

Jennifer Helie
Health Educator & SAMHSA Coordinator

Jennifer has a background in education, military and veteran advocacy, and customer service. She has a bachelor's degree in Educational Studies from St. Bonaventure University and is a first-generation graduate. In addition, Jennifer "Jen" has previous education experience as a substitute teacher for Salamanca and Ellicottville school districts in Cattaraugus County and as a Seneca Language and Culture apprentice for the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Furthermore, Jen is a Bear Clan member of the Seneca Nation of Indians and a member of the Iroquois American Legion Post #1587. She is a United States Air Force (1998-2003) veteran as an air surveillance technician onboard the AWACS Boeing E-3 Sentry and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. While a student, Jen was also an involved member of the Military Aligned Students Program (MASP) at St. Bonaventure University and was able to attend the Veterans Wellness Pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome, Italy, that follows St. Francis' path from a prisoner of war (POW) through his conversion and death.

In addition, she has experience in outreach, peer support, marketing/fundraising, and case management for veterans and their families through the Veterans One-stop Center of WNY and the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer to Peer Program, with the goal being empowerment and suicide prevention of veterans in New York's Southern Tier. Since 2020, she has been a member of the Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition Sub-committee for Chautauqua and Cattaraugus County. She is excited to be advocating for holistic health for students of the Bonaventure community.

Jen loves to go on adventures, travel, relax in nature and at home with her family and animals. She lives on a small homestead with goats, chickens, dogs, and cats.