

# 2023 Annual Report

## CHILD CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL OF THE NORTH COUNTRY, INC.



Board Approved 2/28/24



194 U.S. OVAL, PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. 12903  
JBASILIERE@CCCCNC.ORG  
(518) 561-4999  
(518) 561-6956 (FAX)

# TABLE

# OF CONTENTS



**3**

**Our Mission**

**4**

**Our Impact**

**5**

**Child Care Resource and Referral Project (CCRR), CACFP,  
Child Care Pipeline, Deserts, & Legally Exempt**

**6**

**North Country School-Age Family & Community  
Engagement (FACE) Center**

**7**

**Infant-Toddler Projects, Creating Breastfeeding Friendly  
Communities, and Creating Healthy Schools and Communities**

**8**

**Permanency Resource Center (PRC) Network**

**1 0**

**Adirondack Family Resource Center (FRC) Network**

**1 2**

**Neutral Ground Supervised Visitation Program (SVP)**

**1 3**

**CCCCNC Staff**

**1 4**

**References & Supporters**

# OUR MISSION



## Executive Director, Jamie Basiliere

**The mission of the Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc. is to support and strengthen families and child care professionals who endeavor to raise healthy, educated children. We envision that parents and caregivers will raise children who flourish and grow to enrich their community.**

**We provide this work at our network of family resource centers which provide the foundational bedrock for all our services. These centers are Family Connections, home base to the Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc. in Plattsburgh, Families R Us Resource Center in Malone, and Family Matters in Tupper Lake.**



CCCNC Community Café for our Strategic Plan

# OUR IMPACT

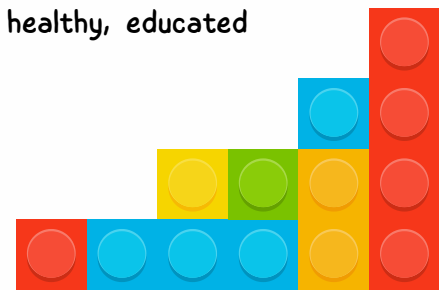
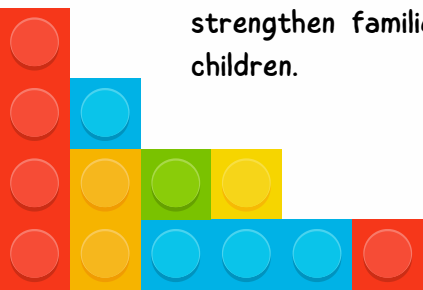


## From our Finance Director, Katie Wilcox

**The Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country has been financially supported by various funders/donors in the year 2023.**

- Most of our funding has been received from the Office of Children and Family Services supporting our Permanency Resource Center, Child Care Resource and Referral, Legally Exempt Child Care, Stabilization/Desert/Workforce Retention Grant, and Family Resource Center programs.
- Additional funding is received from the NYS Education Department for our School-Age FACE Center, Brightside UP for our two Infant Toddler programs, NYS Health Department for our CACFP food program, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for our Access and Visitation program, Franklin County Treasury for our Child Care Pipeline project in Franklin County, and Youth Bureaus in Clinton and Franklin Counties to support parenting education at our three Resource Centers.
- Our funding continued to include North Country Healthy Heart Network, Clinton County, and St. Lawrence County Health Initiative for Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC), Clinton County Health Department Breastfeeding Friendly Communities, Clinton County Department of Social Services for one of our parenting classes, and training fees and sponsorships.
- I couldn't possibly wrap up our funding summary without mentioning several donors who support our many services including the United Way of the Adirondack Region, Adirondack Foundation (including Birth to Three Fund and Tupper Opportunities for Youth Fund), Mountain Lake PBS, Centene Management, First Presbyterian Church, Town Fair Tire Foundation, the Gordon family, Kiwanis Club, and various appreciated private donors.

With the support of all the above-mentioned, our organization has ended the year with an approximate net income of \$190,000. The Child Care Coordinating Council looks forward to continue providing creative and dynamic programs, services, and resources to support and strengthen families and child care professionals who endeavor to raise healthy, educated children.





# OUR

# PROGRAMMING



**CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL, INCLUDING  
CACFP, DESERTS/STABILIZATION, FRANKLIN COUNTY  
PIPELINE, AND LEGALLY EXEMPT  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ALDER ROSE BLANCHARD**

## **2023 HIGHLIGHTS:**

This past year has shown our largest development and participation in training since the pandemic – a total of 66 trainings offered serving 258 different child care providers/staff across Clinton and Franklin Counties. It is also notable that child care providers are coming back to multiple trainings each year. While we served 258 providers, those providers filled a total of 1304 training seats – meaning that each provider came to an average of 5 trainings this year! Given that trainings average 2 hours each, this indicates that providers are getting about 2/3rds of their requisite training from our agency.

- This year marked one of our most diverse for content and trainers/specialists alike. Over the course of the year, trainings covered 9 out of 10 of the NYC OCFS required training topics. Our CCRR teamed up with professionals from within our organization as well as securing funding for content specialists from the larger community. Guest trainers/specialists included a Speech Language Pathologist, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, QUALITYstarsNY Specialist, NY Early Childhood Professional Development Institute Coordinator, Brightside UP Trainor, and those from our SA FACE, IT Mental Health Project, and Health Care Consultant.
- By leveraging our resources and securing supplemental funding, we were able to offer a large range of professional development opportunities, some of which had accompanying grants to purchase materials for implementation. Some examples include:
  - Be Your Own Auditor – Record Keeping and Grant Management
  - Elijah's Law and Managing Allergies in the Program
  - Updating Your Health Care Practices and Documentation
  - Self-Care and Child Care (2-part series)
  - Building Up Infants & Toddlers
  - Sleep and Rest Time – Navigating Naps
  - CPR/First Aid and Medication Administration Trainings
- Our CCRR team strategically paired training with specialized technical assistance – following up with providers based on inquiries in trainings. Technical assistance demand has increased – putting us above our target milestones each quarter. In 2023, we provided 1642 counts of basic technical assistance and over 257 hours of intensive technical assistance. We covered a range of topics, including, but not limited to:
  - ACEs
  - Best Practice
  - CDA
  - Observation & Assessment
  - Statutes and Regulations
  - Family and Community Relations



# OUR

# PROGRAMMING

**NORTH COUNTRY SCHOOL-AGE FAMILY  
AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (FACE) CENTER  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, THEO GOSSOU**

## **2023 HIGHLIGHTS:**

The North Country School-Age (SA) Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center continuously delivers training to improve the educational and transition outcomes for special education students. The SA FACE facilitated or co-facilitated 31 regional or targeted workshops about various topics including Training of the Parent Member, Transition Planning for Life After High School, Family Engagement within the FBA/BIP process, and Student Involvement in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process for Families. We select training topics to meet participant needs and the goals listed in the Educational Organizations (EO) support plans.

This year 300 participants including special education student families, EO staff, services providers, and community members involved in special education attended our workshops. Our team engages in advertising efforts to bring more participants to our workshops. This includes sending out monthly newsletters and regular social media posts. Our current Constant Contact email distribution list consists of 2075 community members, parents, EO contacts, etc.

Our team collaborates with our trainers including those of the North Country Regional Partnership Center (RPC) and the North Country Early Childhood (EC) Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center.

The SA FACE Center worked with local partners to organize three Community Resource fairs in Willsboro, Ogdensburg, and Potsdam this year. In addition, we conducted tabling events in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and St. Lawrence Counties to inform the North Country about our services.

The SA FACE Center works with partnering agencies including Measurements, Inc. and the Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) to develop improvement plans for Educational Organizations. These plans aim to improve learning and transition to adulthood outcomes for special education students. Thus, our team participants in Building Implementation Team (BIT) and District Implementation Team (DIT) meetings to guide individual schools and districts in their effort to meet the goals in their improvement plans. During these meetings, our team delivers Family Engagement Spotlights to inform stakeholders about best practices in family engagement. Our team updates and shares information about valuable community resources available to special education students to DIT members.

Overall, we receive positive feedback about our service. Our team engages in continuous professional development to improve the quality of our service. Thus, our members completed hundreds of professional development workshops to stay informed about the latest developments in family engagement.



FACE team tabling

# OUR

# PROGRAMMING

INFANT-TODDLER PROJECTS, INCLUDING INFANT-TODDLER  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INFANT-TODDLER MENTAL HEALTH  
CONSULTATION, CREATING BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES,  
AND CREATING HEALTHY SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, SARA ALLEN TAYLOR

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### Infant-Toddler Specialist:

The Infant-Toddler Project provides both basic and intensive levels of technical assistance to child care programs on all aspects of development through high-quality practices of care. Across Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties, in 2023 the Infant-Toddler Specialist provided 84 unique instances of Basic Technical Assistance (BTA), 154 hours of Intensive Technical Assistance (ITA), and well as 12 hours of specialized training specific to providing infant-toddler care. The focus of this work was on a variety of topics ranging from responsive caregiving, to promoting language and speech development, to infant-toddler feeding and mealtimes, to observations for challenging behavior, providing developmentally appropriate materials, environments, and activities, and much more.

### Infant Toddler Mental Health:

Infant-Toddler Mental Health Consultation takes place over cycles lasting 3-4 months, from pre-assessment using selected tools according to program modality, through goal planning and implementation, and finally post-assessment on measures of change. In 2023, the Infant-Toddler Mental Health Consultant provided 336 contacts with programs, including virtual (165) and in-person visits (171). For the 5 programs with completed outcomes during the year, participating day care homes increased DECA (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment) scores by an average of 10 points, while toddler classrooms in child care centers assessed with the CLASS showed an increase in both areas of Emotional Support and Engaged Support for Learning. Moving into 2024, the project expects to begin using the new IT-CHILD assessment from Yale University to standardize the data collected across all modalities.

### Creating Healthy Schools and Communities:

The Creating Healthy School and Communities project provides two series of trainings for child care providers on best practices to promote healthy behaviors for young children in early childhood settings. Both the Physical Activity Learning Sessions (PALS) and Nourishing Healthy Eaters (NHE) trainings were offered to programs across the region in 2023. Additionally, 6 programs in Franklin County received support and materials to enhance the implementation of these recommended practices through our agency's subcontract with the Heart Network. A new cohort is now also participating in the '23-'24 year.

### WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling:

The WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling program continues to support participant families in Clinton County through pregnancy and with nursing children. Two peer counselors contacted a caseload of approximately 75, discussing the expected normal course of breastfeeding, providing anticipatory guidance to promote and protect the experience, and providing timely referral back to WIC expert staff for any complications that may arise.



# OUR

# PROGRAMMING



PERMANENCY RESOURCE CENTER (PRC)  
NETWORK

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, JULIETTE LYNCH

### St. Lawrence and Southern Franklin Counties:

We helped several families with gas cards (around 80) and Walmart gift cards (around 10) during the holidays. We helped families by picking up food from the Feed America Program and distributed to them (20) this past year. We also helped a few of our families that are also fostering with diapers, clothes, and formula. We helped a handful of families with groceries as well from Save-A-Lot. We hosted Wise Up training for adults and children. Also, Wings and Roots Conference in Plattsburgh with April Dinwoodie who is a transracial adoptee, advocate, and nationally recognized leader who talked to adults about navigating the differences in race, class, and culture. She shared her story about foster care and growing up in a white family. Families all got hotel rooms and dinner that we provided for them. We hosted Fear to Love Mini-Series, which we adapted from Bryan Post's book, called "Fear to Love." Participants learned about parenting from the old paradigm to a new one focused on children who have therapeutically experienced trauma and parenting. A couple of our bigger socials that families love to attend each year are the Wild Lights in Tupper Lake and tubing at Titus Mountain in Malone. We have provided tickets for these events for several years now. We also hosted 3 adoption celebrations in Tupper Lake on November 17th in honor of National Adoption Month. We had dinner catered by Little Italy, different deserts and had a photographer taking family pictures. In the last hour everyone got to enjoy a comedy show by a local improv group.

### Eastern Essex:

Support was provided after a child took a car from his parents in the middle of the night to drive to girlfriend's house. Crashed the car into two other cars on the way there. Continuous referrals have been made before this incident and after (Families First, YAP, Pins, ACAP, Essex County Mental Health, etc.) Parenting books and advice given. Education on attachment and adopted adolescents. Referred to parenting teens class hosted by ACAP. We gave out about 12 gas cards to Essex families this year.

### Northern Franklin County:

We have supported an adoptive grandmother with getting new tires for her car, with a hotel stay for her partner during her open heart surgery, and with getting her autistic son connected with a residential program that will support his therapeutic intervention needs for some of his more problematic behaviors while she can recover from her surgery. We have supported a family of 7 children who experienced a lead in their fuel tank which resulted in the home being without heat and water, and the ground requiring a clean-up and replacement tank. We purchased a replacement tank and equipment.

"We cannot be more excited to be part of such an amazing group. Families Forever is great for families. Kristy is so knowledgeable and if she isn't sure about something she always finds out or leads us in the right direction." L.I. (participant)





# OUR

# PROGRAMMING



PERMANENCY RESOURCE CENTER (PRC)  
NETWORK  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, JULIETTE LYNCH

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### Clinton County:

We brought a family to the police station to report a sexual assault that occurred. Referred and motivated the family to make a report at the Child Advocacy Center instead of being investigated at the police station. Supported the family afterward by educating the grandma on behaviors the child has been showing since after the incident, checking up on the progress of the report, and offering to advocate during the situation. A family member of another family that passed away got support from up in the way of delivering meals, helping with making a picture collage for the funeral, and spending time with the family to talk through their grief. We helped with transportation and getting teen outside of the house during the summer while the caregiver went through back surgery. We helped with referrals to attachment therapists and resources with information on attachment with adoptive children. The family was having issues feeling connected to the child since being put into a treatment facility, and they only see him during breaks and weekends. They have been feeling more connected with the child since they have become more educated, as time has gone by. We have bought groceries multiple times for one family who has a very selective eater and behavioral issues. Also supported this family by paying for a hotel in NYC for a doctor's appointment for the child to see an important specialist.

Some items given out to families in the Family Forever program include tote bags, hats, self-care kits, crafts, sensory-friendly items, first aid kits, educational books, holiday craft kits, baby formula, diapers, clothing, mittens, hair styling gift cards, gas cards, community program tickets, stuffed animals, gift cards for Christmas gifts, bought groceries, hotel stays for necessary appointments, and so much more!



"The family Forever program has been a God send for my family. With being a foster family we were struggling with many things. The support groups have really helped me. The training enlightened me. The food program fed us. The respites allowed us free time and the group trips were very fun! - J.B. (Participant)

"Thank you for offering so many amazing programs! We are excited to try out more of them!" - T.S. (Participant)

# OUR

# PROGRAMMING

ADIRONDACK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC)  
NETWORK  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, JULIETTE LYNCH

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

We offered the following activities and services at all three of our family resource centers:

- Parent-child play and social groups were offered at all of our FRCs 2-3 times per week at each center. These groups are designed to support and strengthen families' social connections and their knowledge of parenting and child development.
- Parenting support groups are offered 1-2 times per week at each center. These support groups are ongoing, open-ended, and confidential. We offer an accompanying children's program and a meal or snack. These groups are designed to support and strengthen social connections (including friendships), knowledge of parenting and child development, knowledge of concrete supports within the community (food, clothing, shelter, health care), and social-emotional wellness in both adults and children.
- We offer both the Incredible Years and Nurturing Parenting program - both of which are evidence-based 10-12 week curricula. Classes meet for 2 hours each week for 10-12 weeks. We teach these programs a total of 9 times per year across Clinton and Franklin Counties either in person or over Zoom. Parenting classes are designed to strengthen parents' knowledge of parenting and child development.
- Information and referral are ongoing at all three family resource centers and are designed to improve families' knowledge and use of concrete supports in our community.
- Developmental screenings are offered monthly at each of our family resource centers as a means of identifying early childhood delays and disabilities as early as possible so that children receive early intervention/preschool special education services.

Families participating in programming at each of our FRCs



### FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Served 595 adults &  
their 508 children and  
they participated  
22207 times.

### FAMILY MATTERS

Served 157 adults &  
their 235 children and  
they participated 4094  
times.

### FAMILIES R US

Served 216 adults &  
their 270 children and  
they participated 6729  
times.



# OUR

# PROGRAMMING



ADIRONDACK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC)  
NETWORK  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, JULIETTE LYNCH

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

### Specifics

- 575 adults and 883 children attend parent-child play and social groups at the 3 FRCs.
- 149 parents participated in parenting support groups.
- 112 participated in either Nurturing Parenting or the Incredible Years parenting education series.
- 563 parents received information and referral regarding services in the community.
- 25 children had developmental screenings, 12 were referred for further evaluations

### Total between all three

### FRCs

**Adults: 968**

**Children: 1013**

**Families: 798**

**(306 were new families)**

Each of our FRC Coordinators at various programming



# OUR

# PROGRAMMING



NEUTRAL GROUND SUPERVISED  
VISITATION PROGRAM (SVP)

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, NANCY BUCKPITT

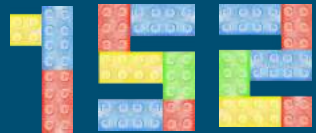
## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

STATS for Program Year October 1, 2022 - September, 30, 2023

## SERVED



## FAMILIES



## CHILDREN

Exceeding our program's target goals  
of 100 families & 150 children)

## ADULTS

- 64 visiting fathers, 43 visiting mothers, 1 visiting other (grandmother)
- 40 custodial others (Kinship Care, 43 custodial mothers, 35 custodial fathers)

### Referrals received: From Family Courts of the following counties:

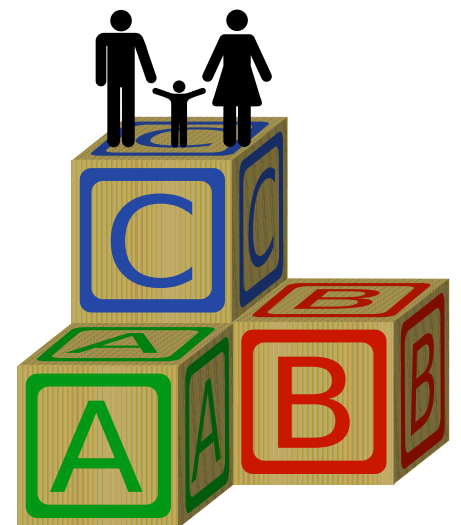
Clinton County: 62  
Franklin County: 3  
Essex County: 2  
St. Lawrence County: 1

### Suspensions: 37

Most common reasons for suspensions include incarceration, residential drug/mental health treatment, and failure to follow program policies and procedures.

### Graduations: 15

"Graduation" indicates Family Court revised the visitation order to an outside supervisor (commonly a relative or friend of the family) or to unsupervised time with their child. The program is mandated to complete follow-up interviews with the family at one and four months post-graduation. 14 surveys were completed this program year. At one month, 13 non-custodial parents reported increased time with their child. Two non-custodial parents reported that custody of their child was returned to them!





# CCCCNC

S

T

A

F

F

13

JAMIE BASILIERE,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KATIE WILCOX,  
FINANCE DIRECTOR

NANCY BUCKPITT,  
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR

SARA ALLEN TAYLOR,  
INFANT-TODDLER PROJECT DIRECTOR

THEO GOSSOU,  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR  
(SA FACE)

ALDER ROSE BLANCHARD,  
CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL  
PROJECT DIRECTOR

JULIETTE LYNCH,  
FRC & PRC PROJECT DIRECTOR &  
PARENT EDUCATOR

KELLEY GANGI,  
CHILD CARE TRAINING & TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST

PATSY ELLISON,  
CHILD CARE DEVELOPER AND CACFP  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR (MALONE)

CECILY HONNESS,  
RESOURCE & REFERRAL SPECIALIST  
(SA FACE)

BETH CASSELL,  
FAMILY MATTERS FRC COORDINATOR

ALLY MCDONALD,  
FAMILIES R US FRC COORDINATOR

ALANDRA MCNAMARA,  
FAMILY CONNECTIONS FRC  
COORDINATOR

ANGELA WELLER,  
PRC COORDINATOR CLINTON &  
EASTERN ESSEX

BRITT LEBOEUF,  
SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING SPECIALIST  
(SA FACE)

SUSANNAH SWEIGART,  
INFANT TODDLER MENTAL HEALTH  
CONSULTATION SPECIALIST

KRISTY CONLON,  
PRC COORDINATOR SOUTHERN  
FRANKLIN, ESSEX & HAMILTON

BILL EMPSALL,  
CPA CONSULTANT

VICKIE MARTINEAU,  
FRC PROGRAM ASSISTANT

LAURA JENNINGS,  
HEALTH CARE CONSULTANT

HEATHER WILEY,  
SVP PROGRAM ASSISTANT

BRIANNA FLEMING,  
SVP PROGRAM ASSISTANT

YURIBEL DILONE DE HALL,  
CACFP PROGRAM ASSISTANT

KT FALZETTA-MURRAY & JULIA DAY,  
WIC PEER COUNSELORS



# REFERENCES & SUPPORTERS

## Photo Credits

**Images from Canva Professional - Pages 2-14 & Cover**

**Image Via CCCCNC - Page 3**

**Images on page 10 and 11- Family Connections Facebook Page, Family Matters Facebook Page & Families R Us Facebook Page**

**Images on page 8 and 9- Family Forever! Facebook Page**

**Image on Page 6 - Cecily Honness**



**Department  
of Health**



**Office of Children  
and Family Services**



New York State  
**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



**United Way of the Adirondack Region, Inc.**