



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

ORANGE COUNTY, NY--- On Saturday, July 9, Family Empowerment Council, Inc. (FEC) held its "Saturday in the Park" event where more than 400 friends and family members gathered in celebration of the commitment and accomplishments of individuals and families in creating a future where all people with special needs are supported by high-quality services that assist in their ability to live actively and fully, and enjoy all this community has to offer.

Entertainment was provided by E.Rock Entertainment, a tricky tray raffle and a 50/50 was held with the assistance of some of the participants of FEC's programs for people with developmental disabilities, and games, crafts and activities were enjoyed by all ages! The event was catered by Loughran's of Salisbury Mills, funnel cakes and lemonade was provided by the Warwick Valley Knights of Columbus and ice cream was provided by Stewarts Shops.

The Saturday at the Park event was established by the FEC Board of Directors to celebrate and promote the independence that the consumers and families have achieved. Every day direct care workers support people's individual rights and interests and encourage independent action and thinking.

Members of FEC's Consumer, Family and Youth Advisory Committee shared some inspirational comments to the crowd expressing their gratitude for the dedication, commitment, and focus of all of the staff. Morgan LaFemina shared the following quote that was provided by one of the kids in an Occupations, Inc. group home, *"Staff helped me adapt to situations, teaching me to cope with personal life problems and to create solutions, turning bad into good."*

"The people we serve show courage and determination in the pursuit of their goals and dreams as they embrace opportunities and unique choices for their lives. It was great to see so many families come out to enjoy this day and celebrate the accomplishments they have made." stated Amy Anderson-Winchell, Executive Director, FEC.

“FEC prides itself on encouraging and supporting their consumers as they strive for independence in all of its many forms. Saturday in the Park (Every day is the 4th of July) was a celebration of everyone’s accomplishments, but more importantly a day filled with fun, food, family and friendship. Thanks to all sponsors, volunteers, and guests who gave their time, talents, and gifts to make this day an outstanding success. We look forward to seeing you next year!” commented board member Cheryl Sanza, who chaired the event. “Saturday in the Park” was organized and staffed by individuals receiving services through FEC, family members, and FEC and Occupations’ staff and board members.

Premium event sponsors of “Saturday in the Park” were Provident Bank and Dana Distributors. This event is proudly supported by the Occupations Foundation, Inc., the fundraising organization of Family Empowerment Council, Inc., Occupations, Inc., and New Dynamics Corporation. Funds raised from this event will benefit the programs and services FEC provides to individuals and families in Orange and Sullivan counties.

Family Empowerment Council was established in 1993 by a group of concerned parents, including the late Sally McGlynn, seeking family involvement in the establishment, provision and advocacy for services to their children with disabilities. FEC is a person centered not-for-profit corporation which promotes the individualization, independence, integration and productivity of people with disabilities. FEC provides a variety of services including service coordination for diverse populations, support for families with children with serious mental illness, consumer-directed personal care, residential and day habilitation, respite and educational advocacy. Family Empowerment Council is a part of the Occupations, Inc. corporate system with FEC remaining as an independent entity. To learn more about the programs and services of Family Empowerment Council, visit www.familyempowerment.org

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Rebecca McFarland and Jamie Moore were part of the team to help organize Family Empowerment Council's Saturday in the Park event on July 9th.



Family Empowerment Council (FEC) board member, John Guattery and his daughter, Christine, enjoyed great food, fun and entertainment at FEC's Saturday in the Park event on July 9.