

QUARTERLY REPORT

MISSION &
PROGRAM FOCUS

2ND QUARTER
2023



Message from the
Executive Director

Vision, Mission, Values

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Successes & Challenges

Thank You



**Horseheads Family
Resource Center**

“Where families learn together”

1034 W. Broad St, Horseheads, NY
607-483-1067

HorseheadsFamilyResourceCenter.org

Message from the Executive Director

The second quarter at HFRC has been an exciting one! Attendance at Playful Learning during the first half of this year has been the highest we have seen, with many families visiting each week and many stopping by more than once a week for special programs and activities. The Arnot Mall Playroom continues to be an important location for making connections to new families and for outreach.

Music & Movement has been added to our schedule three times each month with all of those classes being at capacity. This program promotes speech, engagement, and motor skills and has become very popular with families. We currently offer this class in three formats, "Baby Class", "Inclusive Class" and "For All Class."

While our day-to-day programs have had great success, we have also been working diligently during this quarter on the roll-out of a brand-new program for this summer. The Summer Lunch Program will provide free lunches to children ages 18 and under during July and August when schools are closed. We'll have more exciting details to share about this in our 3rd Quarter Report.

HFRC has also recently welcomed two new staff members who will be instrumental in helping the Supervised Visitation Program run smoothly. We hope to see more families served in this program over the next few months as we explore ways to decrease transportation issues for families in this program through the use of bus passes and Uber rides. So far this has been a huge help in creating better consistency for families who have previously had to cancel visits due to lack of transportation.

-Shelby Mickinkle

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PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	2023 Goals	2023 Actual Numbers 1/1/23 - 6/30/23
Families served by HFRC	500	576
Attendance at Playful Learning open hours	7,500 (avg. 150/week)	6,119 (avg. 245/week)
Attendance at small group programs and events	1,200 (avg. 24/week)	1,003 (avg. 40/week)
Number of supervised visits and intakes at HFRC	350 (avg. 7/week)	112 (avg. 4.5/week)

Our Vision

The Horseheads Family Resource Center envisions communities that recognize, support, and celebrate the role that parents and caregivers play in their children's development and well-being.

Our Mission

The Horseheads Family Resource Center provides inclusive, strength-based programs for young children and their families that increase school readiness, support informed parenting, and strengthen community relationships.

Our Values

Safety

We provide safe, clean, and facilitated environments where all families can play and learn together.

Respect

We welcome, accept, and respect all cultures, races, family structures, and abilities. Our diversity is an asset that we celebrate.

Empowerment

We recognize and support the strengths inherent in each family and child.

Learning

We partner with families in promoting school readiness skills. Staff members share resources and information about programs in our area.

Accessibility

We are centrally located and easily accessible by car or bus. There are no physical or financial barriers to participating in our programs.

Accountability

We depend on donations, grants, and family contributions and are committed to using them wisely.

All HFRC Programs are free and open to all!

Programs

Playful Learning Program

The Playful Learning Program (PLP) offers year-round drop-in play and learning opportunities during daytime, evening, and weekend hours. Our two locations offer a variety of toys and materials for creative play and an assortment of climbing structures and riding toys for physical play. During PLP, families engage together in developmentally appropriate play that supports school-readiness skills. As always, parents and caregivers are able to ask HFRC staff members questions about childrearing, skills for school success, child development, and referrals to other agencies and programs.



"The HFRC has been a great tool for me and my family... we were impressed that the HFRC has so much to do and it is free!"

Supervised Visitation

The HFRC provides this service to families who need supervised visits as a result of a Family Court order or due to a Department of Child and Family Services intervention. During visits, children play and bond with their non-custodial parents in our safe, fun, child-friendly environment. We provide a trained monitor to supervise and support families by modeling positive interactions, assisting with transitions, and being available for questions. This is a much-needed service in our community, with the need exceeding the supply. With half of the families enrolled in the HFRC's Supervised Visit Program being below the poverty guideline, the fact that the HFRC offers these visits for no charge is significant.



"We love the open play space with all the varieties of play"

Music & Movement

Music & Movement is an engaging small-group class that incorporates a variety of fun activities that assist in the development of speech and motor skills. Children in this program learn through their sensory systems utilizing touch, hearing, vision, communication, breathing, movement, and body awareness.

Parents and caregivers can sometimes feel isolated or resistant to participating in group activities with their children, especially if they have developmental challenges. Music & Movement engages parents and promotes participation and facilitation of play with their child while building confidence through an atmosphere of acceptance and friendship and through watching their child learn and grow!



"Definitely a fan of Stroller Walks on Fridays! Looking forward to it this summer"

Stroller Walk

Stroller Walks give families the welcomed opportunity to be active and social, which promotes healthy habits throughout the year and helps develop networks among families. Babies, toddlers, and school-age children, with their parents or caregivers, join us for weekly walks at various local, stroller-friendly parks. During the winter, the walks are held indoors at the Arnot Mall.

An HFRC staff member leads the leisurely walks and encourages the development of school-readiness skills through building language and vocabulary, using tools and materials, exploring with the senses, navigating social situations, following directions, listening to stories, and developing far-sightedness through visual stimulation.



"I bring the little girl I babysit to music and movement. It's been so good for her. She asks for me to play the songs at my house all day now."

Literacy Programs

Bright Red Bookshelf

The HFRC partners with the Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley to recirculate gently used books that we display on the "Bright Red Bookshelves" at both of our locations. Children are encouraged to take a book home with them, promoting literacy and book ownership, particularly in lower-income homes, while also encouraging parent-child bonding.

Bookmobile

The Chemung County Library Bookmobile visits the HFRC twice a month during the school year. It is a great opportunity for families to borrow or return books even if they cannot get to the library. The librarian always has wonderful recommendations and children (5 and over) can get a library card right on the bus!

Child Development & Parenting programs

C.I.D.S Developmental Screenings

C.I.D.S. (Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Developmental Services) offers drop-in developmental screenings at the HFRC to assess vision, speech, language, gross motor, fine motor, hearing, and social development. The C.I.D.S. team has information for parents regarding developmental issues and can provide referrals if requested.

Baby Bistro

Twin Tiers Breastfeeding Network offers their popular "Baby Bistro" at the HFRC allowing families to meet each other, ask lactation specialists questions, learn about breastfeeding topics, and help support other moms!

Special Events

Early Childhood Fair

On May 6th the HFRC hosted our second annual Early Childhood Fair at the Arnot Mall. Children were able to participate in activities and experience our playroom while parents accessed information on community services and programs. This event was completely free for all participants and included take-home crafts, books, and other giveaways. Child ID Cards provided by the Chemung County Sheriff and a visit from a fire truck were very popular!

Successes & Challenges

Successes

HFRC is thrilled to see the increased number of families that we are serving at our centers, and we consider the positive word of mouth in our community to be one of our biggest successes. Additionally, our community partnerships have grown substantially, and we are excited to be able to connect families to so many resources and opportunities. Lastly, we are proud to have taken a chance on the Summer Lunch Program to better serve our community this summer and to reach even more families.

Challenges

Sometimes our biggest challenges are having enough hours in the day to accomplish everything we want to do. With some staff turnover, we have been working hard to make up for the deficit and are excited to have hired two new staff members to help us accomplish our goals. We also see challenges in being able to help families with new issues that we discover every day. Food insecurity, homelessness, and those in need of intervention services are more prevalent than ever and we hope to be able to better address these issues as we move forward.

Community Partnerships



THANK YOU

The HFRC is very grateful for the support we receive. Every contribution helps to provide families with programs and spaces that are safe, fun, and friendly to all.

Thank you so much for your support and please feel free to stop by or reach out at any time. We love to hear your feedback and we love to share all of the great things we do!



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What families are saying:

"Love the playroom, open gym, stroller walk, and all the programs"

"HFRC has been so helpful to learn about what the community offers"

"We really appreciate the social interaction opportunities and the structured activities."

"Staff is very friendly and welcoming and makes me want to come back!"

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity he has to explore new things in a get-ready-for-school setting."

