

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

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***Look for the Family Resource Network Duck Float in the Memorial Day Parade in Oneonta on Monday, May 28th!! We will be tossing out all sorts of Duck themed goodies in preparation for our:***

**3rd Annual Duck Derby Family Fun Day  
Saturday, June 2nd  
12:00-3:00pm  
Neahwa Park  
Oneonta, NY**

# connections

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



**May & June 2018  
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## **“Growing Communities, One Family at a Time”**

The Family Resource Network has had a very busy spring! We were excited to partner with the Binghamton Devils Hockey team for our first Autism Awareness Night at the Floyd L Maines Arena. Together with OPWDD, Springbrook, Family Enrichment Network, Magic Paintbrush Project, ACHEIVE and the Broome County Early Intervention Program, we were able to share information about programs and resources available in Broome County and surrounding areas with families and community members who attended the hockey game. This was also a special Dragon Dates event for the month of April. Everyone who attended had a great time!



We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer as well! We have been busy planning for our 3rd Annual Duck Derby Family Fun Day that will be held on Saturday, June 2nd at Neahwa Park in Oneonta. In addition to the rubber duck races, princess guests, music and fun, free activities for families that attend, this will be our first year giving away CASH PRIZES!

Finally, the Family Resource Network has several workshops and our Spring Autism Conference scheduled for the month of May. Please check out this edition of our newsletter for details on these trainings and registration deadlines.

## 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:

Executive Director: Michelle Zuk



### OPWDD Program:

Resource Center Coordinator: Kristin Winn

Senior FSS Advocate & Training Coordinator: Shelley Hubal

FSS Program Supervisor: Robin Piefer

Service Access Liaison: Renee Walker

Broome/Tioga/Tompkins Education Advocate: Shelley Hubal

Chenango/Delaware/Otsego Education Advocates:

Valerie Harris & Robin Piefer

### Youth Programing:

Program Coordinator: Blake Stensland

### RFPS Program:

Senior Family Advocate/RFPS Program Supervisor:

Barbara Finkelstein

Residential Family Peer Support Partner:

Valerie Harris

### CCSI Program:

Senior Family Advocate/CCSI Program Supervisor:

Barbara Finkelstein

Otsego Parent Partner: Jessica Morton

Chenango/Delaware Parent Partner: Terry DiLuzio



### Families Together in NYS Credentialed Family Peer Advocates:

Michelle Zuk

Terry DiLuzio

Barbara Finkelstein

Valerie Harris

Renee Walker

Jessica Morton

The Family Resource Network, Inc. would like to thank all of the local businesses, community agencies and individuals who have helped our agency meet the needs of the families we serve and work with. We realize it takes a combined effort to truly fulfill our commitment to our slogan “Growing Communities, One Family at a Time” and we appreciate your support!

The *Stewart's Holiday Match* is a holiday collection program, matched by Stewart's Shops, to help kids all year long. The 2017 Holiday Match program has set a record yet again, raising \$1.89 million for local children's organizations! From Thanksgiving Day through Christmas Day, Stewart's customers impressively donated \$945,000 to the program, which is an approximate \$19,000 increase over last season! Stewart's Holiday Match awarded the Family Resource Network \$500 to aid with our youth programming expenses and we want to share a huge thank you! We are truly honored to have been chosen among applications from so many worthy organizations and greatly appreciate the generosity of Stewart's Shops and their customers!

The Family Resource Network would like to thank the Faculty, Staff and Students of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton School District for the fundraiser they held in honor of Autism Awareness Month on behalf of our agency. The school held a “dress-down” day and raised \$135 which was all donated to FRN. In addition, they invited the Family Resource Network to do a presentation for their student body in grades 7-12 with the topic being Awareness and Empathy for Students with Disabilities. We were honored that the student body organized this presentation for their peers and that we were able to share information on this important topic with the students and teachers at GMU.

The Family Resource Network would like to thank the following agencies for participating in the Autism Awareness Night we held in conjunction with the Binghamton Devils during their hockey game on April 6th:



OPWDD-Broome Regional Office

Springbrook

Family Enrichment Network

The Magic Paintbrush Project

Broome County Health Department's Division for Children with Special Needs  
ACHIEVE



Together we were able to join hands in a team effort to inspire compassion, empowerment, and hope within the lives of those affected, while sharing information about services and resources that are available to individuals and families in the local community.



Please join the Family Resource Network for a Workshop on  
**Self Directed Services**  
 with Presenter Bill Twasutyn

**Wednesday, May 16th**  
**10:00am-11:30am**  
**Elm Park United Methodist Church**  
**401 Chestnut Street**  
**Oneonta, NY**

If you or your child are eligible for OPWDD, you have probably heard about Self Directed Services (SDS). Family Resource Network is offering a workshop for families who are interested in learning more about SDS. This does NOT replace the information session required by OPWDD.

The following will be covered:

- What is SDS and how does it work?
- Is SDS the right choice for your family?
  - How do you switch to SDS
- How to get the most out of your SDS budget

#### About our Presenter:

*Bill Twasutyn* retired in December 2017 after working at Springbrook for 44 years. He worked in many capacities including direct care, live-in house parent, Asst. and Director of the adult residence for 31 years and children's residential school programs for 3 years. He spent the last 10 years working as an SDS coordinator administering self-directed plans. In addition, he supported individuals and parents in better understanding the OPWDD SDS process and getting the most out of their approved budgets. He also mentored a number of SDS Support Brokers as they learned the SDS process.

This event is free for parents and caregivers of individuals with special needs.

#### Registration is Required

To register please send your name and phone number to [rpiefer@familyrn.org](mailto:rpiefer@familyrn.org). Please put "SDS" on the Subject line of your email and indicate if your loved one has OPWDD eligibility.

Deadline to register is May 14th, 2018.

For questions please call Robin at 607-432-0001.

## Teen Scene:

**Teen Scene** is a group of youth, ages 12-19, who meet once a month and participate in a variety of activities. Discussion topics can include dealing with bullying, dating, conflict resolution, communication, and leadership. The group also attends community events and participates in community service projects.

#### Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Saturday, May 19th 5:30pm-8:30pm @ Oneonta Family YMCA.**  
*Swim & Gym at the YMCA!*

Please join the Family Resource Network for a night of fun at the Oneonta YMCA! The YMCA and FRN will be joining forces to offer teens a chance to come after hours for free swimming and use of the gym!

**Monday, May 21st 5:30pm-7:30pm @ Elm Park United Methodist Church**  
*Smash booking Night!*

For this event the teens will be able to make their own smash books or scrapbooking page, both of which are cool forms of memory keeping! Kate Hewlett from Otsego County Community Services and Amy Schlee a member of our board will be joining us to run the program and give us some tips on how to make our projects extra awesome!

Teens are encouraged to bring photos or anything important to them that they would like to include in their book or page!

**Thursday, June 21st, 2018**  
**Oneonta Outlaws Baseball Game**  
 Games starts at 7:00pm  
 Damaschke Field  
 15 James Georgeson Avenue  
 Oneonta, NY

Please join the Family Resource Network for a fun night of baseball! Each youth will receive free admission and a food basket from the concession stand.  
 Please RSVP by Friday, June 15th

Dinner is provided so **please RSVP** by the day before the group.  
 Want more information on Teen Scene? Contact FRN at 607-432-0001. To register, e-mail Blake at [bstensland@familyrn.org](mailto:bstensland@familyrn.org) with your contact information in the body of the email.

## Family Resource Network Support Group:

The FRN Support Group works to support and empower families. Dinner is provided, as well as childcare (if requested before the meeting). Various workshops are given as well, when the group requests.

#### Upcoming Meeting:

**Monday, May 21st 5:30-7:30pm @ Elm Park United Methodist Church**  
 Willa Payne from "Legal Services of Central New York" will be joining us to discuss the agency and services they provide. They represent low-income families and individuals to enable them to obtain access to the justice system. Legal issues they can help with include Consumer, Housing, Education, Access to Healthcare, Public Benefits, Divorce and Family Matters, Domestic Violence etc.

**As always, please register prior to the date so we can ensure dinner will be provided for all attendees! To register, call Barbara Finkelstein at 432-0001 or e-mail [bfinkelstein@familyrn.org](mailto:bfinkelstein@familyrn.org)**

The Family Resource Network, Inc., and The Parent Technical Assistance Center are pleased to present our Spring Conference on Autism:

Practical Skills Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders Need to Know and How We Teach Them

**Featuring Daniel W. Mruzek, Ph.D., BCA-D**



**Date:** Friday, May 4, 2018

**Registration:** 8:30 am

**Conference:** 9 am to 4 pm

**Location:** The Holiday Inn Oneonta  
5206 NY Route 23  
Oneonta, NY  
*Lunch included*



This event is for parents and providers. The following will be covered:

- Skills that contribute to an Individual's Independence, when and how to teach them
  - Organization Skills
  - Problem Solving Skills
    - Public Safety
    - Internet Safety
  - Self Advocacy Skills
- What is the parent's role in promoting independence skills
  - Conflict resolution
- Technology and Independence

#### **ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:**

Dr. Mruzek is an Associate Professor at The University of Rochester School of Medicine, Department of Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. His primary research is in Autism Spectrum Disorders. He is an international speaker on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

This event is FREE for individuals with OPWDD eligibility and their family members. Individuals with OPWDD eligibility must be living in the family home in Broome, Tioga, Tompkins, Chenango, Otsego or Delaware County.

There is a \$30.00 fee for all other parents and providers.

To register please go to [www.familym.org](http://www.familym.org) and click on the News & Events and Conference links.  
Payment is by Paypal or check only.

*Deadline to register is Friday, April 27.*

For questions or to register by phone call Shelley at 607-437-0077.

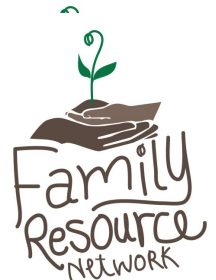
## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Please join the Family Resource Network and the Oneonta Job Corps Academy for our third annual

## *Community Softball Game*



**Friday, August 24th**  
**Doors open @ 6:30pm**  
**Damaschke Field**  
**15 James Georgeson Ave**  
**Oneonta, NY**



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

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## ***The Family Resource Network is Excited to Welcome Six New Members to Our Board of Directors!***

**Brooke Noble**  
**Caley Sharratt**  
**Linda Miller**  
**Mona Noble**  
**Neal Miller**  
**Rhiannon Ham**

## ***Congrats and Thank you!***



Upcoming training:

### **OPWDD Front Door Intake and Service Options**

By the end of the presentation participants will have gained an understanding of the services and supports available through OPWDD.

About our presenter:

Dee Osier, works for NYS OPWDD Region 2, Broome District. She is a Front Door Intake Coordinator.

**DATE: Thursday, May 3rd, 2018**

**TIME: 1:00pm -2:30pm**

**LOCATION: The Family Resource Network, Inc.**

**46 Oneida St**

**Oneonta, NY 13820**

This event is free but registration is required.  
Registration deadline is May 1, 2018

To register by email please send your name and contact number to Robin Piefer at [rpiefer@familyrn.org](mailto:rpiefer@familyrn.org). Please put "FD" on the subject line of your email and indicate if you are a parent/guardian of an individual with OPWDD eligibility or applying for eligibility.

For questions or to register by phone call 607-432-0001

### **Additional OPWDD Front Door Information Sessions**

Please join the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) for a general information session about the Front Door! This course is an introduction to OPWDD's Front Door Process. Please contact the Front Door Facilitator listed for the upcoming session that you wish to attend. Seats are limited and registration is required.

County	Date	Time	Training Location	To Register and Obtain Further Information Please Call:
Broome/ Chenango/ Delaware/Otsego/ Tioga/Tompkins	5/16/18	5-6:30pm	Phone Conference Call	Kelly Dean Phone: (607)771-7784 Ext. 132
Tompkins	6/7/18	1-2:30pm	Franziska Racker 1001 West Seneca Street Suite 100 Ithaca, NY 14850	Jennifer Frank Phone: (607)277-8020 Ext. 500 Partner Carol Armstrong
Broome/ Chenango/ Delaware/Otsego/ Tioga/Tompkins	6/20/18	5-6:30pm	Phone Conference Call	Julie Parker Phone: (607)273-0811 Ext. 246
Broome	7/5/2018	1-2:30pm	Broome Regional Office 229-231 State Street Binghamton, NY 13901	Julie Parker Phone: (607)273-0811 Ext. 246

### ***Join the Family Resource Network, Inc. for Our Upcoming Dragon Dates Events:***

Please join the Family Resource Network for a Game Day!



Saturday, May 12th, 2018

12:00pm-3:00pm

Family Resource Network, Inc.

46 Oneida Street

Oneonta, NY

Since our last Game Day was so much fun we decided to schedule another one! FRN will have a lot of card games, board games and video games for families to enjoy and if the weather permits we will have a basketball hoop set up in the back of our office! A light lunch will be provided.

Please register by Thursday, May 10th.

Please join the Family Resource Network for a Night of Baseball!



Thursday, June 21st, 2018

Game starts at 7 PM

Damaschke Field

15 James Georgeson Avenue

Oneonta, NY

Family Resource Network will provide up to four admissions tickets and four food packages per family.

Please register by Friday, June 15th.

These FREE events are for individuals with OPWDD eligibility living in the family home in Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware, Tioga or Tompkins County. Parents/Caregivers must attend the events. Siblings are encouraged to come too!

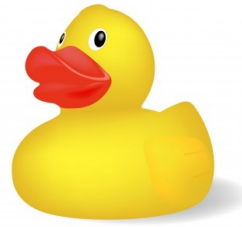
Registration for both events is required.

To register please call Blake at (607)432-0001. Please have name, age, and TABS# of the individual with OPWDD eligibility, and total number of participants joining us. If leaving a message please provide a phone number that we can contact you at.

***\*Family Resource Network, Inc. is not responsible for supervision.\****



## Join the Family Resource Network for our 3rd Annual Duck Derby Family Fun Day!!



**June 2nd, 2018  
12:00pm-3:00pm  
Neahwa Park, Oneonta**



Please join the Family Resource Network for an afternoon of fun at Neahwa Park! There will be multiple heats of duck races throughout the afternoon. **CASH PRIZES** will be awarded to first, second and third place finishers in each race. At the end of the day all ducks will be entered in the final race for a chance to win the grand prize!!!

While Ducks can be purchased the day of the event, they can also be purchased in advance at the Family Resource Network located at 46 Oneida Street, Oneonta. Ducks are being sold for \$5.00 each or 6 for \$20.00!

On the day of the event community agencies will set up with games and activities as well as passing out information about the services they offer!

**Surprise  
Princess  
Guests!**

*Money raised by the Duck Derby will benefit the Family Resource Network Programming and Legacy Resource Fund.*

**Music!**

**CASH  
Prizes!!**

**Fun activities  
and crafts for  
children!**

*If you have any questions or would like to find out how you can get involved with this event please contact the Family Resource Network at (607)432-0001*

*The Family Resource Network and Springbrook are offering a workshop about challenging behavior in students with disabilities:*

### **Students with Disabilities & Challenging Behavior: Legal Tips & Practical Strategies**

An overview of the law governing the intersection of challenging behavior and students with disabilities. Topics will include student discipline, behavior plan development, and placement issues. The presentation will include practical advocacy strategies, along with a summary of the applicable laws.

*Patrick G. Radel, Esq.* is a partner with the law firm of *Getnick Livingston Atkinson and Priore, LLP*, in Utica, New York. He received his law degree summa cum laude from the University at Buffalo Law School, where he served as Executive Editor of the Buffalo Law Review. Mr. Radel's practice includes representing families of students with disabilities at CSE meetings, due process proceedings, and in federal court.

### **Collaboration & Conflict: A Collaborative Approach to Managing Problem Behavior in the Classroom**

The following will be covered:

- Working together with schools to develop a plan that meets the needs of the individual
  - Strategies for behavior management
  - Crisis management after an incident has occurred

*Amanda Jones* is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and New York State Licensed Behavior Analyst. She works for Springbrook providing person centered behavior supports for families in their home, across the lifespan.

Light refreshments will be provided.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 9th, 2018

**Time:** 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Location:** Family Engagement Center Great Room  
Springbrook Main Campus  
Route 28, Milford NY

***This event is FREE, but registration is required.***

To register online, go to [www.familyrn.org](http://www.familyrn.org) and click on the News & Events link and the Event Calendar. To register by phone, call Shelley at 607-437-0077