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F.A.C.T. Advocates Go to Orlando for Training

Thanks to generous funding from the DDRB and the Harmon Foundation the F.A.C.T. advocates and management staff attended the 31st LRP National Institute Conference on Special Education in May 2010. This conference brings together top experts in special education to help participants understand and implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), prepare for legal challenges, and carry out responsibilities surrounding Individual Education Programs (IEP'S), discipline, due process and more. This was an excellent opportunity for the advocates to get the most comprehensive overview of significant special education court cases and critical updates on complying with the law and regulations. This conference also provided F.A.C.T. staff an opportunity to exchange ideas and network with colleagues from other states.

Lynn Foust

F.A.C.T. Newsletter

Summer 2010

15th Annual Hopes and Dreams Gala



What a night! What fun! What a success! Thanks to all who came to the “Kentucky Derby” themed gala on April 30th. We had a sell out event for the first time in F.A.C.T. history! We celebrated with our honorees Dr. Jerry Marks, Senator Rupp, and former St. Peters Mayor Thom Brown as well as our Parent Guest Speakers, Janet Flanagan and Sherry Jeffries. Auctioneer Andy Garrett conducted our live auction which included a Remington Bronze Sculpture “Coming Through the Rye,” a North Carolina Beach Home, a year of daycare at Kiddie Kingdom, and dinner with Ram’s player James Laurinaitis among other fabulous items. The ladies were wearing their beautiful hats and the men joined in the fun by participating in the bow tie contest. Because no derby party can be complete without a mint julep, we had those available too. Days later when the excitement finally died down it was apparent to the gala committee members that F.A.C.T.’s mission to mentor and empower families through advocacy and training to improve the quality of life and opportunities for children and young adults with disabilities was not only heard but, with the generosity of the community, supported financially. F.A.C.T. will continue to serve families that have children with developmental disabilities and/or serious emotional disorders while they strive to reach their own individual hopes and dreams.



2010 Cardinal Care Back to School Event

This year's Back to School event was hot, hot, hot until the rain came, and then it was humid, humid, humid! The weather didn't stop us from enjoying ourselves though. The kids received their back packs full of school supplies, played on the playground amid the puddles, and visited with Fred Bird©. We had hot dogs and hamburgers grilled by Scott Lytle who graciously donated his time and cooking talents, along with chips, cookies, and soda. There was a great turnout as F.A.C.T. supplied over 275 backpacks to St. Charles County Families this year. We even had a few board members, Lynn Harmon (Board President) and Terry Stark, stop by to partake in the fun. This is one of F.A.C.T. Staff's favorite events and we thank all who braved the heat and came out to join us.



2010 Workshop Schedule

Special Education Basics	The IEP Process	Effective Communication	Child Abuse and Neglect	Transition to Success
August 3 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	August 10 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	August 17 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	August 31 Tuesday 6:30-8:30 PM	August 30 Monday 6:30-8:30 PM
September 12 Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM	September 12 Saturday 10:30 - 12:30 PM	September 12 Saturday 1:15 - 3:15 PM	September 28 Tuesday 6:30-8:30 PM	September 25 Saturday 10:00-Noon
October 5 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	October 12 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	October 19 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	October 26 Tuesday 6:30-8:30 PM	October 28 Thursday 6:30-8:30 PM
November 1 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	November 8 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	November 15 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	November 30 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	November 22 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM

F.A.C.T. News, Updates, and Events

❑ **F.A.C.T. has an intern:** Alyssa Schaffrin

Hi everyone! I just wanted to introduce myself since I have been a temporary addition to the F.A.C.T. office. My name is Alyssa Schaffrin and I am interning here this summer. I am 20 years old and I attend Southeast Missouri State University. My major is Child Development with a minor in Family Studies. Ultimately, I would like to work with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or possibly work for an adoption agency in the future. I have two years left at SEMO and many more practicum experiences to come. My time at F.A.C.T. is marking my first of these practicums. I'm taking every opportunity here to learn what I can and make the most of the experience. Thanks!

≡ **Save the Date** for our 7th Annual Music of Our Hearts Karaoke Event on October 16, 2010. This year's theme will be "Wedding Reception."

≡ **Save the Date** for our 16th Annual Hopes and Dreams Gala on April 29, 2011.

⌘ **F.A.C.T. is Getting a New Web Site!** We have hired an innovative company, Big Wide Sky, to redesign our website so that it better suits our customers, and future customer's needs. The new website is expected to be released within the next month. Included in our new website will be links to other community resources and helpful information, relevant blogs, and online training.

☞ **F.A.C.T. is on FACEBOOK. Check us out! Just wait until we Tweet.**

◆ We have a new Transition Specialist! Karen Cooper has moved from her Advocacy position to the role of Transition Specialist. She brings all of the advocacy experience and knowledge with her to her new role. If you have a child with disabilities that is 15 or older, and are concerned about their future call now to schedule an appointment with Karen.

❖ F.A.C.T Continuing Advocacy Support Group will now only be on the first Wednesday of the month. Every month we will have different guest speakers discussing important educational information. AND we will begin offering respite at Kiddie Kingdom for parents that attend our Support Group or our Workshops. Workshop schedules can be found at www.factmo.org. You must call 636.949.2425 ext. 256 to sign-up for workshops or the support group.

2010 Dees Scholarship Awarded



The Dees Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of John and Katie Dees who were both special education teachers in the Francis Howell School District. They perished in a house fire along with their daughter in 1987. The Dees Memorial Scholarship is awarded by F.A.C.T., in conjunction with the Francis Howell Dees Scholarship Committee. Each year, one special education student is selected to receive a \$500 scholarship to further their education in their desired field. This scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding Francis Howell senior for their belief in themselves and their abilities. This year's scholarship was awarded to Briana Nicole Jones from Francis Howell Central High School. Briana received her check on July 8, at the F.A.C.T. Board Meeting. Briana will attend St. Charles Community College in the fall.

Mrs. Lorraine Dees, mother of John Dees, was honored for her ongoing support of this scholarship. Her daughter Joyce Brockhouse was in attendance as were F.A.C.T. Board Members, and F.A.C.T. Executive Director Denise Gould. We wish Briana the very best of luck as she begins her post-secondary life.