

The Family Resource Network, Inc.
46 Oneida Street
Oneonta, NY 13820

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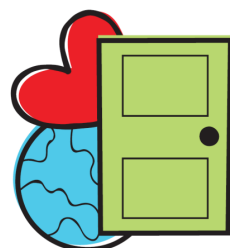


@family.resource.network

The Family Resource Network is looking for people like YOU!

If you are reading our newsletter, it is a safe bet that you already make a positive difference in the life of someone with a special need and have attended one of the many conferences or workshops sponsored by The Family Resource Network. Have you ever wished for the opportunity to share your knowledge and/or help others? The board of directors at The Family Resource Network consists of members of our community who believe in the mission of the agency and we are currently looking for people to join our board of directors.

For more information regarding the Family Resource Network, our mission statement and the role of a board member please contact board president Rhannon Ham at (607) 278-5758 or call the Family Resource Network at (607) 432-0001.



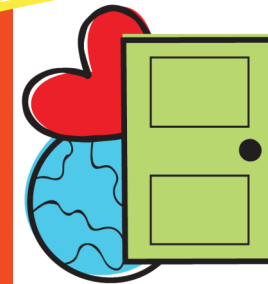
Family
Resource
Network

connections

Information, Resources, and Updates from The Family Resource Network, Inc.

July & August 2023
in this issue:

Workshop: Bring your Child's IEP Night p. 4
5th Annual Community Softball Game with OJCA p. 10
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Family
Resource
Network

For the Family Resource Network our summer has been off to a great start! We had an amazing turnout for our Duck Derby and Family Fun Day and are so appreciative to everyone who contributed to make our event a success. Please look inside this edition of our Newsletter to see all the businesses, agencies and individuals who contributed!

Our next event is right around the corner! The Family Resource Network and the Oneonta Job Corps Academy will be hosting our Fifth Annual Community Softball Game Friday, July 14th at Damaschke Field in Neahwa Park. Doors open @ 6:00pm and the event will last about 3 hours. This is a family friendly, FREE event open to anyone in the community!

Family Resource Network youth and staff play the Oneonta Job Corps Academy youth and staff in a fun, friendly game of softball! During the softball game there will be fun contests between innings for any spectators who would like to join in including a base run with the team mascots, tug of war and a dance off! We will end the night with a performance by a fire dancer on the infield!

In addition to the game, contests and entertainment, there will be carnival games and prizes in the ball park, local agencies set up sharing information about the services and programs they offer in our community as well as giveaways throughout the evening!

Not only will the concession stand be open throughout the evening selling items from their regular menu, FRN and OJCA will be handing out FREE ice cream to all attendees during the event.

This is the first year post-COVID our two agencies have been able to collaborate on this event again and we are very excited about bringing it back and hope to see you there!



The Family Resource Network, Inc. Mission & Purpose

Mission Statement:

Individuals with special needs deserve every opportunity to achieve their unique potential. The Family Resource Network was founded by parents to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs and their families, empowering them to lead productive independent lives within the community.

Purpose:

We want to make our community a better place through education and the enlisting of our citizens to bring services to those in need. We accomplish our mission through our core values.

We have been a vital part of our community for a number of years. We were founded to serve a growing segment of our community in need of inaccessible services. We have continued to grow with the help of our donors and volunteers that make our mission possible. Through all these years our purpose still remains the same: bring services to those in need.

Family Resource Network Staff:

Heather Cotten: Family Peer Advocate
 Terry Diluzio: Education Advocate
 Barbara Finkelstein: FPA-YPA Supervisor
 Mary Fralick: Family Peer Advocate
 Karyn Kanzer: Family Peer Advocate
 Pattie Kinter: Education Advocate
 Robin Piefer: FSS Supervisor
 Twyla Shaffer: Medicaid Billing
 Kristin Winn: HR Supervisor/Program Coordinator
 Michelle Zuk: Executive Director



Find us on Facebook:
 @familyrn

Find us on Instagram:
 @family.resource.network



Family Resource Network Programs:

Services for Families with OPWDD Eligibility

Education Advocacy
 Intensive Advocacy Program
 Enhanced Autism Trainings
 Support Groups
 Family and Provider Trainings
 Dragon Dates Program (Social Opportunities)
 Service Access Program

Mental Health and Wellness Services

Family Peer Support
 Residential Family Peer Support
 Youth Peer Support
 Teen Scene
 Monthly Parent Group
 Southern Tier Chapter of Families Together in NYS

G & E Therapies

Summer Camp for Youth with Autism
 After School Program for Teens with Autism-Social Skills Group (Geckos on the Go)

Legacy Resource Fund

Source of financial assistance

Please join the Family Resource Network for Our Upcoming Workshop:

Bring Your Child's IEP Night

With the new school year approaching, do you know what your child's IEP really says? Our advocates will walk you through the NY State IEP and discuss what each section means. Bring a copy of your child's IEP and follow along. Advocates will be available at the end of the presentation for individual questions and consultations.

Learn about:

- IEP Classifications
- Present Levels of Performance
- Where in the IEP YOUR concerns are included
 - SMART Goals
 - Testing Accommodations
 - Transition Plans
- And more!

This workshop will be presented by Robin Piefer, Pattie Kinter, and Terry DiLuzio from the Family Resource Network.

Wednesday, August 30th, 2023

6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

HYBRID

IN-PERSON @ FRN Office and ZOOM

46 Oneida Street, Oneonta NY

****Registration is required****

For assistance with registration or for questions, please call Terry at (607)287-3816.

This workshop is funded through a grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Self-directing families will need to add "Training Groups" to their budgets prior to attending. Please contact FRN for assistance adding this to your budget.

Please Join the Family Resource Network for Our Online and Phone Family Support Groups:

At Family Resource Network, we recognize that during these difficult times, families of individuals with special needs are facing unique challenges and may feel even more isolated. While we can't meet in-person to support one another, we invite you to join us for online support groups. These will be conducted through Zoom Meetings, and families may participate online or by phone. We are offering these groups as an opportunity for families to form connections, support, and learn from each other.

We will be offering two groups per week: one morning and one evening.

Registration is required.

Tentative Support Group Dates:

Tuesday, July 11 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 6 10:00 am
Tuesday, July 18 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 13 10:00 am
Tuesday, July 25 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 20 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 1 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 27 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 8 6:30 pm	Thursday, August 3 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 15 6:30 pm	Thursday, August 10 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 22 6:30pm	Thursday, August 17 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 29 6:30 pm	Thursday, August 24 10:00 am
	Thursday, August 31 10:00am

Dates may be adjusted based on interest and need as physical distancing regulations are lifted.

To register, go to www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar".

For questions, or to participate by phone, please call Terry at (607)287-3816.

Support Groups are funded by a grant from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. Self-directing families will need to add "training groups" to their budgets. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

Please join the Family Resource Network and Starbridge for our upcoming Lay Advocacy Training:

Ask the Advocate

**Friday, July 14th
9:00am-11:00am
via ZOOM**

This workshop provides a unique opportunity to hear a Starbridge advocate's perspective on the special education process, disability services, tips for the summer months or other related topics. This is designed to be an open forum in which participants ask questions in a group setting.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Bring your particular special education or other disability-related issues to the floor
 - Learn about issues others face and possible solutions
 - Learn where you can find additional information about special education and advocacy

Our speaker: Kara Georgi is the Parent Education Specialist for Starbridge Parent Training and Information Center. She offers support and information for families and professionals navigating the special education system in Cayuga, Tompkins, Onondaga, Cortland, Broome, Chenango, Madison, Otsego, and Delaware Counties.

*****Registration Required*****

You can register online by going to www.familyrn.org and click on the News & Events link and the Event Calendar.

For assistance with registration or for questions please call Terry at 607-287-3816.

This workshop is funded through a grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Self-directing families will need to add "Training Groups" to their budgets prior to attending. Please contact FRN for assistance adding this to your budget.

Please join the Family Resource Network for a workshop on:

Social Stories

Presenter Robin Buchman will discuss:

- What is a social story?
- How to use social stories
- How to write a social story for your loved one

**Date and Time TBA
HYBRID**

**IN-PERSON @ FRN Office and ZOOM
46 Oneida Street, Oneonta NY**

****Registration is required****

You can register online by going to www.familyrn.org and click on the News & Events link and the Event Calendar.

For assistance with registration or for questions, please call Terry at (607)287-3816.

This workshop is funded through a grant from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Self-directing families will need to add "Training Groups" to their budgets prior to attending. Please contact FRN for assistance adding this to your budget.



Social Stories

Attention Families of Young Children with Developmental Disabilities:

OPWDD is asking many families of children under the age of 8 to use Family Support Services before enrolling in the HCBS waiver.

Family Resource Network has several Family Support Services Programs available, and we would like to hear from you about how we can best use them to support your family.

If you have a child under 8 who is OPWDD eligible or going through the Front Door (OPWDD eligibility process), please join us for an interest session. This is a chance for your voice to be heard.

**Wednesday, July 19
9:00-11:00 am
Online**

Registration is required.

To register, please go to familyrn.org and click on "news and events" and then "events calendar". To register by phone or for questions about this event or our programs, please call Robin at (607)287-6358.



Please join the Family Resource Network for our Upcoming Teen Scene and Dragon Dates Event:



Family Picnic, Game Night and Community Ball Game practice



Monday, July 10th
5:30pm-7:30pm

Wilber Park-Large Pavilion (Upper Level)
Wilber Park Dr
Oneonta, NY

We will have a lot going on this evening! First we will all enjoy a pizza dinner under the pavilion. After dinner, any youth participating in the Community Ball Game on July 14th will head down to the field on the lower level for a fun softball practice so that we can work on hitting, throwing, catching and learning what positions everyone is interested in playing! For anyone not participating in the practice we will have various board games under the pavilion for a fun family game night! There is also a playground and basketball court near the pavilion for anyone who wants to play on those.

Registration is REQUIRED.

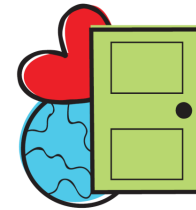
To register please visit our website @ www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar". To register by phone or for additional information please call FRN @ 607-432-0001

The age range for Teen Scene events has been expanded and Teen Scene events will be open to any school aged youth in Otsego, Delaware and Chenango County.

Dragon Dates events are for the families of individuals with OPWDD eligibility living in the family home in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware, Tioga or Tompkins County. Self-directing families will need to add "Social Skills" to their budgets before attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

This is a family event. FRN is not responsible for supervision.

Please join the Family Resource Network and the Oneonta Job Corps Academy for our Fifth Annual Community Softball Game



Family
Resource
Network

Friday, July 14th
Doors open @ 6:00pm
Damaschke Field
15 James Georgeson Ave
Oneonta, NY



Watch FRN youth and staff play the Oneonta Job Corps Academy youth and staff in a fun, friendly game of softball!

**BASE RUN, TUG OF
WAR AND DANCE OFF
WITH OUR
MASCOTS!**

**FREE ICE
CREAM!**



FIRE DANCER!

**CARNIVAL
GAMES!**

In addition to the ballgame, contests and entertainment, there will be carnival games and prizes in the ball park, local agencies set up sharing information about the services and programs they offer in our community as well as giveaways throughout the evening!

If you would like more information about this event or to find out how you can participate please contact Kristin at the Family Resource Network by calling 607-432-0001 or via email at kwinn@familyrn.org.

Please join the Family Resource Network for our Upcoming Teen Scene and Dragon Dates Event:

Tie Dyeing!

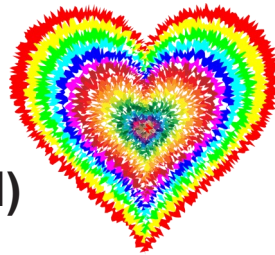
Monday, August 21st

5:30pm-7:00pm

Wilber Park-Large Pavilion (Upper Level)

Wilber Park Dr

Oneonta, NY



Family Resource Network has reserved the large pavilion at Wilber Park for another summer evening of fun activities! Tonight we will be getting artistic as we design our own T-shirts through tie dyeing. Each participant will receive a white t-shirt to get creative with. We will also have rock painting and several other arts and craft activities available throughout the evening. Dinner will be provided.

Registration is REQUIRED.

To register please visit our website @ www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar". To register by phone or for additional information please call FRN @ 607-432-0001

The age range for **Teen Scene** events has been expanded and Teen Scene events will be open to any school aged youth in Otsego, Delaware and Chenango County.

Dragon Dates events are for the families of individuals with OPWDD eligibility living in the family home in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware, Tioga or Tompkins County. Self-directing families will need to add "Social Skills" to their budgets before attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget.

This is a family event. FRN is not responsible for supervision.

Please join the Family Resource Network Teen Scene and Dragon Dates Programs for our upcoming event

Virtual Cook-a-Long: Enjoying Seasonal Veggies!

Monday, August 28th

5:00pm-6:30pm

Online via ZOOM



The Family Resource Network is excited for this month's virtual cook-a-long. For August we will be taking advantage of the amazing seasonal veggies that we can find growing locally, and maybe right in your backyard! FRN will lead participants through two recipes, one for zucchini quiche and the other involving corn on the cob

and we will help cover the cost of the ingredients. We have decided to try something different for supplies. Rather than FRN purchasing the supplies and delivering or scheduling pick ups, we will be providing families gift cards and a supply list that they can use to get the ingredients they need. **Please register by Monday, August 21st in order to receive your gift card prior to the event.** You will have the option to select from Walmart, Hannaford or Price Chopper and we will mail your gift card after the registration deadline.



Registration is required

To register please visit our website @ www.familyrn.org and click on "News and Events" and then "Events Calendar".

The age range for **Teen Scene** events has been expanded and Teen Scene events will be open to any school aged youth in Otsego, Delaware and Chenango County.

Dragon Dates events are for the families of individuals with OPWDD eligibility living in the family home in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware, Tioga or Tompkins County. Self-directing families will need to add "Social Skills" to their budgets before attending. Please contact Robin at (607)287-6358 for assistance adding this program to your budget. Questions? Call FRN at 607-432-0001 and ask for Kristin.

The Family Resource Network deeply appreciates the local businesses, agencies, and individuals that helped to make our 6th Annual Duck Derby and Family Fun Day such a successful community event! We know how often these businesses and individuals are asked for donations, not only of the tangible items and goods that they provide to the community, but also of their time and efforts that go on behind the scenes. This being said, we are honored that everyone who contributed felt our cause was worthy of their support!

2023 Gold Level Sponsors

**Miller Financial Services
The Peachin Group LLC
Empire Toyota
Benson Agency Real Estate LLC
Hobiaica Law Office
The Bonadio Group**



2023 Silver Level Sponsors

**Amish Barn Company
NBT Bank**

2023 Bronze Level Sponsors

**Robert and Marcy Birch
Community Bank, NA
Circulars Unlimited
Scholet Furniture
Mona Noble
Clover Hill Farm
Davenport Garden Center**



Special thanks to Stewart's Shops for donating all the supplies for the Ice Cream Social, Helen's Little Kitchen for donating a portion of her proceeds back to the agency, Renee Halbert from Renee's Photography for the use of her photo booth and our volunteers Kaitlyn and Crystal Sutliff and Tom and Seton Fralick for all their help throughout the event!

Thank you to the following agencies for participating and preparing awesome activities for the children and youth who attended FRN's 6th Annual Duck Derby and Family Fun Day:

**Building Healthy Families
Early Head Start and Head Start of Otsego County
EDD Adaptive Sports and Memorial Fund**

**Fidelis Care
G & E Therapies
LEAF**

**Oneonta Job Corps Academy
Oneonta World of Learning (OWL)**

**Pathfinder
Prime Care Coordination
RSS**

**Southern Tier Care Coordination
Springbrook**

