

Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

2018-2019 Annual Report



Celebrating 40 years of service to the community

Corporate Offices
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

Chenango SES (DCMO BOCES)
6678 County Road 32
Norwich (607) 373-3477

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

Fayette Street
29 Fayette Street
Binghamton, NY 13901

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

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

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

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

Waverly
12 Cooper Street
Waverly, 14892 (607) 565-
7149

Newark Valley
117 Whig Street
Newark Valley 13811 (607)
354-3102

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.

Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

24 Cherry Street, Johnson City, NY 13790

Phone: (607) 723-8313 Toll Free: (800) 281-8741 Fax: (607) 723-6173

E-Mail: info@familyenrichment.org

Web Site: www.familyenrichment.org

Executive Staff

Darrell R. Newvine, Executive Director

April Ramsay, Program Development Director

Chastity McEwen, Housing & Community Services Director

Deb Faulks, Family Support Services Director

Doug Marshall, Operations Director

Jennifer Perney, Child Care Resource & Referral Director

Kate E. Grippen, Head Start/Early Head Start Director

Katherine McKeever, Special Education Services Director

Linda DeMarco, Administrative Assistant

Mary DiFulvio, Human Resources Director

Nora Bush, Fiscal Director



Governance

The Governing Board assumes general responsibility for sponsored programs and is comprised of parents, community representatives, and interested persons at large. The group sets Agency policies and monitors fiscal activities for Agency Programs and contracts.

Governing Board Officers

Jackie Watson, Chairperson
Fred Meagher, Secretary
Wil Midyette, Treasurer

Board Members

Jessica Aurellio
Carrie Bates
Melissa Lantz
Chris Lee
Denise Lee
Andrea Mastronardi
Elizabeth Myers
Chris Rhode
Lisa Strahley
Pam Swarts
Brian Teta

Board Chairperson

Dear Parents, Staff and Community Members;

Again this year, Family Enrichment Network continued its long standing tradition of growth and service to our community. None of this progress would have been possible without the help of our volunteers, Board of Directors, and community partners. Together with Executive Director, Darrell Newvine, and the enthusiastic and committed staff of Family Enrichment Network, we all bring indispensable and much needed services to our area.

As we look forward to the next year, we anticipate continued success as we strive to promote the growth and well-being of our community's children and families.

Sincerely,

Jackie Watson



Programs & Services Offered By FEN

**Empower Participants
Enrich Lives
Educate Parents
Advocate for Quality Child Care in the Community
Access Community Resources
Secure Safe and Affordable Housing
Train Child Care Providers
Give Children and their Families a Head Start
Provide Nutritional Education to Women, Infants, and Children
Grow More Understanding Citizens
Offer Special Education Services
Promote Community Integration for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
Provide Speech/Physical/Occupational Therapy
Support Those Who Raise Other's Children
Provide Vision & Hearing Screenings to Children
Provide Family Support Services
Provide Child Care Resource & Referral Services
Offer Free Drop-in Child Care to Families with Business in Family Court
Assist Households in Applying for SNAP Benefits through the Nutrition
Outreach and Education Program
Sponsor Children and Adult Care Food Program
Support Child Care Providers
Promote Social-Emotional Well-being**

**Growing Tomorrow's Leaders...Today
Enriching the Community**

Executive Director

**A message from
Darrell Newvine, Executive Director**

It is with great pleasure that we present this 2018-2019 Annual Report. It is hard to believe we just celebrated our 40th anniversary. Our agency has weathered the storm of the past several years and is in a good position. 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.

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.

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. We continue to be programmatically and fiscally strong. We continue to receive excellent financial audits. Our programs and services continue to be of the highest quality. 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.

Sincerely,

Darrell R. Newvine

With the support of our team, our donors, our volunteers, and the community, Family Enrichment Network helps grow strong families through education and by building opportunities.



Head Start

Governance



The Head Start Policy Council carries specific responsibility for Head Start programming. At least 51% of its membership must include parents of children currently enrolled in the program.

2019 Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council Roster

Executive Committee:

Denise Lee, Chairperson
Christina Rodriguez, Vice Chairperson
Karen Coreas, Treasurer
Carrie Bates, Recording Secretary
Takicia Mitchell, Corresponding Secretary

Parent Representatives

Chrystal Come, John Daszewski, Diana Franco, Cami Lee, Christopher Lee, Danielle Lysak, Cassandra Martin, Barbara Paugh, Chrissy Pena, Twanna Thomas, Meg Ward, Greg Whitmarsh, Rebecca Whitmarsh

Community Representatives

Charli McLean – Past Head Start and Early Head Start Parent
Gladys Rodriguez – Past Head Start Parent
Christopher Rodhe – Past Head Start and Early Head Start Parent
Angel Stringer - Past Head Start and Early Head Start Parent

Special Thanks To Our Community Partners and Supporters

ACHIEVE Volunteers for their volunteer hours each week

Adopt A Family Supporters who reached out to help a families in need during the holiday season

Auchinachie Cares

Binghamton City School District for their continued support and partnerships

Binghamton Housing Authority for their support and partnership

Binghamton Rumble Ponies

Broome, Chenango, & Tioga Counties DSS for their continued support. And partnerships

Broome DDSO

Broome County United Way

Broome-Tioga Literacy Volunteers

Care Compass Network

Chenango County United Way

CHOW

City of Binghamton

City of Norwich

Community Foundation for South Central NY for re-entry support

Decker Foundation

FE Jones Construction

Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Hatala Orthodontics

Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier NY-511

Hoyt Foundation

Johnson City School District

JUST

Keystone Associates

Knights of Columbus

Kresge Foundation

M&T Bank

NYS DOH for supporting our CACFP Program

Special Thanks To Our Community Partners and Supporters

NYS OTDA for supporting our housing project
NYSOCFS for supporting our CCR&R and Kinship Programs
NYS Unified Court Systems for supporting our Courthouse Children's Center
Raymour & Flannigan
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Sam's Club
Town of Union
Union-Endicott School District
Village of Johnson City
Village of Newark Valley
Village of Owego
Village of Waverly
VINES
Visions Federal Credit Union for their continued partnership and sponsorships.
WBNG TV

Family Enrichment Network served over 2,000 families in 2018 throughout Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties.

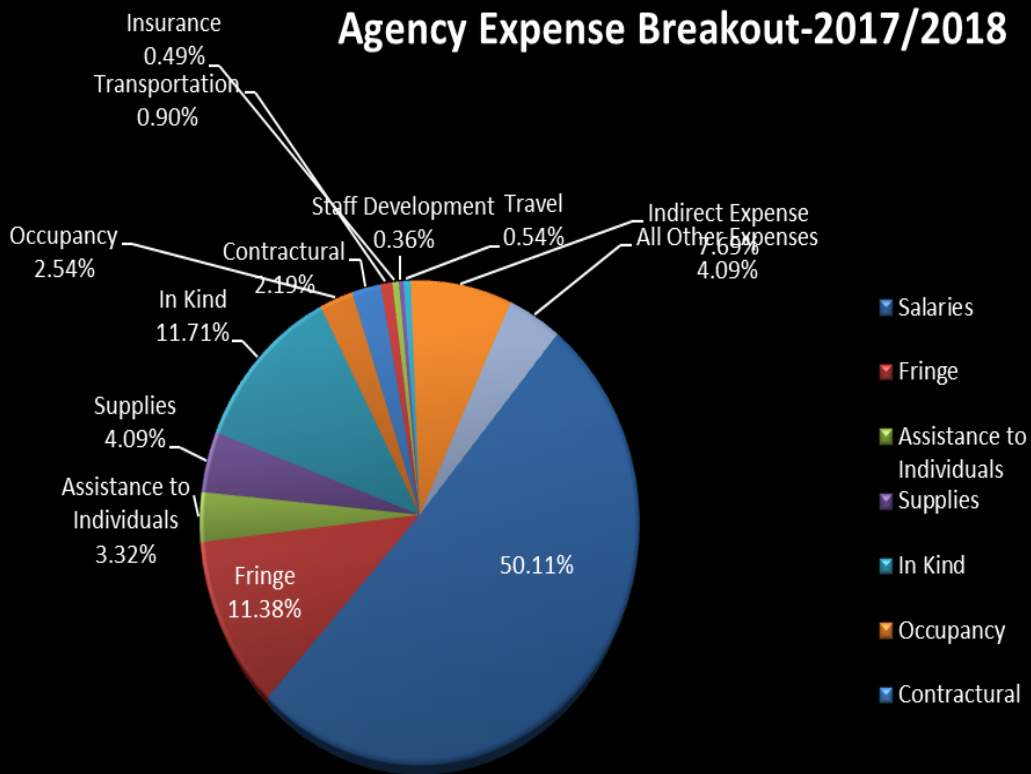
It takes a village! We could not do what we do without your support!



Agency Audit

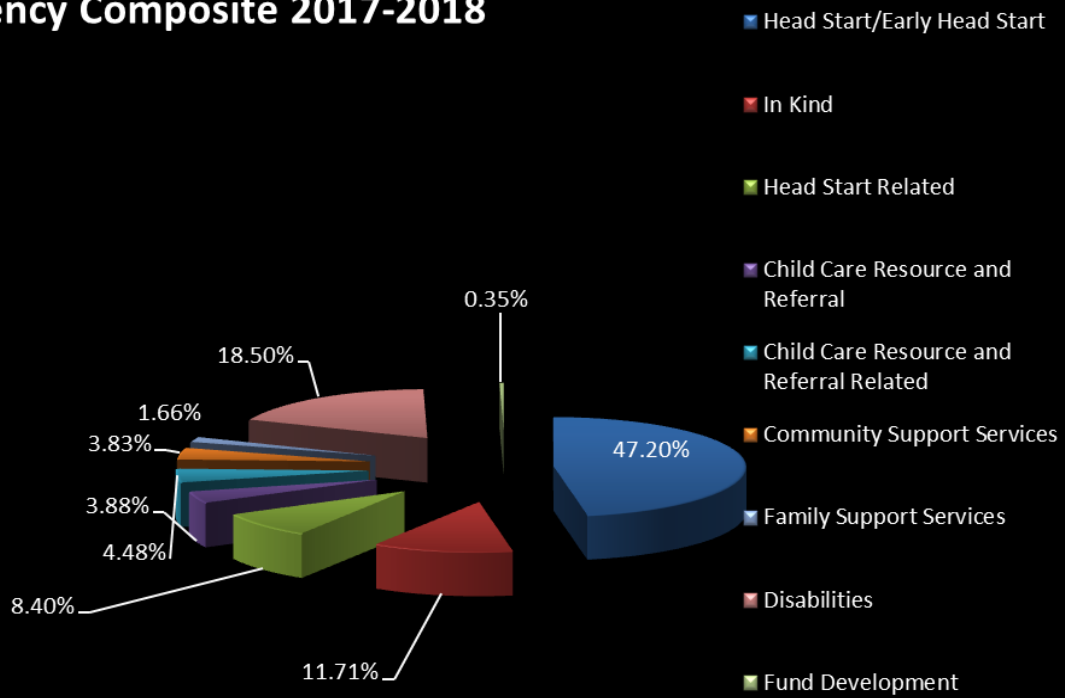
Fiscal- Nora Bush, Director

Agency Expense Breakout-2017/2018

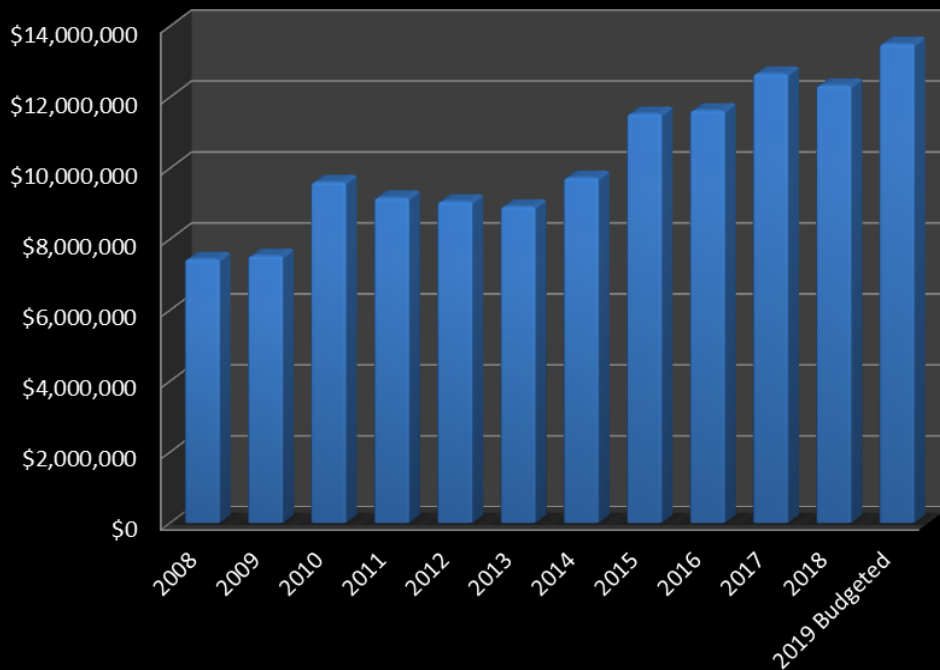


Agency Composite

Agency Composite 2017-2018



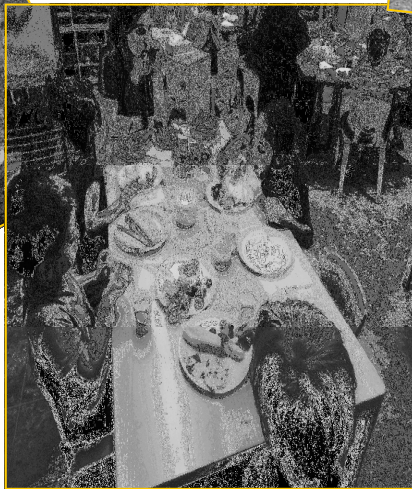
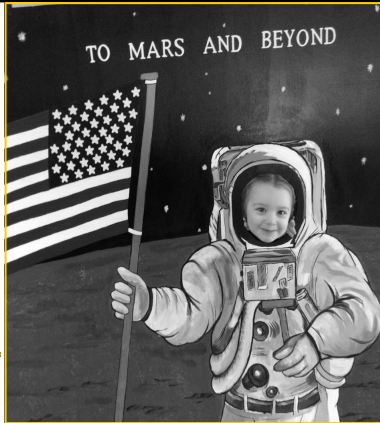
Revenue History



Funding Sources and Program Support

Funding Sources	Program
BHA Section 8	Rental Assistance
Broome County United Way	Caring Homes, Behavioral Supports for Pre schoolers, and Re-Entry
Care Compass Network	OT/PT Equipment, I.T. Equipment
Child Care Solutions / NYS Office of Children & Family Services	Infant/Toddler
City of Binghamton Emergency Shelter Grant Community Foundation of South Central New York	Caring Homes Re-Entry
Department of Health & Human Services	Head Start & Early Head Start (HS & EHS) Broome & Tioga Counties Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood
Hunger Solutions NY/ NYS Department of Health & US Department Of Agriculture	Nutrition Outreach Education Program (NOEP) Women, Infants, and Children
NYS Department of Education/Binghamton Schools NYS Department of Education/JC Schools	Binghamton UPK Johnson City UPK
NYS Office of Children & Family Services	Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Kinship Care Program
NYS Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tioga County Health Department • Madison County Health Department • Broome County Health Department • Chenango County Health Department • 611/619 IDEA Flow Through from School Districts of children served 	Special Education Services (SES)
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance NYS Unified Court System NYS Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities	Housing Courthouse Children's Center OPWDD Waiver Services
SUNY Professional Development Program Private Pay	Trainings
US Dept. of Agriculture / NYS Dept. of Health	Summer Food Service
USDA/NYS DOH	Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Thank you for your support!



Strategic Plan

In 2018, we revised our Strategic Plan. Below are the themes and goals:

FOCUS AREA- Child, Adult, and Family Development

Goal 1: Ensure children are ready for school by the time they enter Kindergarten

Goal 2: Improve the social-emotional well-being of children, adults, and families

Goal 3: Expand early intervention services and programs

Goal 4: Empower participants to become self-sufficient

Goal 5: Increase the availability of quality child care

FOCUS AREA- Agency/Business Practices

Goal 1: Recruit and Retain Qualified Staff

Goal 2: Improve internal and external communication

Goal 3: Improve agency technological capabilities

FOCUS AREA- Fund Development

Goal 1: Improve financial resource position

FOCUS AREA- Program Development

Goal 1: Build partnerships with community entities to expand/offer new programming

2018-2021 Program Development needs identified

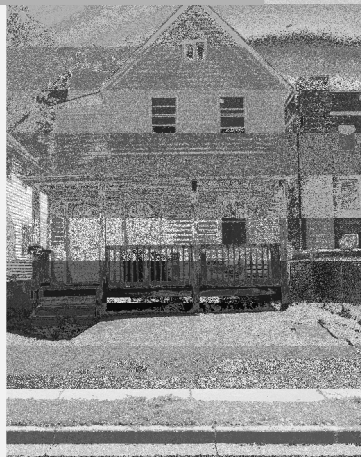
- ⇒ Social-emotional programs for all ages
 - ⇒ Parent education
 - ⇒ Quality early education
 - ⇒ Waiver services
 - ⇒ Housing Services

Housing Program



51 Roberts Street, Johnson City

This three bedroom home is rented to independent individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.



11 Roberts Street, Johnson City

This multi-family dwelling boasts a first floor 2-bedroom apartment and a second floor 1-bedroom apartment.



241 St. Charles Street, Johnson City

This is a newly remodeled one family home.

Agency Programs

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)- Jennifer Perney, Director

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

Our **Legally Exempt Specialists** enroll providers into the child care subsidy programs and conduct inspections to decrease fraud in child care subsidy payments.

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.

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. This service is available free of charge to Broome, Tioga, Cortland, Chenango and Tompkins Counties child care providers, parents and community agencies.

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 on-line 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.

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.

Agency Programs

Housing and Community Services– Chastity McEwen, Director

Housing

Family Enrichment Network owns three properties in Johnson City. Two properties are located on Roberts St. and a 3rd property on St. Charles St. These properties offer low income housing and accept section 8 vouchers.

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 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.

Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Program

The TBI Waiver Program provides support and services to assist individuals with TBI towards successful inclusion into their community. We offer support services including Independent Living Skills Training (ILST) and Positive Behavioral Support and Intervention Services (PBIS). These services offer additional support for the individual allowing them to live successfully in the community.

Agency Programs

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES– Deb Faulks, Director

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 SNAP application process and advocates for them as they apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Walk With Me

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

WIC Help NY

This new program provides WIC eligible families with assistance applying for WIC. The WIC Help Specialist can help determine eligibility, assist with the needed documents and set up the first appointment. The program works with families in Broome & Delaware Counties.

Agency Programs

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START– Kate Grippen, Director

Head Start

(Broome County) provides comprehensive early childhood and family development services to ensure school readiness for children and families living in Binghamton, Johnson City and the Susquehanna Valley School District. Center Based, Full-Day, Full-Day/Full-Year, and UPK programs for Binghamton and Johnson City four year old children are available with limited transportation. The Center-Based option includes a classroom experience of four 3 1/2 hour days per week, scheduled home visits, and opportunities for parents to volunteer in the program. The Full-Day option provides children with a 7 1/2 hour program, five days a week from September-June. Full-Day/Full-Year includes a Head Start/UPK program: it is a 7 1/2 hour program, five days per week from September through August. Limited transportation 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

Conducted in partnership with the Johnson City School District. We operate a 3 1/2 hour program Monday-Friday, and it runs in accordance with the JC School District Calendar.

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.

Agency Programs

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.

Policy Council offers parents and community members an opportunity to be involved in policy making for the program. Transportation and child care are always provided.

New Pathways for Fatherhood Program The New Pathways for Fathers Program is dedicated to serving the needs of low-income fathers and father-figures in Broome and Tioga Counties. In the "**24/7 Dad**" class, men are encouraged to build on their strengths to improve their parenting skills. Classes are offered at different times and locations throughout the year. Trained facilitators and guest speakers will lead participants in fun, hands-on activities, as well as group discussions.

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 an AM snack from 8:00-8:30 and lunch from 11:30-12:30.

Agency Programs

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES– Katherine McKeever, Director

Special Education Integrated Classrooms are available for preschoolers with identified disabilities at FEN's Cherry Street location and Binghamton's (Horace Mann Elementary). The Chenango County site has four integrated classrooms that operate in collaboration with the structured daycare program at DCMO BOCES in Norwich. These programs offer a quality early educational experience coupled with individualized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and/or counseling as identified by each child's individual educational plan.

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

Special Education Itinerant Teacher (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 are provided by a multidisciplinary team to preschoolers at risk of developmental delays and are provided at the Johnson City and Norwich sites.

Behavioral Support for ASD Families of young children with special needs face challenges that other families do not. FEN's Behavioral Support Services project targets families who have a child with an **Autism Spectrum Disorder** or a related behavioral disorder. The Family Enrichment Network, supported by the local Family Support Services Program of OPWDD, is offering a service to help identified families better understand their children's behaviors and deliver the needed support. This program is provided at no cost to eligible families.

Program Development

Program Development- April Ramsay, Director

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 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.

Success Stories

CCR&R

A child care center interim director called the Quality Improvement Specialist with a concern about a child and the disruptive behavior. The behavior was upsetting other parents and children in the classroom. Based on a phone discussion, it seemed like this child might have some sensory concerns. The Specialist was able to set up a time to observe the classroom and didn't notice anything out of the ordinary for a 3.5 year old until they started to sing the clean-up song and sing it loudly. The child ran to another part of the room, screamed, kicked a door repeatedly and yelled "No, no, no." The Specialist used different behavior guidance techniques, including Flip- It and Second Step. At first the child was not receptive, but then she began to calm down. The child finally stated she needed a hug from her teacher. She ran to her teacher and they cuddled. The Specialist was then able to meet with the director and mother of the child. The mother was in tears. She was worried about the school district evaluating her daughter and labeling her with special needs. She was assured this is a good thing so her daughter can get services she might need. As they talked, the mother began to tell us about some similar behavior at home and how certain soothing techniques, like a warm corn back wrap and touching soft things helped her daughter. The mother shared that she and her husband are newly separated and the father is not cooperative. The behavior guidance techniques used by the Specialist were shared for the parent to also use at home as well as for the director to help the teachers better implement them in the classroom. The director is now working on emotional awareness with the class and has some new ideas for classroom design and materials to help the child regain control and help the rest of the class understand that sometimes we all feel sad, frustrated and angry. After the meeting, the mother was smiling and no longer crying!

The Child Care Specialist reached out to an unregulated provider who was advertising on social media that she was licensed and could watch children. The Specialist explained the regulations. The provider sincerely thought she was licensed because she applied for and received a DBA. The provider edited her social media posts to stay within legal limits of only watching 2 unrelated children full time, and started the process of becoming a registered family child care provider. She is working with the Child Care Specialist through the process. The provider is thankful that she was saved from doing illegal child care.

Success Stories

Housing and Community Services

Caring Homes

In May 2019, a single mother of three young children reached out to 2-1-1 for financial assistance with her rent arrears after receiving an eviction notice from her landlord. Her struggles began when her father passed away a couple months ago. While she was working, he was the one that was providing child care. After having to pay for the funeral expenses and now being without child care, she began missing too many days at her job which resulted in losing her employment after six years with the company. She had difficulty making ends meet, falling behind on her rent along with her other bills. After a brief period of struggling with her situation, she actively started looking for employment and within a couple of weeks she was hired with another company. She was also able to obtain the child care that she needed. With the assistance of Catholic Charities, the Broome County Urban League, and the Caring Homes Program she was able to obtain the financial support necessary to help cover the difference of her rent arrears and put her back in good standing with her landlord. Through case management with the Caring Homes housing case manager, she has been current on her rent and has maintained full time employment.

Family Support Services

Walk With Me / Re Entry Program – November 2018

The Re-entry Specialist worked with Ms. M. who is 8 months pregnant to obtain emergency housing at the YWCA, When Ms. M. applied for Temporary Assistance she was informed that she was on a DSS sanction until 11/30/18 and DSS could not provide any shelter funding. The Re-entry Specialist reached out to Pastor Kim Chastain at United Presbyterian Church and Mary Whitcombe at Broome County Catholic Charities, for financial help to cover the housing cost at the YWCA for 32 days until Ms. M's DSS sanction is completed. Without the help of the Reentry Specialist this 8 month pregnant women, who has no family in the area would not have had any safe housing options! The ReEntry Specialist was also able to set up pre natal appointments and help provide emergency care items such as underwear and personal hygiene products.

WIC HelpNY - December 2018

The WIC Help Specialist was working with a family referred by the Kinship Program. While going through necessary documents to bring to a WIC appointment the kinship family realized that the baby's Medicaid card had not been given to the Kinship caregivers. With the help of the Kinship Advocate, the WIC Help Specialist was able to contact DSS on behalf of the caregivers and have a new Medicaid card sent to their address. This gave the caregivers the documentation they needed to receive WIC for the kinship infant.

Success Stories

NOEP – November 2018

The NOEP Coordinator (NC) received a call from a woman stating that she needed help getting SNAP. She had no food, and was struggling with taking care of her 4 children. The applicant is a domestic violence survivor who had moved to NY from the west coast to get away from her abuser. One of her children has cerebral palsy, and she needed special assistance for her daughter. The applicant didn't have transportation. The NC was able to visit her home and found out that she needed clothes, coats, hats/mittens, and bedding for all of the children. The family was sleeping with only sheets and pillows and no pillow cases. The NC completed a SNAP application with the applicant and was able to give food resources to the family. At the home visit the NC signed the family up for the Adopt a Family program through FEN. The NC also returned to the applicant's home with new coats, hats, gloves from the Coats for Kids program at FEN as well as three big bags of clothing for everyone. The NC was also able to get new bedding for all family members, as well as two more emergency food boxes, and a turkey for Thanksgiving as well as signing the Family up for SNAP benefits. The NOEP Coordinator was able to help stabilize the family through all the extra services she provided.

Broome Kinship Advocate - January 2019

The Kinship Advocate (KA) worked with a kinship caregiver who took in her teenage brother after he had been discharged to his mother from the residential facility where she placed him voluntarily. The kinship caregiver was having a difficult time enrolling her brother in the school district where she lived because he was not on a CPS safety plan. The mother offered to let the teen live in her home but did not have a bed or adequate living arrangements for him. Also, the teen has reported years of abuse and neglect while living with his mom. The teen did not want to live with his mother, and CPS agreed that he could live with his sister. Since mom offered him housing and he was refusing to return to her home he wasn't considered homeless and the school wasn't enrolling him under McKinney Vento Act that covers homeless youth. After reaching out to a social worker at another school the KA was directed to NYSTEACHS an advocacy group for McKinney Vento. The KA reached out to NYSTEACHS and worked with them and the McKinney Vento liaison at the local school district to get the youth enrolled in school. After communicating with both the NYSTEACHS advocate and the school district the KA was able to provide more details so that the teen was finally enrolled in the local school district through McKinney Vento. This took three weeks to sort out but without the kinship Advocate's help the sibling would have never been enrolled.

Courthouse – March 2019

A mom left her 12 year old son at the Center even though he didn't want to stay because he thought the Center was lame. His mom said he wasn't allowed to sit out in the waiting area by himself and she wouldn't be long. When the mom returned the 12 year old said he didn't want to leave and asked if he could come back to the Center again because he had a really good time!

Success Stories

Head Start and Early Head Start

Broome Early Head Start

An EHS Family Advocate is working with a mom who has been unemployed since June. The mom has been working with her Advocate for months on researching different employment opportunities. Advocate recently referred mom to Binghamton University (BU) for a job, and she successfully interviewed with BU this month. Mom was hired for a full-time overnight position. The Advocate also assisted Mom with daycare subsidy application and finding a reliable provider so that her child is safe.

When a little girl started in the EHS infant room at Saratoga, she was able to walk independently and was able to grasp and pick up large toys with both hands at the same time. As she continued to come to program she has learned to climb the stairs on the changing table to get her diaper changed. Mom took away all bottles at home and asked the teachers to do the same at school. The teachers encouraged her to drink from an open cup and mom said that she will not drink like that at home, only from sippy cups. One day recently mom watched her drink milk from an open cup at school, and Mom wants her to do that at home. The teachers have worked with her from using her fingers to eat to using a spoon and fork to feed herself, which mom stated she is also doing at home, now.

Broome Head Start

A HS Family Advocate is working with a mom who said that she wanted to go back to school but that she also felt she was too old to go to college. The Family Advocate informed the mom about the options at SUNY Broome (BCC) and the possibility of doing online courses. Mom liked the idea but still hesitated. In October, Mom complained that she was bored and a little depressed staying home. The Family Advocate and Mom again spoke about going back to school. Mom talked about what she would like to study and why. Mom was encouraged by her Family Advocate to set up an appointment with a counselor at BCC to discuss her options and possibilities. At the December home visit Mom was excited to tell her Family Advocate that she is enrolled to start taking classes at BCC in January. She will be taking some online and some on campus. Mom is anxious and really excited that she is really starting college now.

A Classroom at Cherry Street practices conscious discipline by using the calm down kit when we are having trouble settling our bodies. The calm down kit has a pinwheel in it the children can blow. It also has a story to help remind the children that it is okay to be upset, but we need to stay safe while upset and calm down our bodies. The kit also has alphabet yoga position cards in it to help relax the body. We practice the drain, pretzel, star, and balloon breathing techniques. We have a safe place set up for children to sit in and relax. If they would like some alone time, we only allow one friend in at a time. They may also ask their teacher to come join them and talk about their feelings. We use an emotion poster to show how we are feeling. We ask the children daily how they are doing before washing for breakfast. If the child is feeling sad, we tell them we are sorry they are sad and ask why they are sad and how we can fix it. When the child tells us they are happy, we let them know we are so glad they are feeling happy and that we are happy too! Each morning at circle we sing our song, "today let's all be friends." Our song reminds us that we are all friends and that we need to be kind and share with one another and are all special in our own way.

Success Stories

Tioga Early Head Start

At the Owego Early Head Start Center, there is a young child in program that has had a lot of trouble with self-soothing and accepting redirection or comfort at times that are difficult for her, such as transitions, clean-up time, or with turn taking. This child receives therapy at school and mom is also aware of things that are going on at school and says she struggles with them at home too. Mom came to her parent/teacher conference, her IFSP meeting, and has kept a very open line of communication with us. She truly is a pleasure to work with in regards to our goals for her child at school. We have been using new ways to try to help child work through her meltdowns here at school and I feel this month was a turning point for us in class. She began allowing teacher to comfort her and hold her when she was upset. As well as in the past, when teacher would say to child "I love you" child would yell, "NO". So not only did she not show much affection she also would not accept it. During a meltdown this month, teacher said "You're safe. I love you." And she said "I yuh-you" back to teacher and laid her head on teacher's shoulder and immediately began to calm. This was such a huge moment for us. Several times over the month if she had a meltdown she was able to come back from them pretty quickly. She is also doing much better at clean up time, and is sometimes one of the first ones to begin cleaning up now when it is time to transition to pick up toys.

A little boy who had a difficult time separating from his family when he first attended Head Start would cry on and off throughout the day until his family came. Staff reached out to the Developmental Specialist for guidance in providing him with social/emotional support. The Developmental Specialist recommended employing Conscious Discipline techniques including using calming words such as "you're safe; I'm here; breathe with me". He now is progressing nicely as demonstrated by his appearing calm in the classroom and comfortable expressing his wants and needs with his caregivers.

Tioga Head Start

A HS Family Advocate was finally able to have her first home visit for the school year with a family that has been difficult to meet with. During this meeting the parents shared that their four year old, who is in her second year of our program, is able to count as high as into the 20's and mom felt that if prompted she could probably keep going. The 'head start' that our program has offered their daughter through classroom curriculums and the Advocate's efforts to provide educational parent/child activities every month has contributed to this child's knowledge and ability to count at a Kindergarten-ready level.

A child who has attended the program for three years has recently experienced some difficult and numerous changes in her life. Her mother was worried that she would suffer socially and emotionally and sought the advice of the Developmental Specialist and Family Advocate. After a coordinated effort among several staff and therapists who implemented strategies to support her emotional well-being, this little girl is now thriving socially and emotionally and is verbally expressing her emotions in a positive way. Her mother has expressed feeling supported by caring staff who made themselves available to her and her child with service and referral.

Success Stories

New Pathways for Fathers

In May 2019, a father who had been attending workshops announced that his home and personal belongings had been destroyed in a fire. New Pathways for Fathers program staff was able to gather some clothing and personal care items to give to the family immediately. The Case Manager also solicited donations from the agency (which included shoes, clothing, toys, and a toddler bed) and was able to assist the family begin to get back on their feet after experiencing that extreme loss.

A Fatherhood Specialist was able to help one workshop participant connect with his young adult daughter, with whom he had a falling out. The participant shared that he had felt badly for years, but didn't know how to talk about his feelings and begin to repair his relationship with her. Program staff discussed expressing feelings and emotions. The participant made a list of the things he wanted to say to his daughter and was able to write and mail her a note. He reported that later in the month, he received a note back and shared it with the group. He was so proud to share with the group that his daughter wanted to continue writing with him. By the end of the workshop session, they planned to speak on the phone.

In January 2019, a new participant indicated to the Case Manager during workshop that he was homeless and couch-surfing between friends' homes. The Case Manager supplied the participant with information for homeless support programs in the area. The following week, the participant indicated that he had already received housing and was able to move in by the end of the week.

Special Education Services

A child entered the program as a very shy, somewhat withdrawn child with limited social skills and physical ability in 2017. Since that time his transformation to a smiling, confident, social young man has been significant. When he started at FEN he could not stand or walk on his own, feed himself, greet people or attend to academic needs. Verbal interaction with staff and students was limited. To our joy, he has really blossomed over the last 2 years.

Socially, he is now a very sweet loving boy who is kind to his peers and teachers. He is very social and engaging, and likes to be involved and in the center of the activity. He never wants to miss out on anything and likes playing near peers. He is now actually interested in what they are doing (even though his favorite interactions are still with adults). He also now understands the concept of sharing and is able to share toys, markers, etc. with classmates. He especially loves cars. He waves greetings and good byes and can even establish eye contact. He is a favorite of all the classmates. He hugs peers and positively interacts with them and they enjoy having him in the class.

Physically, he has had many milestones. He can now successfully climb and use some upper-body strength. He can stand, walk and run unassisted. He can even throw a ball while standing. He loves sensory toys, water bins, and play-dough. He can use eating utensils on his own and eats with his friends at the table.

Academically, he can follow simple directions, use limited sign language and loves free drawing. He is progressing daily with routine and repetition. When singing the children's greeting song, he loves to hear his name mentioned!

Fund Development

Special Events

Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program



Making the holidays special for local families in need last season was a huge success!

Over 150 families/470 children in need 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.

Coats for Kids



In 2018 with the help of our community and local businesses, Family Enrichment Network was able to provide over 3,000 coats for children and families in Broome County. This amount more than doubled from the year before.

Many of the coats that were donated for the children were brand new. We are lucky and grateful to have such a generous and supportive community.

We look forward to another successful event this fall.

Publications

Child Care Directories for Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties

The Child Care Directory provides comprehensive information on child care options such as pre schools, centers, Head Start Programs, School Age Programs and programs for children with special needs. The directory also explains quality issues.

Child Care Resource & Referral “Network News” (Newsletter & Training Calendar)

CCR&R publishes a quarterly newsletter & schedule for providers announcing workshops, teleconferences, orientations, and special events. Options offered are designed to fulfill requirements of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. These trainings enhance the quality of care provided to children, provide current information and instruction on best practices in infant/toddler care and early childhood education, and strengthen the network of child care providers in our community.

Enriching the Community Newsletter

This Newsletter is published monthly and distributed to all our friends who support Family Enrichment Network. Enriching the Community newsletter highlights a different program/service monthly and gives a brief description of what they are working on.

NOTE: All publications are produced and published in-house to ensure all possible funds are spent directly providing services.

Head Start & Early Head Start Parent Newsletters

The Head Start and Early Head Start Parent Newsletter is a monthly newsletter geared toward parents of children in our Early Head Start, Head Start, Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Special Services programs. It offers articles on upcoming community and Agency events, early childhood activities that can be done at home, and articles from the different departments that work with the families to help promote health, wellness, and safety within the programs and at home. It also offers a monthly Scholastic low cost book program that parents can order from.

News & Views

Family Enrichment Network’s “News & Views” is a comprehensive, bi-monthly community information newsletter. This non-profit industry newsletter is distributed to over 1,200 community members and parents.

Summer Program Directory

The directory is a comprehensive listing of child care, summer camp, and sports and recreation programs available for children during summer vacation.

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Growing Tomorrow's Leaders...Today
Enriching the Community

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