



# F.A.C.T. Newsletter

## Fall 2010



### 7th Annual Music of Our Hearts Karaoke Event



Many supporters as well as the entire staff of F.A.C.T turned out for this year's Music of Our Hearts Karaoke Event. The songs, smiles and laughs were plentiful in the light-hearted atmosphere. Spectators enjoyed lively performances from several members of the F.A.C.T staff including Jennifer Brooks, Administrative Coordinator for Operations, whose performances were complete with wardrobe changes and choreography.

F.A.C.T was able to raise over \$9,000 due to the live auction, raffles and other generous donations. A few of the prizes for those that participated in the auction and raffles included a night on the town with four tickets to a St. Louis Blues game, a \$50.00 gift certificate to Mike Shannon's and a one-night stay at a Drury Inn, a seven night stay at Terrace Ridge Condo Resort in Orlando, Florida, two adult passes to Meramec Caverns and two 2011 season passes to Six Flags.

The F.A.C.T staff and board would like to thank everyone who attended our 7th Annual Music of Our Hearts Karaoke fundraiser. Thanks to your generosity and support we are able to work towards our mission of mentoring and empowering families that have children with disabilities.



# News and Events

☞The St. Charles Family Empowerment Celebration at Incredible Pizza was a success. Parents and children alike had a wonderful time. Families had dinner, played games, and had an opportunity to network with each other. A special thanks to the CCRB for their support.

☞The 1st Franklin County Family Empowerment Celebration was held in October. Parents enjoyed dinner at the Pasta House while the children went to the movies and saw Legend of the Guardians in 3D. Fun was had by all! Thanks FCCRB for your support.



## **WELCOME-A-BOARD**



**F.A.C.T. welcomes our newest board members: Joe Aiello and Richard Allen. We are excited that they have chosen to be involved with our organization and look forward to their participation.**



☞F.A.C.T. has two new staff members: Ebony Pollard is the new Administrative Assistant, and Kellie Million is our newest Parent Partner. Check out our website to view their biographies.

☞Holiday Hours: F.A.C.T. will be closed from December 24th to December 31st and will reopen on January 3rd.

☞Don't forget to check out our blog at [www.factmo.org](http://www.factmo.org) for the latest news and information on disabilities.



☞The Knights of Columbus have celebrated their 20th anniversary doing No Hunger Holiday in St. Charles County and Lincoln County. They supported over 65 F.A.C.T. families, and over 1600 families in all. We give a big THANK YOU to the Knights of Columbus for their hard work and dedication to the families in our community.



## 2011 Workshop Schedule

<p><b>Special Education Basics</b></p> <p>Jan 11 Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>Feb 19 Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM</p> <p>Mar 7 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>Apr 16 Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM</p> <p>May 2 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>June 18 Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM</p>	<p><b>The IEP Process</b></p> <p>Jan 18 Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>Feb 19 Saturday 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM</p> <p>Mar 14 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>Apr 16 Saturday 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM</p> <p>May 9 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>June 18 Saturday 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Effective Communication</b></p> <p>Jan 25 Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>Feb 19 Saturday 1:15 - 3:15 PM</p> <p>Mar 21 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>Apr 16 Saturday 1:15 - 3:15 PM</p> <p>May 16 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>June 18 Saturday 1:15 - 3:15 PM</p>	<p><b>Child Abuse and Neglect</b></p> <p>Jan 31 Monday 6:30-8:30 PM</p> <p>Feb 12 Saturday 10:00 AM - Noon</p> <p>Mar 28 Monday 6:30-8:30 PM</p> <p>Apr 23 Saturday 10:00 AM - Noon</p> <p>May 23 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM</p> <p>June 11 Saturday 10:00 AM - Noon</p>
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## Early Childhood Special Education May Become a “Voluntary” State Service in Order to Cut Costs

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that ensures services to children with disabilities, governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, and dictates special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible children.

- Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth – 2) and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C.
- Children and youth (ages 3-21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.
- Special Education for Kindergarten – 12th grade is mandatory under IDEA.
- ECSE and Early Intervention are voluntary, but all states voted to make these mandatory as well.

This year several states, including Missouri, are considering making these programs voluntary in order to cut costs. Legislators from the Missouri Senate Education Committee requested the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) look at ways to reduce costs. DESE identified ECSE as a program that could be made voluntary, but only by statutory changes. If legislators chose to make section 619 voluntary for each state this would have a devastating effect on children served by early childhood special education.

Join in spreading the word. Current efforts include a campaign to educate all concerned parties including special education providers, superintendents, parents, concerned community members, and legislators, to stress the importance of ECSE and strongly discourage any attempts to make it voluntary in the state of Missouri. Check out our blog at [www.factmo.org](http://www.factmo.org) to see a sample letter.



## National Federation of Families 21st Annual Conference in Atlanta

F.A.C.T. staff recently attended the National Federation of Families conference in Atlanta, GA. This was an excellent opportunity for us to learn what other organizations throughout the country are doing within their counties as well as to confer with other people to see how they make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

One of the highlights of the conference was getting to hear author Wes Moore discuss his novel *The Other Wes Moore*. The novel parallels the lives of two people brought up in the same area; both of which were named Wes Moore. Wes # 1 grew up, graduated from military school, followed by John Hopkins University and is now a successful businessman and author. Wes # 2 started selling drugs at a young age, fathered a child by his 16th birthday, and was imprisoned for life at the age of 23 after being convicted of murder. Author Wes Moore wanted to know the difference. Why did these two boys from the same neighborhood with similar obstacles have lives that turned out so differently? He decided to contact the imprisoned Wes Moore to see if there was an answer. He asks him, “Are we all just products of our environment?” The 33 year old man, who will be in prison for the rest of his life as parole isn’t an option for him, responded that maybe we were products of our expectations. He meant that maybe people only live up to what is expected of them from other people. At some point others’ expectations become your own expectations. If no one expects for you to graduate, maybe you won’t graduate. If everyone expects that you will sell drugs, maybe you will sell drugs. And maybe if everyone expects for you to graduate, go to college and be successful, those things will happen instead.

As an agency this hit home for us. We work every day to get rid of stigmas that are attached to disabilities and mental illness. We work to change laws so that offensive terminology isn’t used and people don’t have to feel like they are worth less because they have a disability. We want all children to be treated fairly and to be given the same opportunities as other children regardless of ability. We have high expectations for our community, and the children and families within it and we hope you do too.

# Take our online survey and be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Card to Schnucks!

We are trying to improve our services and we need your feedback. We want to know what you think about F.A.C.T.'s support groups. Do you want to hear guest speakers discussing various disability related subjects? Are there obstacles that prevent you from attending our support



groups? Would you like to have input into what subjects are discussed? Would respite be helpful? How often should we have our support groups? Just go to [www.factmo.org](http://www.factmo.org) between December 5th and December 15th to fill out our online survey. After the results are collected a random drawing that includes all participants will take place and the winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Schnucks.

## Donate by the End of the Year to Receive Your 2010 Tax Deduction



Dear F.A.C.T Supporter,

Every year F.A.C.T. depends on you to support our fund raising efforts. We would like to ask you to be thinking of us when you do your holiday shopping in the upcoming season. We are already planning our 2011 Hopes and Dreams Gala and are trying to get a head start on our donated auction items. As those of you who have attended our gala in the past know we try to have a variety of auction items that might include artwork, antiques, electronics, garden/patio pieces, jewelry, and home items among others. Every donation we receive is tax deductible and benefits the life of a child with disabilities. And if that isn't convenient for you feel free to send us a check or go to our website to donate. Please call Jennifer Brooks at 636.949.2425 ext. 255 or e-mail her at [jbrooks@factmo.org](mailto:jbrooks@factmo.org) if you would like more information. We are happy to come to you to pick up any item that you would care to donate. As always we appreciate your contributions.

Sincerely,  
F.A.C.T. Gala Committee



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Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #6  
St. Charles, MO 63301



## Save the Dates

**Our 2nd Annual Trivia Night will be held on February 18, 2011 at The Lion's Club of Harvester in St. Charles, MO. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. You can buy a table of 8 on our website for \$160.**



**Our 16th Annual Hopes and Dreams Gala will be held on May 6, 2011 at Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peters at 7:00 pm. Our theme will be Friday Night Fever. You don't want to miss it!**