

STATE OF THE CHILD IN CHEMUNG COUNTY

Prepared by the Every Child Matters Coalition



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Dear Reader,

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The every child matters Coalition was formed by a group of concerned citizens in June 2004 to support two main goals: To educate the community and community leaders on the issues affecting all children and families and to advocate for public policies and institutional practices that address the vital needs of children and families, especially poor and low income children.

Regardless of your political affiliation, place of residence, socio-economic status or other social factor, you and your family are affected by what happens to all children living within our community.

The enclosed information is designed to begin dialogues and conceptualize the impact that many key issues have on our families and our communities.

Please feel free to contact us for additional information or to find out how you can be involved. We can be reached at: everychildmatterschemung@yahoo.com

Thank you for your interest and commitment to the children and families in Chemung County.

Sincerely,

The Every Child Matters Coalition of Chemung County

Early Care & Education
Education
Health
Housing
Hunger/Nutrition
Mental Health
Poverty
Creating Healthy Places
Department of Social Services
Children Need Emergency Help

**CHILDREN:
OUR FUTURE
OUR PRIORITY**

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EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Child Care is a basic need for Chemung County families in obtaining and retaining employment. Securing quality programs at an affordable price for low income families, especially those not eligible for subsidies, is very difficult. Low salaries and lack of health insurance continues to be a barrier to people entering and working in the field of Early Care and Education.

CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Recruiting and retaining a well trained Early Care and Education Workforce
- Accessibility and affordability of care for working families
- Making children a priority by ensuring that only high quality child care programs can offer services

Child Care Subsidies:

The Child Care Subsidy Program assists families with the cost of their child care who are: income eligible (gross earnings up to \$38,587.50 for a family of 4) working families, parents involved with Children and Family services, and TANF parents who are working or attending an approved training program.

TOTAL SUBSIDY CASELOAD:

	As of 6/30/10	As of 6/30/11	DIFFERENCE
Families	607	690	+83
Children	1078	1177	+99

Children Needing Care:

Age of Child	# of children needing care 7/1/09 through 6/30/10	# of children needing care 7/1/10 through 6/30/11	DIFFERENCE
0-11 months	199	254	+55
12-23 months	105	125	+20
24-35 months	93	115	+22
3 &4 year olds	115	133	+18
5 year olds	36	47	+11
6- 12 yrs	111	108	(-3)
TOTAL	659	782	+123

Child Care Slots:

	As of 6/30/10	As of 6/30/11	DIFFERENCE
Ages 6 weeks - 12 years	2459	2629	+170

Professional Development:

216 Early Childhood Professionals received training to improve their knowledge and skills.

NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS...

- Chemung County participated in the QualitystarsNY Field Test in 2010. 4 Family Day Care Providers and 3 Child Care Centers took part in this intensive process. The evaluation is expected after the first of the year and full implantation across the state is expected in 2013.
- The Child Care Council is providing intensive technical assistance and support to child care providers that participated in the QualitystarsNY Field Test. The plan is for NYS to begin implementation of QualitystarsNY in 2012-2013
- The Child Care Council saw an increase in the numbers of calls for children needing child care. There was an increase of 170 new child care slots added. While other counties in NYS experienced significant declines in both

calls and child care slots Chemung County saw significant increases. This means that our child care industry as a business held strong through the worst parts of the recession.

- Programs serving 4 year olds will participated in the ELLCO literacy assessment for the 2010-11 year.
- SUNY Albany has been selected to conduct the final evaluation of the first five years of the School Readiness Project.
- The Child Care Council began the process of National Quality Assurance through NACCRRA. Expected completion date is by 2012.
- NYS has implemented a Time and Attendance on-line program for the child care subsidy program.
- NYS is applying for the Early Learning Challenge Grant which is part of the Federal Race To The Top Initiative. If funded, NYS will receive up to \$100 million dollars all focused on Quality of Early Care and Education.

** Source: Chemung County Child Care Council



CHEMUNG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

NYS’s current scoring rubric rates student performance on a 4 point scale. According to the Education Department’s research, students scoring at levels 3 and 4 are demonstrating the skill levels necessary to be considered “proficient” and on a pathway to be considered Career and College ready. These tables provide the percentage of all students (including special education) tested at a given grade level who met the standard.

A. ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:

District	Grade Level	Number tested	% Proficient
Elmira	3	545	49%
	4	554	52%
	5	517	42%
	6	499	47%
	7	476	40%
Elmira Heights	8	470	52%
	3	79	53%
	4	72	51%

B. MATHEMATICS:

District	Grade Level	Number Tested	% Proficient
Elmira	3	544	56%
	4	554	49%
	5	520	54%
	6	499	57%
	7	476	49%
Elmira Heights	8	476	41%
	3	80	56%
	4	72	64%

	5	82	44%
	6	97	44%
	7	95	41%
	8	87	47%
Horseheads	3	336	69%
	4	282	69%
	5	339	51%
	6	318	59%
	7	318	59%
	8	322	64%

	5	81	66%
	6	86	52%
	7	95	61%
	8	85	61%
Horseheads	3	338	70%
	4	282	72%
	5	341	65%
	6	320	51%
	7	318	76%
	8	322	70%

CHEMUNG COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

POST SECONDARY PLANS OF 2009-10 HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETEION

This table presents the post graduation plans of the 2009-10 high school graduating class as reported on the District's annual report card.

	EFA	EFA	SHS	SHS	Edison	Edison	Horseheads	Horseheads
Breakdown	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
4 year college	57	31%	45	19%	19	25%	113	37%
2 year college	89	48%	135	56%	36	47%	159	51%
Other post secondary	2	1%	4	2%	0	0%	3	1%
Military	5	3%	13	5%	4	5%	6	2%
Employment	17	9%	29	12%	13	17%	20	6%
Adult Services	0	0%	1	0%	2	3%	0	0%
Plan Unknown	14	8%	9	4%	2	3%	7	2%



HEALTH

Obesity Issues

Obesity is an excessive percentage of body weight due to fat which puts people at risk of many health problems. Obesity is assessed by the Body Mass Index (BMI) which is calculated from a child's weight and height and is a reliable indicator of body fat. An overweight child's BMI is between the 85th and 95th percentile and an obese child's BMI is greater than the 95th percentile.

Prevalence: Childhood Obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years. The prevalence of obesity among children ages 6-11 years increased from 6.5% in 1980 to 19.6% in 2008. And for kids 12-19 years increased from 5.0% to 18.1%.

Causes: The causes of childhood obesity are multi-faceted. It is generally caused by a lack of physical activity coupled with unhealthy eating. However, genetics and social factors such as socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, media and marketing and the physical environment all have an influence. Usually the reasons do not work in isolation and solely targeting one factor may not make a significant difference.

Effects: Obesity effects Physical, Emotional, and Social Health as follows:

Physical Health: Obesity can cause Type 2 Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, Fatty Liver Disease; Gallstones, Sleep Apnea, Asthma, Orthopedic Problems; Menstrual Abnormalities; and Impaired Balance

Emotional Health: Obese children are at risk of developing Depression, low self-esteem; and negative body image

Social Health: Obese children may experience teasing and bullying; discrimination; and negative body image

Prevention: Families should work together to follow these recommendations:

- Eat 5 fruits and vegetables per day
- Get one hour of physical activity a day
- Limit screen time to less than 2 hours per day
- Limit consumption of sugar flavored beverages
- Eat breakfast daily
- Switch to low fat dairy products
- Regularly eat family meals together, and
- Limit fast food take out and eating out

Important Facts:

- ~ 3500 calories equal one pound
- ~ It is much easier to gain weight than to lose weight
- ~ Walking or jogging one mile burns only 100 calories (if one eats one Big Mac and a large order of fries one gains 1000 calories and must walk 10 miles to burn off those 1000 calories!)

The Chemung County Health Department has information about local weight control programs.

Immunization Issues

Childhood immunizations continues to be the most effective public health endeavor that exists. The current recommended immunization schedule for persons 0-18 year's calls for vaccination against 16 different infections. And yet since 2004 the overall immunization rate for children 19-35 months old has been decreasing and most preteens and teens are underimmunized.



Influenza Immunization:

Between 5% and 20% of Americans come down with the flue each year which results in more than 200,000 hospitalizations and between 3,000 and 49,000 deaths.

The 2011 - 2012 vaccine will protect against 3 different strains of flu including H1N1. It is recommended that everyone 6 months of age and older be immunized against the flu every year because the previous year's immunization will not be protective.

Pertussis Immunization:

Because pertussis outbreaks are occurring nationwide it is recommended that not only children should be fully immunized against pertussis but all individuals who have contact with infants should be immunized against pertussis. This includes parents, siblings, grandparents, caregivers, and health care workers. The immunization agent should be Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) Studies show that 75-83% of infant pertussis cases with a known source of exposure were caused by an infected household member, with more than half linked to an infected person.

2011 General Immunization Update:

The immunization schedule for 2011 includes updated recommendations for 7 vaccines. The updated vaccines protect against pneumococcal disease; meningococcal disease, pertussis, Hflu type B disease; human papillomavirus disease and Hepatitis B diseases.

There are three schedules that provide advice on updated immunization administration.

Parents with questions about their child's immunization protection should contact their child's health care provider.

The Chemung County Health Department is offering appointments for student immunizations in addition to regularly scheduled clinics. For more information call (607)-737-2028 or visit www.chemungcountyhealth.org



Lead Poisoning Prevention - Lead is a poisonous metal found in paint used on the inside and outside of many homes built before 1978. Constant exposure to lead from this paint results in lead poisoning which can cause learning, hearing and behavioral problems as well as damage to the brain and kidneys. If caught early lead poisoning can be prevented.

Since blood lead analyzers were placed for use in primary care offices of the Southern Tier Pediatrics and Orchard Family Health Care and continued to be used at the County Health Department, more lead assessing has been done in our community.

In 2010 there were 1,895 lead screening tests performed compared to 2,516 in 2009. As a result of these screenings: 65 children were discovered to have elevated blood levels; 33 children had elevated blood levels in 2009. In 2010 there were 15 environmental investigations performed and 11 properties were closed for occupancy by children and pregnant women. No children required hospitalization in either 2009 or 2010.

The Catholic Charities Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Project continues to be as active as possible despite losing most of its funding. The project provides outreach and education when possible.

Oral Health - Tooth decay (dental caries) is the most common chronic disease of childhood. More than 40 % of children from families living below the poverty line have tooth decay by the time they reach kindergarten.

Three years ago the Chemung County Health Department Dental Sealant Program was developed to identify children with tooth decay, to refer these children to dentists for treatment, and to prevent tooth decay by applying sealants to healthy permanent teeth. The program was offered to Chemung County school children in grades 2 through 5. Parents needed to sign permission forms allowing their children to participate in this free program.



In 2008-2009, the first year of the program, Broadway, Coburn, Diven and Riverside schools were visited. Only 35% of students in grades 2 through 5 were examined because of parents not signing permission forms for exams. Of these children 34% had tooth decay.

In 2009-2010 Beecher, Fassett, Hendy, and Pine City schools were visited. Again there was a problem with parents not giving permission for their children to be examined and only 26% of children were examined. Tooth

decay was found in 28% of these children and 68% of the children had sealant applied.

The results of screenings at schools in 2010-2011 are:

School	# of students	% examined	% with caries	% sealed
Big Flats	232	21%	35%	80%
Center Street	206	25%	25%	71%
Gardner Road	282	18%	31%	75%
Ridge Road	263	17%	33%	82%
Intermediate	282	14%	38%	67%

A summary of the Horseheads information reveals that only 19% of the students were examined with 32% having tooth decay and 75% having sealant applied.

The program's three year summary shows that only 27% of eligible children in Chemung County were examined with 31% having sealant applied. It continues to be concerning that so few children take advantage of the dental sealant program and that so many children have tooth decay.

HOUSING



Shelter has always been considered an essential element of human survival. Decent housing is critical to the well-being of our children as it has a direct impact on their health, safety and stability. It provides the physical basis for a good home environment. Good housing helps to create economic opportunities and thriving communities. Adequate and affordable housing has been shown to have positive effects on the physical and mental health and educational achievement of children.

Affordability:

A key aspect of the availability of decent housing for many in our community is whether it is affordable. The generally accepted standard of affordability is that housing costs

should not exceed 30% of income. Census data for 2000 showed that 41% of tenant households in Chemung County spent 30% or more of household income on rent and that number is growing. By 2009 the Census Bureau estimates that 54% of renters, 26% of owners with a mortgage and 15% of owners without a mortgage exceeded this standard. A majority of tenants and many homeowners in our community are currently facing housing costs that are not economically sustainable.

The HUD local fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment in 2011 is \$786/month. To afford this rent a minimum wage worker would need to work 83 hours every week. The affordability gap is still growing. More families are forced to pay over 30% of income for rent leaving inadequate resources for other basic necessities and increasing their exposure to homelessness.

Homelessness Prevention and Emergency

Shelter:

The lack of affordable housing for all those in need inevitably places the most vulnerable members of our community at-risk of homelessness. For poor persons facing the legal threat of eviction, loss of utilities or other issues putting their homes in jeopardy Chemung County Neighborhood Legal Services provides free legal representation. In 2010 Legal Services handled housing

cases that benefitted 368 persons including 153 children. Another 313 people including 118 children benefitted from legal advocacy to obtain benefits that could help to cover costs to keep families in their homes.

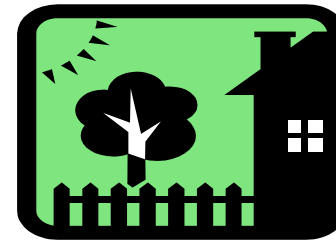
When preventive efforts are unable to assist all who are in need our community is faced with a growing number of neighbors who have lost their homes. The number of homeless persons served each year has continued to increase from 409 in 2008, to 533 in 2009 and up to 663 in 2010 according to the HMIS Homeless Data Report for Chemung County issued on 7/22/11. Of the 663 homeless persons served by Transitional and Emergency Shelter Programs last year 31% were in families and 18% were children.

Good News:

Locally the Catholic Charities First Time Homebuyers Program has over the past 16 years given 400 low and moderate income families with 505 children the means to purchase their own home. The program is sponsored by the City of Elmira which provides funds from federal sources to help with down payment and closing costs. It has become a major means for new homeowners to move into the urban core of our community creating a source of

investment in the city and a stabilizing factor for residential neighborhoods.

Late in 2008 Catholic Charities and Legal Services formed a collaboration to offer comprehensive financial counseling and legal services to homeowners facing mortgage default or foreclosure. To date this local response to the national home credit and foreclosure crisis provided services to 226 families including 320 children who were at risk of losing their home.



The Gas Industry and Impact on Local Housing

While it is becoming clear that the gas industry has the potential to become a major economic force in our community its impact on housing issues is still unfolding. Since gas drilling is a classic exploitative industry we can expect a typical boom and bust economic cycle with the boom coming on very quickly. So the statistical data used to gauge housing costs and conditions will not be as useful in a period of rapid change. Some anecdotal information on the industry's impact on local housing is already available especially from nearby communities along the Pennsylvania border. The Elmira Star-Gazette published an article on January 17, 2011 entitled "Gas Drilling Causing Twin Tiers Housing Shortage" stating that the influx of drillers into the area has resulted in a severe shortage of available and affordable housing especially in the Sayre-Athens-Waverly area. The reporter interviewed several emergency shelter providers. The director of the Tioga Outreach Center is quoted as saying that: "One problem is the lack of housing, and the other thing is landlords are increasing rent knowing they can get more money from people coming in for the gas work that is being done. That's been a huge struggle for us. We've worked with numerous people in this situation. Now they don't have a place to stay." The Captain of the Valley Salvation Army stated: "Gas drillers are living in

Elmira and Waverly. They are taking up places that we would normally have had. They are willing to pay more money." So we can anticipate greater demand for housing and consequently increased costs which will drastically curtail affordable options for working class households. Such conditions are likely to lead to greater displacement, more difficulty in relocation and increased risk of homelessness for local children and families. As a community we need to prepare to meet this challenge before it becomes a crisis.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Elmira Star-Gazette and staff of local agencies.

HUNGER/NUTRITION

(WIC) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

WIC provides nutritious foods, counseling on healthy eating, and health care referrals to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under age five who are at nutritional risk. **1,670 Chemung County children under age five participate in the WIC program.**

WIC not only helps low-income women and children, it also saves money. Every WIC dollar results in \$1.77 to \$3.13 in later health care cost savings, according to US Department of Agriculture. WIC prevents low birth-weight, iron deficiency and under-nutrition by giving participants access to healthy foods and nutrition counseling.

Children's Healthwatch found that WIC participation increases the likelihood that a child will be in excellent health, and, their weight, height and development will be age-appropriate. "Rather than saving money, cutting WIC services may ultimately result in increased health care costs," notes *Children's Healthwatch*.

Because it actually reduces health care costs, it is not clear why the U.S. House of Representatives proposes *substantial cuts* in funding for the WIC program, pushing the nation's fiscal concerns onto the shoulders of babies.

FOOD DESERTS

Many neighborhoods and rural communities across the country are without access to full-service grocers, creating what the U.S. Department of Agriculture calls *food deserts*.

Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Measuring and Understanding Food Deserts and Their Consequences (Report to Congress by U.S. Department of Agriculture 2009) indicates that some consumers are constrained in their ability to access affordable nutritious food because they live a distance from a supermarket or large grocery store (one mile in urban areas, ten miles in rural) and do not have easy access to transportation. Low-income residents bear the brunt of this gap. For families struggling with low wages, not having nearby access to large grocers or supermarkets impacts both their wallets and their health. Families whose budgets are already stretched to the limits don't have the extra money to pay for additional transportation costs or the higher prices of convenience store foods. The Report states that "the majority of

studies that have examined the relationship between store access and dietary intake find that better access to a supermarket or large grocery store is associated with healthier food intakes.”

1,256 Chemung County children under age 17 live in a *food desert*. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) identifies the southwest neighborhood of the City of Elmira (15.2% of low-income children in this area have low access to a large grocery store) and extending outside the city line into the rural area (9.4% of low-income children in this area have low access) as a *food desert*.

LOCAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

Many faith communities and human service agencies in Chemung County partner with the **Food Bank of the Southern Tier** to address food insecurity among families with children:

- Between August 2010-May 2011 Chemung County's 17 emergency food providers (food pantries, mobile pantry, Community Kitchen) assisted families with **50,735 children under age 18**.
- Food Bank of the Southern Tier provided **1,363,598 pounds** of food to Chemung County's

emergency food programs for distribution directly to families with children and others in need. (www.foodbankst.org)

SCHOOL LUNCH/BREAKFAST PARTICIPATION

Chemung County school districts (2010-2011)

www.nysed.gov

District	Enrollment	# Qualified for Free/Reduced Meals*	% of Enrollment
Elmira	7,199	4,302	60%
Elm Hgts	1,029	528	51%
Horseheads	4,425	1,260	29%
S-VE	1,027	490	48%

* eligibility means that household income is *under* 185% of federal poverty level (PL for family of four = \$22,350)

FOOD STAMPS

The federal **FOOD STAMP PROGRAM** (now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program *SNAP*) remains the most effective food safety net for families with children - providing more than two million dollars each month in purchasing power for Chemung County families who spend these dollars in the local food economy:

- **Food Stamp participation** rates in Chemung County increased during the past year. Currently **29% of children under age 17 in Chemung County** are served by the Food Stamp Program - **5,768** children; total adult/child Food Stamp participation is 14,802. (www.nyskwic.org)

A family's struggle to afford necessities often depends on their employment status and wages - and, the most basic necessity is

food. National data shows that the struggle of tens of millions of American households to afford adequate food did not get easier in the past year. Food Stamp participation rates often rise during times of economic distress and high unemployment. Unfortunately (as this

goes to press), the U.S. House of Representatives is considering a proposal to transform the Food Stamp Program into a block grant which would limit the ability to help all in need during future economic downturns.

22% of households with children in the 29th Congressional District (includes Chemung County) are food *insecure*. Food security = economic & physical access to the basic food needed for a healthy, nutritious diet. (www.frac.org)



MENTAL HEALTH



We are blessed in Chemung County to have a very progressive and responsive system to the needs of our children. This responsiveness includes those children who present with behavioral or mental health issues.

During this past year we had over 550 young people a month who received services through either the Elmira Psychiatric Center or Family Services. Almost half of these services occur within the confines of the Elmira City School District. This cooperative relationship works to the advantage of our children as they are able to receive the services that they need to get well, but don't have to leave school to do it.

In addition, we have almost 65 private practitioners who see both adults and children in our community. We are also fortunate to have Elmira Psychiatric Center right here in our county. We also have a community residence that provides residential services for those young people who need a place to live that will keep them safe. There are

also many other supportive services available including; four distinct mental health case management services, two mentoring programs and three housing options that provide a comprehensive system of care.

Chemung County also provides a very comprehensive screening process and probably the most progressive and proactive suicide prevention program in New York State.

Despite all of the very positive interventions available there are still some glaring needs. There is a huge need for more acute care hospital beds for those youngsters who need a high level of care and intervention to maintain their safety. There is also a gap in services for those young people who are transitioning from childhood to adulthood. The closure of Family Based Treatment homes in 2012 will most likely exacerbate this need. Without these services there will most likely be an increased demand for hospital beds and more reliance on the juvenile and criminal justice system. The biggest unknown is what the impact of the restructuring of Medicaid will be on this population of young people. The speculation is that youth who are not Medicaid eligible and who do not have private health insurance will be without services.

Poverty

The following are current political & social issues our community.

Poverty is defined as: Any barrier to prosperity. Poverty is a lack of resources and opportunity, feelings of being disenfranchised from various support systems (i.e. educational, economic, cultural and social), and diminished feelings of empowerment to obtain these resources and opportunities.

(Source: www.kjmwebdev.com)

Poverty statistics used by federal, state and local governments are based on the Health and Human Services Guidelines for families and income.

2010 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$10,890
2	\$14,710
3	\$18,530
4	\$22,350
For each additional person, add	3,820

- The poverty rate for families in Chemung County is 12.7%. (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)
- The poverty rate for families with children under 18 is 23.2%, 8.6% for married couples with children under 18, and 47.8% for female households with children under 18. (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)

- The poverty rate for families with children under 5 is 30.8% for all families, 13.5% for married couples and 45.8% for female households.
(Source <http://factfinder.census.gov>)
- The Child Poverty Rate for Chemung County is 21.6% (4,302 children birth - 17 years).
(Source: Kid's Well-Being Indicators Clearinghouse)
- Children and Youth receiving Public Assistance in 2004 is 8.3%. (1,678 children ages birth - 17 years) (Source: Kid's Well Begin Clearinghouse)
- For families with children under five, the poverty rate in Chemung County exceeds the state average. In New York State the poverty rate is 10.5%. The poverty rate for families with children under 5 is 21.5%. The poverty rate for families with children 5 - 17 is 18.4%. The poverty rate for families with children under age 18 is 19.2%.
(Source <http://factfinder.census.gov>)
- A parent working full-time (40 hours/52 weeks) at minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour) earns, before taxes, \$15,080. For a family that consists of one parent and one child,

the wages earned exceed the National Poverty Level by only \$370.

- Chemung County unemployment rate: 7.5% for May 2011.
(<http://www.labor.state.ny.us/workforceindustrydata/laus.asp>)
- Per Capita income in Chemung County is \$22,691 compared to the New York State average of \$30,634.
- Southern Tier unemployment rate: 7.4% for May 2011 (Includes Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties)
(<http://www.labor.state.ny.us/workforceindustrydata/laus.asp>)





Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play is a five year grant funded by the New York State Department of Health awarded to Arnot Health in collaboration with over 30 Community Partners to reduce and prevent obesity, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases in Chemung County. The grant will fund sustainable policy systems and environmental changes that will make Elmira a healthier place to live:

- ... by improving parks and playgrounds
- ... by making it easier and safer to get to places to play
- ... by creating community gardens to provide fresh fruits and vegetables
- ... by working with restaurants to make eating out healthier

To get more information contact:

Constance C. Scudder
Creating Healthy Places Grant Facilitator
St. Joseph's Hospital
555 St. Joseph's Blvd.
Elmira, NY 14901
Phone: 607-795-8001
Fax: 607-737-7772
E-mail: CScudder@stjosephs.org

CHEMUNG COUNTY **DATA**

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

	2010	2009	2008
Total CPS Reports Assigned This Period	1477	1402	1419
Total Initial Reports Assigned this Period	1210	1162	1162
Total Subsequent Reports Assigned This Period	267	238	257
Total CPS Reports Indicated This Period	385	556	560
Total CPS Reports Unfounded This Period	657	1036	871
Total CPS Reports Opened For Services This Period	89	83	205

Total Foster Home Reports Indicated This Period	0	0	0
Total Foster Home Reports Unfounded This Period	4	3	5
Rate Of Recurrence This Period	10.8 (as of 3/10 data)	10.9	No data available
Total Day Care Reports Indicated	4	3	2
Total Day Care Reports Unfounded	5	8	3

There were 185 children in care/custody during the year.

*Source: Chemung County Department of Social Services

Children Need Emergency Help in This Economic Recession Now!

Children have only one childhood and it is right now. Millions of children in our nation require emergency attention in our recession ravaged economy as poverty, including extreme child poverty, hunger, and homelessness; have increased, if irreparable harm is not to be inflicted on them and on our nation's future.

The greatest threat to America's national security comes from no enemy without but from our failure to protect, invest in, and educate all of our children who make up all of our futures.

- Every 11 seconds of every school day a high school student drops out of school
- Every 32 seconds a baby is born into poverty
- Every 41 seconds a child is confirmed abused or neglected
- Every 42 seconds a baby is born without health insurance
- Every minute a baby is born to a teen mother
- Every minute a baby is born at low birth weight
- Every three hours a child or teen is killed by a firearm
- A majority of children in all racial and income groups cannot read or do math at grade level in 4th, 8th or 12th grade and over 80 percent of Black and Hispanic children, who with other minority children will constitute a majority of our population in 2023, are behind in these grade levels - they have not already dropped out of school

America's future. We need to invest now in their health, early childhood development and education. Today is tomorrow.

God has blessed America with great material wealth but we have not shared it fairly with our children and our poor. Although we lead the nations of the world in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in billionaires, in military technology, defense expenditures and military exports, our money and our military might have not translated into moral might, adequate child safety and well-being, and a concept of enough for those at the top and at the bottom.

2010 State of America's Children ~ Children's Defense Fund

(read the full report: www.childrensdefense.org)

If the foundation of your house is crumbling, you don't say you cannot afford to fix it. Children are the foundation of