

ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

Housing Connections

Look around...what do you see in Binghamton and the surrounding areas? A lack of safe and affordable housing. Many housing options are considered substandard, and tenants often complain about absentee landlords and/or maintenance repairs that go unattended. In addition, many complain that options in their income range are typically located in unsafe neighborhoods. Families are especially concerned with this, as they fear for the safety of their children. Rental costs have nearly double due to the pandemic. The increased cost of housing paired with a housing shortage is putting tenants at risk of homelessness or unable to afford housing. Families are being displaced due to buildings being condemned and building safety issues. Furthermore, there is an increased strain on the local housing market directly related to student housing. Landlords are converting family housing over to student housing leaving the housing stock depleted.

In April of 2013, Family Enrichment Network began its commitment to addressing the need for safe and affordable housing. FEN purchased its first two unit property at 11 Roberts Street in Johnson City. This home is located directly beside FEN behind the visitor parking lot. The developmentally delayed population was identified as a population in need of safe affordable housing in the community and in September 2015, 51 Roberts Street, Johnson City was developed for this purpose. The house allows multiple (two to three) individuals to reside in a single family home. This model allows individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to live independently in the community while having roommates to share and support that experience. In February 2016 we purchased a single family home at 241 St. Charles Street in Johnson City. In December 2021 we purchased a two unit home at 11 Crocker Avenue in Johnson City. Our most recent purchase is a five unit home at 146 Robinson Street, Binghamton.

In December 2018, Family Enrichment Network was awarded their first Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) and Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) grants, which allowed us to construct a 19-unit structure. In February 2020, the project broke ground at 29 Virgil Street in Binghamton. The project was completed in March 2021 and Housing Connections was created! We opened our doors in March and were at full capacity by July 1st. The program provides 19 supportive housing units, comprised of four one-bedroom apartments, ten two-bedroom apartments, four three-bedroom apartments, and one four-bedroom apartment. The program prioritizes homeless youth ages 18-25 years old; formerly incarcerated (non-violent offenders); survivors of domestic violence; people with an intellectual or developmental disability; chronically homeless; and disabled military veterans who have an unmet housing need.

Looking ahead, we do not anticipate a significant change in the housing market. Given that, we will remain steadfast in our pledge to provide safe and affordable housing. Currently we are working on our second HHAP/ESSHI project. Stay tuned!

For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at www.familyenrichment.org or call (607) 723-8313.



The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.