

# 2ND QUARTER REPORT 2025

## 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](http://HorseheadsFamilyResourceCenter.org)

# Message from the Executive Director Successes & Challenges

As we move through the summer season, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've accomplished together over the past few months. We saw tremendous community spirit during our Park Clean-Up Day, where families and volunteers came together to make a visible difference in our shared spaces. BookFest in Wisner Park was another huge success—bringing stories, smiles, and resources to local families. We're also excited to share that we are opening a new program room at the Arnot Mall with a goal of offering Music & Movement there soon and creating even more opportunities for connection, play, and learning.

Our Supervised Visit Program is undergoing changes, and while these shifts are challenging, they are rooted in our continued commitment to safety and sustainability. We will always welcome families to use our spaces for visits, but soon we will no longer provide a one-on-one supervisor, freeing us up to pursue more outreach programming.

We're also navigating changes in funding, which require us to be thoughtful and adaptive as we plan for the future. With some of our dedicated funders seeing increases in requests, their support of HFRC has had to decrease to answer those needs. This is challenging for us because we already run on a very tight budget.

Through it all, the strength of our community continues to inspire us. Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support makes everything we do possible. *-Shelby Mickinkle*

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PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	2025 Goals	Actual Numbers to Date 1/1/25 - 6/30/25
Unduplicated families served	800	560
Attendance at Playful Learning open hours	11,000 (avg. 212/week)	6,040 (avg. 232/week)
Attendance at Small Group Programs (Music & Movement, Stroller Walk, Parenting Classes, Park Rangers, etc.)	1,600 (avg. 31/week)	1,219 (avg. 47/week)
Participation in Early Learners Enrichment Activities during open hours	1,600 (avg. 31/week)	1,058 (avg. 41/week)

# 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. Over 220 children and adults come to our open hours every week!



"I think this is a wonderful program offered to the community. It offers interaction with other children that is greatly needed."



"Music & Movement has been fun and developmentally helpful. I love the interactions with other kids and parents. It's a great time!"

## 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! The demand for this program has been so great that we have increased from 3 to 6 classes per month which are always full.



# 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 healthy snack.

Encouraging children to try healthy 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 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. These programs are offered during the day and in the evening to accommodate all families.



"These activities are all thoughtfully organized, and we are always happy to participate. The craft activities followed by storytime are my favorite events."



"Park Rangers is a great activity for outdoor fun in summertime and staff is friendly and supportive."

## 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 other organizations who offer 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 and adults 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, Science and Discovery Center, the fire department, and our own HFRC staff. In 2023 and 2024 we served over 65 free lunches every day.



"I think all these programs are amazing and I'm blessed that they are available to our community. My daughter looks forward to all the programs every week."



"The programs provided have enriched my great-granddaughter in many ways. She loves coming and I love bringing her."

## 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. 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.

Although the structure of this program will be changing soon, the HFRC will continue to welcome families needing supervised visits to use our centers as a place for those visits.



# 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:

“Doing a story, craft, and snack makes my child feel connected to others doing the same activities, which is fun and helpful. Even though the free play is the most valuable to our family, the sprinklings of guided activities sits just right with our kids. It's really a good mix!”

"I think these are all great opportunities for families to meet each other. It can be hard for parents with young children to find each other and support each other."

“I have more confidence with my child and they gain more skills in their school activities.”

