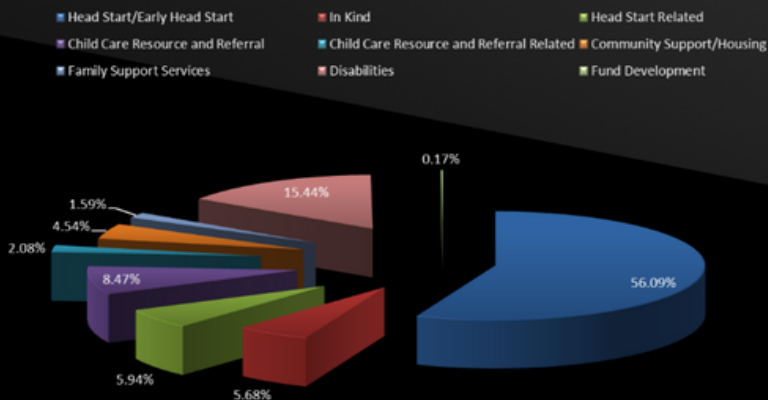
## Revenue History 2010-2021



## Agency Expense Breakout-2021/2022



## Agency Composite 2021-2022



# Our Six Programmatic Areas

**CHILD CARE  
RESOURCE AND  
REFERRAL**

**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

**FAMILY SUPPORT  
SERVICES**

**HOUSING**

**HEAD START  
AND EARLY HEAD  
START**

**SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
SERVICES**

# Child Care Resource & Referral

CCR&R recruits, trains, and supports registered/licensed and legally exempt child care providers with all aspects of starting and maintaining a small business.

## Legally Exempt Services

Our Legally Exempt Specialists enroll providers into the child care subsidy programs and conduct inspections to increase compliance in health and safety standards.

## Referral Services

Our Referral Specialist can explore child care options with parents and provide referrals for programs and providers in our database. CCR&R identifies unmet needs in child care, and works to find meaningful child care solutions. Services are available to all parents, community businesses, and locally-based employees of corporations who offer enhanced child care services as an employee benefit. All services are provided FREE of charge and are available in Broome, Chenango, and Tioga Counties.

## Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance

The Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance Center assists in promoting quality infant/toddler care in New York State. An Infant/Toddler Specialist trains child care professionals, parents, and regional CCR&R staff in infant/toddler best practices, and provides professional development opportunities for infant/toddler caregivers. An Infant/Toddler Mental Health Specialist supports infant and toddler social-emotional development by supporting the caregivers. This service is available free of charge to Broome, Chenango and Tioga County child care providers, parents and community agencies.

## Professional Development

Professional Development/Training program for child care providers consists of Saturday Seminars; evening workshops; on-site workshops for centers; after school programs and family child care providers; CPR/First Aid certification; Health & Safety training; CDA credential trainings; and virtual training. All trainings and workshops assist providers in meeting NYS OCFS training requirements. Providers may choose to access EIP funds for training. A training calendar is provided to the community of child care providers in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Health & Safety Training offers a workshop facilitated by our certified trainers for individuals in the process of becoming licensed or registered child care providers.

## Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a reimbursement program through The New York State Department of Health, which is geared toward child care providers. Child care providers may be reimbursed by NYS for serving nutritious meals and snacks to the children in their care.





# Family Support Services

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## Courthouse Children's Center

The Courthouse Children's Center (CCC) is a free drop-in child care center at the Broome County Family Courthouse. The Center takes children 6 weeks to 12 years of age and is a safe, fun, nurturing place for children to play while their caregiver is taking care of Family or Drug Court business. The CCC staff are early childhood education trained.

## Kinship Care Program

The Kinship Care Program helps adults who are raising someone else's child/ren. Services include: help applying for cash assistance, custody advocacy, support groups, free counseling, & community referrals. The program offers full services in Broome County and Tioga County.

## Nutrition Outreach & Education Program

NOEP offers free and confidential services to families that have trouble putting enough food on the table. The NOEP Coordinator helps people with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process and advocates for them as they apply for SNAP.

## Walk With Me

This program provides re-entry support for those recently released from the Broome County Jail. The program provides immediate crisis stabilization and offers peer mentoring, support groups, employment guidance and help meeting the basic essentials.



# Head Start

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## Head Start

(Broome County) provides comprehensive early childhood and family development services to ensure school readiness for three and four year old children and families living in Binghamton, Johnson City and the Susquehanna Valley School District children. The Full Day Center Based option provides children with a six hour program, five days a week from September-June; scheduled home visits, and opportunities for parents to volunteer in the program. The Traditional Center Based Option consists of four 3 1/2 hour days per week, Transportation is available and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

## Head Start

(Tioga County) provides 3 and 4 year old children with comprehensive child development and family development services to ensure school readiness. Programs are offered at three centers in Tioga County, and include Owego, Newark Valley, and Waverly locations. Programs are 1/2 day center based and full day. Transportation and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

## UPK Program

Funded by Binghamton City School District and Johnson City School district to offer 103 Binghamton three and four year old children and 67 Johnson City four year old children with Universal Pre Kindergarten programming in partnership with Head Start a full day programming. This program is offered Monday-Fridays in concert with the districts' calendar.

## Summer Meal Program

This program offers nutritious meals to children up to age 18 in the surrounding community. This program runs through the summer months from June to August. We offer breakfast from 8:00-8:30 AM and lunch from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM.



# Early Head Start

## Early Head Start

(Broome County) Early Head Start offers a center based, full day early childhood program for families with children six weeks to three years of age. Services include programming in health, nutrition, early education, special services, family and community partnership. Transportation (as needed), and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply. The Early Head Start program operates year round at three locations in Binghamton and Johnson City, and serves families who live in Binghamton, Johnson City, and the Susquehanna Valley School District.

## Early Head Start

(Tioga County) provides infants, toddlers, and their families with programming that enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development to ensure school readiness. FEN's full-day center-based program operates year round at the Owego location. Services include programming in health, nutrition, early education, special services, family and community partnership. Transportation (as needed) and meals are provided; income eligibility and age guidelines apply.

## Early Head Start Prenatal Program

The purpose of the Early Head Start Prenatal Program is to provide women and their families programming that enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development to ensure school readiness. The program assists pregnant women with access to comprehensive prenatal and post-partum care. The Socialization Specialist will help guide mothers through their pregnancy and prepare them for a successful, healthy birth of their infant. This process will include home visits which will:

- Provide information regarding fetal development, nutrition, labor, delivery, and breastfeeding.
- Ensure a smooth transition for babies by expanding parent support systems to include family, friends, and other community resources.



# Housing Services

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## Low-Income Housing

Family Enrichment Network owns three properties in Johnson City. Two properties are located on Roberts St. and a third property on St. Charles St. These properties offer low income housing and accept SECTION 8 vouchers.

## Housing Connections

This newly constructed 19 unit permanent supportive housing unit provides safe quality housing with wrap-around supports for persons experiencing homelessness. This program is funded by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and New York State Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative.

## Caring Homes Program

This program works to prevent homelessness through support and financial assistance for homeless families and those at risk of becoming homeless. Eligible client families may receive one time financial assistance for things such as security deposits, rent arrears and/or utility shut off notices. Clients work with our Housing Case Manager to create a plan for housing stability.



# Community Services

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## Community Habilitation

Community Habilitation is a waiver program funded by Medicaid and is available to children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The goal of Community Habilitation is to provide community integration and independent living skills. An individual in the program may receive anywhere from 4 to 30+ hours a week of the service - depending on their needs. Community habilitation is based on person centered planning, meaning that the individual decides what goals are important to work on and how the goals will be met.

## Pre-Vocational Services

Pre-Vocational Services is a waiver program funded by Medicaid and is available to adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The individual works with a job specialist who assists them in implementing their individualized goals pertaining to community employment. The service setting 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.



# Special Education Services

## Special Education Integrated Classrooms

SES Integrated Classrooms are available for preschoolers with identified disabilities at FEN's Cherry Street and Fayette Street location and at Binghamton's Horace Mann Elementary school. The Chenango County site has integrated classrooms that provide services at our Norwich site. These programs offer a quality early educational experience coupled with individualized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy as identified by each child's individual educational plan.

## Related Services

Related services includes speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are provided to identified children at all Family Enrichment Network sites, daycare settings, and at times, the home.

## Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) services

SEIT services are offered to identified children who require the services of a special education teacher in their home, daycare setting, or FEN classroom. These services are currently available in Broome and Chenango Counties.

## Evaluation Services

Psychological, Educational, Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy evaluations are provided by a multidisciplinary team to preschoolers at risk of developmental delays and are provided at the Johnson City and Norwich sites.

## Therapy Services

If your child is eligible under New York State guidelines, he/she may receive speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and special education services. Eligibility is determined by the CPSE meeting at your child's school district, based on evaluation information.



# Our Impact

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**200**

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

**54**

PART TIME EMPLOYEES

**SERVED OVER 2,500  
INDIVIDUALS**

# Our Impact

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**408**

CHILD CARE REFERRALS PROVIDED FOR PARENTS THROUGHOUT BROOME, CHENANGO AND TIOGA COUNTIES AND AN ADDITIONAL 186 ONLINE REFERRALS PROVIDED.

**1,877**

CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND 89 ONSITE VISITS. AN INCREASE WAS SEEN DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**307,993**

MEALS CLAIMED THROUGH THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM WITH FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS FOR TOTAL OF 69 PROVIDERS.

**170**

INFANT TODDLER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED AND 66 INFANT TODDLER ONSITE VISITS CONDUCTED.

**128**

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RECEIVED CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING



# Our Impact

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**281**

**PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN  
SERVED THROUGH HEAD START  
IN BROOME COUNTY**

**112**

**INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND  
PREGNANT WOMEN SERVED  
THROUGH EARLY HEAD START IN  
BROOME COUNTY**

**32**

**INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND  
PREGNANT WOMEN SERVED  
THROUGH EARLY HEAD START IN  
TIOGA COUNTY**

**46**

**PRESCHOOL CHILDREN SERVED  
THROUGH HEAD START IN TIOGA  
COUNTY**

# Our Impact

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**80**

**PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN  
SERVED THROUGH  
INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL  
PROGRAMMING IN BROOME  
AND TIOGA COUNTIES**

**32**

**PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN  
SERVED THROUGH  
INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL  
PROGRAMMING IN  
CHENANGO, MADISON,  
DELEWARE AND OTSEGO  
COUNTIES.**

**2,386**

**OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL  
AND SPEECH THERAPY  
SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED IN  
BROOME COUNTY**

**598**

**PRESCHOOL THERAPY  
EVALUATIONS PROVIDED; 420  
IN BROOME COUNTY AND 178  
IN CHENANGO COUNTY**

**262**

**OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL  
AND SPEECH THERAPY  
SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED IN  
CHENANGO COUNTY**

# Our Impact

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**100**

**NEWLY ENROLLED KINSHIP FAMILIES WERE SERVED (90 IN BROOME AND 10 IN TIOGA COUNTY) AND 151 KINSHIP CAREGIVERS RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT**

**57**

**RE-ENTRY INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED ONE-ON-ONE ADVOCACY AND PEER MENTORING, 56 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**255**

**HOUSEHOLDS WERE SCREENED FOR SNAP BENEFITS AND 138 HOUSEHOLDS WERE APPROVED FOR SNAP BENEFITS**

**31**

**PARTICIPANTS SERVED THROUGH OPWDD WAIVER SERVICES. 21 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED COMMUNITY HABILITATION AND 10 RECEIVED PRE-VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

**10**

**YOUTH SERVED THROUGH THE SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

# Our Impact

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**100**

HOUSEHOLDS WERE ASSISTED WITH HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES. 33 RECEIVED RENT OR BACK RENT ASSISTANCE. 67 INDIVIDUALS WERE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19

**63**

INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH THE EMRGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN CHENANGO COUNTY

**19**

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS RENTED TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

**3**

LOW-INCCOME HOMES ARE FULLY RENTED.



# Success Stories

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## Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

- The CCR&R has been distributing CARES scholarship funding to help parents who are essential workers and make under 300% of the federal poverty limit pay for child care. These parents are not eligible for child care subsidy assistance through DSS as they are over-income, so usually have to pay for child care completely on their own. The CARES scholarship funding has been a great benefit to these parents. When it was announced the funding was being extended another six weeks, a parent started crying as she wasn't sure how she was going to pay for care that month. Her washer and dryer quit working, so she needed to purchase new ones, but couldn't afford those and child care payments. This program has helped so many parents cover their basic monthly expenses.
- A CCR&R trainer conducted a training on business practices for family child care providers. A family provider who had only been in business a few years attended and learned a great deal. The provider did not have policies and procedures developed that she was comfortable with. She told the trainer that she never really considered herself a business woman before the training, but now has a goal to move more in that direction after the training.

## Family Support Services

### Kinship Care Program

- A kinship child was lashing out at childcare and getting into fights and the kinship caregiver discovered that the childcare facility was not keeping up with the kinship child's school work and not giving enough attention to the children. Through her involvement with the kinship care program, the caregiver had learned about the needs of traumatized children and that lack of attention can be detrimental. The caregiver chose to have a meeting with the childcare staff to express her concerns. Based on the lackluster responses from the childcare staff, the caregiver decided to move her kinship child to another more attentive, child care setting. This resulted in the kinship child having a much happier and settled time at childcare.
- A kinship family was referred to the Kinship Advocate (KA) by FEN's Head Start Program as the caregiver was lacking in many resources. She had no clothing for her kinship children; lacked enough food for her family and overall had been struggling financially month to month. The KA was able to pick up food for the caregiver at Catholic Charities and also inform her that 211 had other food pantries she could reach out to. The KA gave her clothing vouchers to St. Patrick's clothing closet and referred her to the Johnson City First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Main St. and Floral Ave for the many resources they have for families. The kinship caregiver was very grateful and appreciative of the resources the KA was able to provide and thankful that she was now in contact with the kinship care program. She stated that it took a weight off her shoulders knowing she now had someone she could reach out to for guidance.

## NOEP

-The NOEP Coordinator (NC) received a message from a young man who was referred by a relative. He explained that he had full custody of his brother and sister, and they all lived with their grandmother. He wanted to know if he was eligible for SNAP or if he and his siblings had to be added to their grandmother's case. The NC completed a prescreen for potential eligibility and as he was over 22 years old he was able to open a SNAP case for himself and his siblings. The NC completed the SNAP application over the phone and he emailed the needed documents to the NC so she include them in his application. The NC also referred the young man to a number of community resources to help him with raising his siblings; this included the Kinship Care program at FEN, local food pantries and Career Bound. The NC met with the young man to get his signature then submitted the application to DSS and his SNAP case was approved and opened.

-The NOEP Coordinator (NC) received a call from a woman who was referred to NOEP by the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. The woman stated that she and her mother had lost SNAP due to her being in the hospital, and not recertifying and she needed help getting the SNAP back for the household. She takes care of her mother and is her interpreter as the mother doesn't speak English. The woman has her own disabilities including partial blindness. The NC scheduled a home visit to complete two SNAP applications (one for each woman) and collect the necessary documents. The NC also shared lots of community resources including the Office for Aging, American Civic Association, local food resources and the contact information for NYS Health Navigator for medical insurance. Both women were approved for SNAP and the women stated that without the help of the NC it would have been very difficult for them to get their SNAP cases reopened. She said next time she had to recertify she was definitely going to contact the NC.

### Walk With Me (WWM)

-Mr. O. was released from Broome County Jail 2/5/21. The WWM program provided him with stabilization services including advocacy with the Broome County Department of Social Services to apply for SNAP and Temporary Assistance and with a rooming house in Binghamton. The WWM program also provided him with a bus pass, emergency food cards, underwear, clothing, and kitchen supplies including pot/pans, utensils, dishes and cups, a twin mattress, box spring and a small couch for his room. The WWM program scheduled and paid for the five hour pre-licensing course at Baxter's Driving School in Johnson City, assisted with the Online FASFA application for college funding, assisted him with his enrollment at SUNY Broome and facilitated calls to obtain high school transcripts from his high school. Mr O. stated that he never would have achieved all these things without the support of the WWM staff.

-Mr. S. was released from Broome County Jail on 5/5/21 after being incarcerated for 18 months and having his charges dropped! He was placed at the Volunteers of America by NYS Parole for 90 days. The WWM program provided stabilization services that included applying for Temporary Assistance, SNAP, and health insurance as well as an array of financial assistance. This included a prepaid telephone and talk/text card, bus pass, food gift cards, personal care items, underwear, shoes and clothing. The WWM staff also assisted him with applying for his stimulus checks. Mr. S. was rehired part-time at \$15.30 an hour by his previous employer a local fast food chain. The program purchased non-skid shoes and two white polo shirts required for his work. Eventually Mr. S. found a friend to share a house and the program provided his \$475 security deposit, a mattress, microwave and a dormitory style refrigerator so he could keep his food separate. In expression of his gratitude Mr. S. has volunteered a few times to help the WWM staff pick up furniture donations and bring them to the program's storage unit. Mr. S. continued to work diligently and his hours were increased to 35 per week. Mr. S. continues to express gratitude for the stabilization assistance provided by the program.

# Head Start & Early Head Start

## Broome Early Head Start

- During a home visit a pregnant mom was sharing how she got so very sick that she had to be hospitalized for two weeks and had to be out of work for a total of six weeks. The Mom was worried about finances which was causing her anxiety and stress level to increase especially with the holidays coming soon. The Socialization Specialist informed mom about our FEN Adopt-A-Family program. Mom said that she could really use the assistance so they set up another appointment to fill out the nomination form. Socialization Specialist helped mom come up with practical items that the kids needed, as well as some items that she really thought the kids would like. Mom said that she was grateful for the help because it will help relieve some of her stress.
- A Family with children in both Head Start and Early Head Start had difficulties accessing a physician because their children's pediatrician moved locations to Vestal. The family does not have transportation to get to the doctor's new location. Their advocate continued checking in with the family because their Head Start child needed an up-to-date physical. When the advocate met with the family, she provided the parents with names, addresses, and phone numbers of doctors' offices that were easier for the family to access. The Family Advocate referred them to one specific office that was located in the same building as their previous doctor; due to its location and ease of access for the family. The parents took their child to the doctor's office that the advocate referred them to, and was able to make sure their child got the up-to-date medical care that they needed. Family was happy to have a new health care provider and very grateful for advocate's assistance.

## Broome Head Start

- A four year old boy at our Cherry Street Center began school not eating a thing and at times would become sensitive at mealtimes because he wanted "his dad's" food from home. Over the last few months some of his preferred foods have been offered to him daily, which he would eat occasionally (especially bananas); however, with the continued support and encouragement from his teachers he has been trying new foods little by little at school. When speaking to Mom this month at our parent teacher conference she said he has become more confident at home with trying new foods as well and is now eating apples, chicken nuggets, and Macaroni and cheese. She expressed her thanks and appreciated all the hard work we have been doing with him and getting him to try new foods. We continually encourage him to try new foods in fun, exciting ways daily!
- A Head Start parent was having difficulty finding safe transportation to and from program. The child's grandparent was transporting him and it became an unsafe situation for both the child and the grandparent. During a phone conversation the parent expressed that she had considered pulling the child from program. Family Advocate offered to speak with our Transportation department to inquire about whether or not there is room on a bus for this child. Fortunately, there was room available on a bus for the child both to and from program. The Family Advocate reached out to mom to tell her the good news and she was very happy. As a result, this helped improve everyone's safety and allowed for the child to remain in program.



# Head Start & Early Head Start

## Tioga Early Head Start

- An Early Head Start classroom at our Owego Center loves to build. The children build towers, roads, fences, and other kinds of structures using large dominos waffle blocks, mega blocks, and magnet tiles every day. New items that they used for building in February include doll beds and doll chairs; and they incorporated counting colors and problem solving during these activities. They are also practicing turn taking and math skills such as some, none, and the same amounts. The children have been practicing their “magic words,” such as please, thank you, and expressing themselves by asking for materials such as play dough, drawing materials, and other toys. The children love their dramatic play area. They pretend cook, serve, and eat every day in their kitchen. They pretend drive their “cars” and pretend to be different animals regularly.

- An EHS child was in need of evaluations after teaching staff completed the developmental screenings. The Developmental Specialist was asked to do an observation of the child while he participated in meal times. The child was exhibiting unsafe eating behaviors. At 12 months of age the child was unable to put a small item in his mouth and chew. He was eating his food items as quickly as he could and as much as he could while shaking with excitement. The Developmental Specialist and Family Advocate assisted the family with completing and processing the appropriate paperwork for an evaluation. Subsequent evaluations confirmed that there are significant delays and the child will receive therapy after the EIP meeting to develop the IFSP is held.

## Tioga Head Start

- In Owego, our Head Start/Early Head Start Developmental Specialist, Katie Clark, arranged for a Kindergarten Screening Day with the Owego Elementary Schools. She and her team took six kindergarten bound children for their Kindergarten Screening at Owego Elementary School (OES). The children and staff were transported to the event on our Head Start bus. The children were excited and a bit overwhelmed; but, afterwards one of the children said, “Clark, I wasn’t too nervous and I did a good job!” The children were welcomed back by staff and you could see how proud they were of themselves. OES staff thanked us, and it could not have gone better!

- In Newark Valley, there is a child that talked very little and very quietly to the point where you could barely understand her when she started the program in October. She kept to herself for the most part and would interact very little with other children. After five months of program, not only is she loud and stands up for herself; but, she plays and interacts often with children and adults. She enjoys coming to school and learning new things.

# Housing Services

## ESG

-Our Caring Homes program received a call from a woman who was looking for help. Ms. M was a single mother of two children and had lost her job due to COVID. Ms. M was behind on her rent and seeking help with her rent to prevent an eviction. In addition, she suffered from cognitive delays and mental health issues that caused her to feel overwhelmed with the steps needed to avoid eviction and provide for her children. Our Caring Homes program was able to assist her with three months of rental arrears. Additionally, the Case Manager assisted her in applying for DSS and public assistance. These efforts eased Ms. M's anxiety and helped her to understand the DSS process. Ms. M was able to avoid eviction. Ms. M is currently employed and able to maintain her housing while being able to provide for her family.

## Housing Connections

- A tenant moved into Housing Connections in April 2021. Prior to moving in the tenant was literally homeless living in their car with no income, job or health insurance. While working closely with the case manager and life skills instructor the tenant was able to complete all required steps and tasks towards their goal of self-sufficiency. The tenant gained part time employment, opened a checking account and acquired health insurance through Fidelis. This was all possible due to setting goals at their first case management/life skills meeting. The tenant recently enrolled their child in the early Head Start Program through Family Enrichment Network. The child will begin classes in the fall. This will allow the tenant to fulfill their goal of acquiring reliable childcare and obtaining full time employment.

## ERAP

-A landlord reached out to the program as their tenant had not paid rent for eight months, in the amount of \$8600.00. The tenant lost their job due to COVID and was unable to pay rent. Tension ensued between the landlord and tenant and they were no longer amicable. Due to the moratorium on evictions the landlord was unable to evict the tenant. The ERAP program allowed a landlord to recoup unpaid rent if the tenant was unable to pay their rent due to being directly impacted by COVID. The program required the landlord and tenant to work together. Unfortunately they were not on good terms. The case manager worked closely with both parties to ensure the landlord received their unpaid rent and the tenant was able to maintain their housing while unemployed. In that time, the tenant found a job and was able to resume paying their rent and remain in their apartment. Both parties were pleased with the outcome.

# Community Services

## Community Habilitation

-If you remember from last year, we shared with you how Robert had taken on a challenge to meet his community habilitation provider every morning at 7:00am to go the YMCA in Johnson City. Well, we thought it was very important to let you know how he is making out. Robert has continued to go to the YMCA Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He is now working on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Robert has continued to use the treadmill. He uses the recumbent bike on occasion and has added the rowing machine to his morning routine. He recently added weights to his workouts and is doing really well in his strength training. Robert has lost 50lbs since he started on this journey and he no longer uses an inhaler or his CPAP machine. Robert's stamina has improved immensely and he has regained his health. Congratulations on a job well done Robert!

# Special Education Services

- In an effort to accommodate more students in the Eastern portion of Broome County, FEN opened an integrated classroom in the Harpursville School District this school year. The FEN special needs students are integrated with Harpursville UPK students. The classroom is in the W. A. Olmstead Elementary School and consists of 10 full day UPK and 8 SES half day (4 in the AM, 4 in the PM) students. Students that have therapy are able to be given their full range of therapies (speech, OT, and PT) right at the school. The classroom follows all OCFS and NYS Education regulations with an emphasis on social-emotional skills, literacy and math. Students have Art, Music, and PE classes, playground time, and a meal (breakfast or lunch) and snack. They are also invited to participate in many of the Harpursville School activities. The classroom supports the Pre K students academically and socially and it is a partnership we hope to continue for many years to come.

- Additionally, FEN Special Education Services with the help of April Ramsay, FEN Program Development Director, was awarded a grant from The Early Childhood Education Capacity Building Fund housed at the Community Foundation for South Central NY. This enabled us to expand our therapeutic offerings and we are very appreciative. We were able to purchase the following therapeutic items to use with our students: 1) Full Support Swing: Used on the playground to allow children with decreased muscle tone and strength due to various causes to be able to participate in swinging; 2) Pango Activity Chair: Allows children with decreased muscle tone and strength to participate with other children at the table by providing adequate support and positioning. Used to engage in table tasks and feeding; 3) Variable Axis Swing: Provides supported positioning and reclines to fit the needs of various needs to allow children to participate in therapeutic activities via swinging; 4) Jelly Bean Twist: Provides children the ability to participate in self-generated, active engagement. Helps children to learn cause and effect type play. Allows children with decreased fine motor skills the ability to engage in play. Example: activating bubble machine; 5) Tumbleform Scooter: Provides support via positioning wedges to engage in prone activities to increase strength, coordination, and tolerance of the position.

Working together with the classrooms, therapists, parents and the community we hope to offer the best support possible to our students to help prepare them for their start in Kindergarten and the beginning of their academic careers.

- A major success this year was to create a sense of academic normalcy for parents and students. For the most part, we were able to remain open and accomplish classroom and individual IEP goals. We saw academic growth in students whether it was in learning phonics, letters, numbers, or in just having options for mobility and modes of communication. Sometimes we see accomplishments in students in simple areas such as recognizing structure or routine. Other times it is in learning to recognize or write his/her own name or that of a classmate. We were also able to support students with a variety of evaluations and therapies in Speech & Language, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. Although there is currently a backlog across the counties, including at FEN, we have been able to provide these services to help our Pre School population.

-This year we were very fortunate to partner with Binghamton University to create a program to meet our needs in the area of Speech/ Language. We were able to use certified SLP's in the Doctorate program from Binghamton University to work with our students and provide therapy and evaluations. They, in turn, had access to students to provide valuable work hours in their program. They also provided up to date professional development for our SES staff. Overall, it was a win/win situation and we will continue the partnership next year as well.

# Program Development

Program Development consists of research, partnerships, and development of new programs to address

identified gaps in services in our service area. Programs are developed based on identified community needs and are in line with Family Enrichment Network's mission and vision to help children, families, and adults have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

Grant Research and Writing consists of research to identify a variety of funding sources available to enhance and sustain, to the extent possible, existing projects and fund new programs that have been created through the program development process. Grants are also submitted to support identified agency needs. Once funding sources are identified, proposals are written to secure funding.

Currently, Family Enrichment Network receives funding from local, state, and national foundations and government agencies.

## Resource Development

Family Enrichment Network has implemented a Resource Development and Sustainability

Plan to ensure the agency has sufficient program and non-program revenue to meet agency needs. All of the components of this plan collectively allow for progressive resource development. The plan identifies a number of diverse fund development activities including: grant writing, fundraising, direct mail, and fee for service activities.

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

*- Helen Keller*

# Annual Special Events



In 2021, 353 children and 128 families were adopted because of the generous support of local individuals and businesses looking to help out.

Before we knew it, the Agency was filled with clothing, toys, food and necessities ready to be delivered to our families by our hard working staff.

We are gearing up for this year's program and always welcome new businesses and individuals to join us in this rewarding effort.



In 2021, Bates Troy cleaned 1,464 donated coats. All of the coats were given out to community families in need. We are very grateful to have such a generous and supportive community.

We look forward to another successful event this fall!

# Our Sites

**24 Cherry Street  
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**Carlisle (BHA)  
150 Moeller Street  
Binghamton (607) 238-7119**

**Chenango County Offices  
21 South Broad Street  
Norwich (607) 373-3555**

**Children's Courthouse Center  
44 Hawley Street  
Binghamton (607) 240-5818**

**Fayette Street  
29 Fayette Street Binghamton (607) 723-8313**

**Harpursville Central school  
54 Main Street  
Harpursville, NY 13787**

**Horace Mann School  
30 College Street  
Binghamton (607) 762-6026**

**Saratoga (BHA)  
35 Felters Road, Bldg. 16  
Binghamton (607) 237-0676**

**Woodrow Wilson School  
287 Prospect Street  
Binghamton (607) 797-2110**

**Tioga County  
1277 Taylor Road  
Owego (607) 687-6721**

**Waverly  
12 Cooper Street  
Waverly (607) 565-7149**

**Newark Valley  
117 Whig Street  
Newark Valley (607) 354-3102**

**Housing  
11 Crocker Ave  
Johnson City (607) 723-831**

**11 Roberts Street  
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**51 Roberts Street  
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**146 Robinson Street  
Binghamton, NY 13904**

**241 St. Charles Street  
Johnson City (607) 723-8313**

**29 Virgil Street  
Binghamton (607) 723-8313**

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