



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Laura Richardson Houghton Corning Youth Center Hosts Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration

The Laura Richardson Houghton Corning Youth Center, a program of Family Service Society, Inc., hosted its annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 17, 2022. This annual event was back for its first in-person dinner in 3 years. With community support, the Corning Youth Center was able to offer this as a free community event.

Beloved Chef Mary Lou Stead's Thanksgiving meal included turkey and all of the trimmings and was served by special community partners, including NYS Legislative Representative Phil Palmesano, members of the Corning Police Department including Chief Kenzie Spaulding, Corning Fire Chief David Davies, Steuben County Legislators Hilda Lando and Carol Ferratella, Corning Painted Post Elementary Principal Ann Collins, and several others. The youth at the Center assisted in table decorations and planning for this much-anticipated event.

Dr. Cynthia Gee, Executive Director of Family Service Society, Inc. reported the Corning Youth Center team was very motivated to get the community event back to an in-person event after a few challenging years, indicating, "*Coming together with shared purpose is what makes our community thrive.*" In 2020 and 2021, the Corning Youth Center provided grab-and-go Thanksgiving meals.

For more information, please contact Dr. Cynthia Gee at 607-962-3148 or geec@familyservicesociety.org, or visit www.familyservicesociety.org.

(5) PICTURES ARE INCLUDED ON NEXT PAGE:



Cynthia Gee, FSS Executive Director; Lauri Andrukat, FSS Board President; Mary Lou Stead, Youth Center Chef; and Bianca Crandle, Director of Youth Services and Prevention Education



Executive Director, Dr. Cynthia Gee, experienced her first in-person Thanksgiving dinner at the Corning Youth Center since becoming Family Service Society, Inc.'s Executive Director in April 2021.



The Corning City Police Department not only served dinner and visited with the youth, but they also got a tour of our T.R.E.E. of Dreams Teen Space on the second floor of the Corning Youth Center.



Some of our Youth Center youth posing with their favorite Youth Center chef - Mary Lou Stead.



Community volunteers (including Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, Legislator Hilda Lando, and members of the Corning City Police Department) were happy to help serve dinner.