

2ND QUARTER REPORT 2024

PROGRAM FOCUS



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.



**Horseheads Family
Resource Center**

“Where families learn together”

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

HorseheadsFamilyResourceCenter.org

Message from the Executive Director Successes & Challenges

HFRC had a great second quarter. While there were some challenges they were far outweighed by our successes. Our small staff had to navigate having some of our team out on medical leave meaning that our other staff had to pick up some additional tasks. All of our incredible employees jumped right in and even learned some new skills to make sure that families did not miss out on any experiences. We noticed that some of our community partners also struggled with being short-staffed and HFRC worked with them to offer as much to families as we could.

Additionally, HFRC invested in our staff by offering new professional training and we are pleased to say that all of our staff members are now CPR and First Aid certified! We also made the decision to add a Parent Educator to our team and she brings with her over 25 years of experience working with families and children, with a strong background in child development and behavior. The HFRC board also saw changes and we are pleased to report that we have a strong board team with several committees and some board members moving into new officer positions.

Finally, we are excited to see that our attendance is on track to reach our goals for the year with strong attendance at our open play, small group programs, and enrichment programs. We are working hard right now to make our summer programs a success and are looking forward to even more offerings this fall!

-Shelby Mickinkle

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HFRC PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	Goals for 2024 Jan - Dec	Actual Numbers to Date 1/1/24 - 6/30/24
Unduplicated families served	700	601
Attendance at Playful Learning open hours	10,000 (avg. 192/week)	5,929 (avg. 228/week)
Attendance at small group programs (Music & Movement, Stroller Walk, Parenting Classes, Park Rangers, etc.)	1,450 (avg. 28/week)	871 (avg. 33.5/week)
Attendance at supervised visits facilitated by HFRC	575 (avg. 11/week)	376 (avg. 14.5/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. Our programs support families' physical and emotional well-being.

Respect

We welcome, accept, and respect all cultures, races, family structures, and abilities. Staff and families treat each other with respect. 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 such as following group rules, taking turns, using language, making friends, respecting others and property, using art materials, using large and fine motor skills, and putting toys and materials away. Staff members share resources and information about programs in our area.

Accessibility

We are centrally located and easily accessible by car or bus. We work to minimize physical and financial barriers to participation. All of our programs are offered free of charge.

Our Responsibility

We depend on donations and grants and are committed to being fiscally responsible. The HFRC welcomes all feedback and works toward continuous improvement.

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.



"Such a warm atmosphere! A great resource for parents of young children!"

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 at no charge is significant.



"As a new member to the community this place was the first place I felt like I belonged."

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, movement, communication, breathing, 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!



"HFRC has been an awesome program for me and my 2 year old! He enjoys coming and it's nice to have this open, fun space where I know he'll always have fun!"



"We love coming here to play and the Stroller Walks. We have made friends which is great as we are newer to the area.."

Stroller Walks/ Park Rangers

Every Friday, HFRC leads a walk through one of our beautiful local parks, stopping to read a book and provide a snack. In the summer, we partner with Friends of the Chemung River Watershed and Tanglewood Nature Center which offer additional nature education. Children also receive a "Park Rangers" vest and a button for each park they attend. In the winter, our "Stroller Walks" are held in the Arnot Mall.

The Walks encourage 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. Families enjoy the opportunity to be active and social, connect with other families, and reinforce healthy habits.

Summer Lunch Program

The HFRC Summer Lunch Program is a USDA-sponsored program that provides free and nutritious lunches to children ages 0-18 during the summer when school is not in session. The HFRC runs the Horseheads site, welcoming families and serving lunches at a pavilion in Sullivan Park Monday-Friday.

We serve lunch from 12 pm-1 pm at the park and we also provide a variety of programs every day from 1 pm-2 pm which include swimming at the pool, taking home books from the Family Reading Partnership, selecting free produce at the Kid's Farmers Market from the Foodbank of the Southern Tier, and educational programs with Tanglewood Nature Center, Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, Horseheads Library, SNAP, and our own HFRC staff.

In its first year HFRC served over 2,300 lunches and plans to host this program annually.



"Well thought out and executed programs, Very creative!! Love the staff so much!!"

Early Learners Enrichment Programs

Early Learners Enrichment Programs are themed activities, crafts, stories, and snacks that occur during our open play hours. These programs include families listening to a story, completing an activity or a craft related to the story, and then enjoying a special snack.

Encouraging children to try new foods together with their peers makes them more likely to try something new and parents are often excited for these programs.

The craft or activity often promotes fine motor skills and encourages children to follow steps and directions. These Enrichment Programs are well attended with many families coming to the centers specifically to participate in them.



"The staff is wonderful, supportive, loving, and so helpful."

Parent Education Programs

Pathway Through Parenting

This 6-week parenting class was offered on Tuesday evenings and tackled topics like setting routines, understanding behavior, discipline, and more. Each week parents and caregivers met with our parenting educator to learn and share. Although this program was very impactful for those who attended, it was also clear that the time and commitment were difficult for some families and HFRC will consider offering a virtual option in the future.

Coffee & Chat (Coming Soon)

This program will begin in September of 2024 and comes as a result of requests from families and feedback from the Pathway Through Parenting class. It will meet on Monday mornings in the Mall Playroom with occasional evening and weekend offerings and will be led by the HFRC Parent Educator who brings over 25 years of experience. Coffee & Chat sessions will start with 30 minutes of presentation on parenting topics followed by a facilitated discussion, plenty of time for follow-up questions, and access to printed and online resources.

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 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!

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, educational, 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:

"Having this resource for my children and myself means more to me than I can say. I love that there are a variety of toys to allow our children to explore and learn. I like the little-big kids toys so kids at many ages can play."

"The staff are very friendly and helpful. It's amazing that it is free and helps so many!"

"We love coming to the HFRC! My children like playing with other children and all the different toys and activities. I have made many friends there and get a lot of good ideas from the staff and from other families."

