



**Child  
Care  
Coordinating  
Council  
of the North Country, Inc.**

194 U.S. Oval ♦ P.O. Box 2640 ♦ Plattsburgh, NY 12901

(518) 561-4999 ♦ (518) 566-7517 ♦ 1-800-540-2273 ♦ Fax (518) 561-6956

## **2015 Annual Report**

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.

The following report outlines our goals and achievements which were made possible with funding from many sources, including:

- NYS Office of Children and Family Services
  - Child Care Resource & Referral
  - Family Resource Center Network
  - **Kinship Caregiver Services—new in 2015**
- NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance
  - Access & Visitation Services
- NYS Health Department
  - Child and Adult Care Food Program
- NYS Education Department
  - **Special Education Parent Network—new in 2015**
- Clinton and Franklin County Youth Bureaus
  - Family Resource Center Network
- Clinton County Health Department
  - WIC Peer Counseling for Breastfeeding
- United Way of the Adirondack Region, Inc.
  - Family Resource Center Network



- Medicaid
  - Bridges to Health
- SUNY Professional Development Program
  - EIP scholarships
  - Videoconference training
  - Quality Scholars scholarships
- Several private sources including:
  - Adirondack Foundation
  - Plattsburgh Rotary
  - Plattsburgh Kiwanis

All tolled, the Child Care Council’s 2015 budget was just over \$1 million. We employed 19 staff members (11 full-time and 8 part-time). We contract for a part-time Fiscal Director. Our board of directors totals 13 members from many different disciplines throughout the North Country.

In 2015, our board and staff continued making progress on our agency-wide strategic planning process. Goals resulting from this strategic planning process include the following:

- Increase our role in the economic planning and development in our North Country region
- Serve more families with higher risk factors for child abuse
- Serve more families with disabilities
- Increase our organizational capacity to use technology as a means for improved communication and service delivery
- Increase staffing to include positions related to marketing, counseling, reception/clerical, and community liaison

2015 saw the launch of a brand new initiative called the **Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance**. Funded and overseen by the Adirondack Foundation based in Lake Placid, this new Alliance’s mission is to ‘create a regional structure to manage strategies that support a comprehensive and sustainable early childhood system as evidenced by school readiness.’ Several Child Care Council staff serve on a variety of Alliance committees—working in myriad ways to improve the lives of our youngest citizens and their families.

At the same time **North Country THRIVE** was reinvigorated under new leadership at SUNY Plattsburgh. We continued to be active on the THRIVE Leadership Councils working on several projects related to school readiness. The North Country THRIVE mission is to ‘ensure that every

citizen, regardless of age, has the opportunity to succeed from cradle to career and become a contributing member of society.’

With new funding from NYS Office of Children and Family Services, we launched the **Kinship Caregiver Program** in September 2015. We are currently serving 42 kinship caregivers from Clinton County and the youngsters they are raising. Services include the following: planned respite activities to give caregivers a break, twice monthly support/social activity groups with accompanying children’s programs, home visiting, legal, financial and educational advocacy, and educational programs. Also, we can provide some financial support in the way of paying for non-recurring expenses (i.e. car/home repair and purchase of beds/furniture).

**Special Education Parent Network** launched in June 2015 with funding from the NYS Education Department. This new and valuable program covers all the school districts in Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties with the following goals of helping parents have a better understanding of the nature of their child’s disabilities and their educational, developmental and transitional needs:

1. Understand strategies to support their children’s academic and social growth
2. Promote communication between parents and districts to resolved concerns through non-adversarial processes
3. Provide information to parents on their procedural due process rights, including the right to mediation, impartial hearings, and appeals and the State complaint process
4. Improve parent participation in the State’s measure of percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.
5. Assist NYSED to identify and promote effective practices for positive parental involvement in the special education process.

Since June, we have worked with 59 parents in a wide variety of areas pertaining to their youngster’s special education needs and we have reached out to all 24 of the school districts and affiliated staff to promote the program.

In 2015 we continued providing Medicaid Waiver Service provider on the NYS Office of Children and Family Services **Bridges to Health Project**. We served six (6) youth and their caregivers—4 from Franklin County and 2 from Clinton County. We provided over 440 hours of services

to these youngsters including Skill Building, Planned Respite, Family Caregiver Supports & Services and Special Needs Advocacy.

We also continued our collaboration with the Clinton County Health Department's **WIC program** whereby we provide the staffing of a WIC Peer Breastfeeding Counselor. We expanded the program to include two Peer Counselors who support mothers (and mothers-to-be) who are (or intend to) breastfeed their babies. On a monthly basis, these two staff provide peer counseling support to upwards of 130 mothers.

In 2015, we earned a certificate for the **New York Standards of Excellence** program for our Child Care Resource and Referral services. This certificate was awarded by the Early Care and Learning Council based in Albany. All of New York's CCRR programs have earned (or are in the process of earning) this certificate which acknowledges organizational and programmatic achievement in the delivery of these important services.

For more information on any of the Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc. programs, please call us at (518) 561-4999 or go to our website, [www.cccnc.org](http://www.cccnc.org).

### **Child Care Resource & Referral Project serving Clinton and Franklin Counties**

- 413 families were assisted in their search for child care so that they could work and/or pursue educational opportunities.
- 1030 child care professionals attended 113 professional development opportunities designed to improve their skills as early care and learning professionals.
- 2014 units of technical assistance were provided to child care professionals.
- 20 child care professionals completed the 120 hours of classes in preparation for earning their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.
- 10 new child care facilities opened up creating 210 new slots for child care.
- 49 child care providers from Franklin & St. Lawrence Counties participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

**Family Matters Resource Center in Tupper Lake  
(40 Marion Street, Tupper Lake—Former HGA)**

- 51 parents and their 72 children participated 2036 times at Family Matters in Tupper Lake. Of these families, 21 adults and their 24 children were new registrants.
- 68 children and 35 parents participated in twice weekly organized play groups 1171 times, including special Friday play groups with a creative arts activity.
- 11 parents and their 11 children participated in Parents Anonymous®, a weekly evidence-based parenting support group with an accompanying children's program
- Drop ins at the center included 24 adults and their 36 children for a total of 400 drop in visits!
- 15 parents participated in The Incredible Years—a 12 week evidence based parenting education curriculum that was offered on a rolling enrollment basis
- 8 children had a developmental screening and 4 were referred to Early Intervention.
- We gave 58 pieces of information and referral to parents at Family Matters about community resources and services.

**Families R Us Resource Center in Malone  
(3372 State Route 11, Suite B, Malone—Cedar Commons)**

- 92 parents and their 84 children participated 3320 times at Families R Us Resource Center in Malone. Of these families, 44 adults and their 28 children were new registrants.
- 47 children and 39 parents participated in twice weekly organized parent-child play groups 750 times, which included story time play groups in collaboration with the new Sensory Group.
- 35 adults received food from the center's food pantry for a total of 298 visits.
- 1 child had a developmental screening with Franklin County Public Health staff at Families R Us
- 36 additional families from the Adirondack ARC and Citizen Advocates participated in a variety of respite, recreational and visitation programs.
- Drop ins at the center included 42 parents and their 50 children for a total of 880 drop in visits!

- 19 parents participated in The Incredible Years—a 12 week evidence based parenting education curriculum that was offered on a rolling enrollment basis
- 20 parents and their 39 children participated in Parents Anonymous®, a weekly evidence-based parenting support group with any accompanying children's program
- 96 pieces of information and referral were given to parents at Families R Us about community resources and services
- In August 2015, Families R Us moved to much larger, more visible, and easily accessible space in Malone NY.

### **Family Connections Resource Center in Plattsburgh (194 US Oval, Plattsburgh--OneWorkSource)**

- 553 parents and their 451 children participated 12824 times at Family Connections Resource Center in Plattsburgh. Of these, 226 parents and their 147 children were newly registered in 2015.
- 232 children and 180 parents participated in thrice weekly organized parent-child play groups 3458 times which included Wee People Gym Day every Friday.
- 220 family units (110 custodial families and 110 visiting parents) and their 169 children participated in our Supervised Visitation Program for a total of 1536 supervised visits (1604.5 hours).
- 68 children had a developmental screening at Family Connections and of these 12 were referred for further evaluation to Early Intervention, Committee for Preschool Special Education, or their pediatrician. Another 33 children received ongoing therapeutic services through Early Intervention during myriad Family Connections' programs.
- 76 children and 139 adults with disabilities participated in myriad programs at Family Connections.
- We offer two Parents Anonymous® groups at Family Connections. At the evening group, 27 adults and their 40 children participated in this weekly support group with an accompanying children's program. At the morning group, 32 adults and their 30 children participated in Parents Anonymous® in 2014. 38 mothers from Clinton County Jail participated in Parents Anonymous®.
- The 50,000<sup>th</sup> book was given out to a child at our Journey Into Reading Program which takes place weekly at the Mall!
- 25 parents participated in The Incredible Years—12 week evidence based parenting education curriculum that we offered 3 times in 2015.



- 39 parents attended our newly designed a 10 week All About Baby Care Class. We collaborated with the Clinton County Department of Social Services to design and launch this parenting series designed to provide current information and resources about baby care and development to help babies grow up safe, healthy and loved.
- 1120 pieces of information and referral were given to parents at Family Connections about community resources and services.

Approved by the Board of Directors on January 20, 2016