

## Summer 2005

2260 BLUESTONE  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
636.949.2425 (O)  
636.724.3664 (F)  
www.factmo.org



# F.A.C.T. Summer Newsletter

## F.A.C.T. Staff & Board Members

### Executive Director

Denise Gould

### Program Director

Audrey Yarbrough

### Administrative Assistants

Jeanie Adams

Jennifer Brooks

### Advocates

Brenda Boyd

Karen Cooper

Lynn Foust

### Parent Partners

Charlotte Allen

Laura Bickford

Shari Tutterrow

### Board of Directors

Frank Conard-President

Susan Leonard-V. President

Larry Bagsby

Joan Bates

Karen Bynum

Robin Kohler-Secretary

Lynne Schroeder

Midge Smith

Jen-Zink Cornell

## Back To School Supply Giveaway

Each year F.A.C.T. hosts a "Back-To-School-Supply-Day." Even a down pour of rain didn't spoil the fun. In fact, Joshua Dutkiewicz (pictured on page 4) was quoted as saying,

"Thank you so much for the school supplies and for inviting me and thanks especially for the rain!"

Many smiling faces were seen at the picnic held at the St. Peters City Center Pavilion July 14, 2005. Everyone

enjoyed pizza, chicken strips and toasted raviolis delivered by Cecil Whittaker's. Families were able to mingle with other families and visit with their Parent Partner, other F.A.C.T. Staff, and Board Members. Before the students retrieved their book bags full of new school supplies, they ran off to play on the brand new, fully accessible

playground equipment that had recently been installed by virtue of St. Peters City. A total of 120 book bags were assembled by F.A.C.T. through donations. We would like to thank the

following people/organizations for making this event a tremendous success; Cardinal Care, The Rotary Clubs of St. Charles, St. Charles Sunrise, St. Peters, and Cottleville/Weldon Springs The Loyal Order of the Squirrels, and Shop-N-Save. With their donations we were able to make the beginning of the school year a little brighter

and easier for these families of St. Charles County. F.A.C.T. wishes all of these students good luck and we hope you have a very happy and very successful 2005-2006 school year.

***Pictured above: Frank Conard, F.A.C.T. Board President & Sabastian. Visit [www.factmo.org](http://www.factmo.org) for more pictures.***



## Dees Scholarship Recipient

Nicholas Ryan Howard, of Francis Howell High, was recently awarded the 2005 Dees Memorial Scholarship. The 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 scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding Francis

Howell senior for their ability to overcome their disability and achieve success. Nicholas will attend St. Charles Community College this fall and then plans to continue his education at the Art Institute of Chicago. The winner is selected each year by a committee of Family Advocacy and Community Training and Francis Howell staff. On hand for this years presentation were Mrs. Lorraine E. Dees,

(John Dees mother) and Dr. Joyce Brockhouse, (John Dees sister).



Pictured left to right: Karen Rossetot, (Nick's Mom), Nick and Lorraine E. Dees

### Special points of interest:

- Accreditation
- Strategic Planning
- Workshop Schedule
- New Website
- Support Group Mtgs.
- New Board Member
- New Staff Member
- Note from Executive Director

## Building on Family Strengths

The Parent Partners recently attended a workshop “Building on Family Strengths” in Portland, Oregon. There were several workshops that we attended; one of the workshops I really enjoyed was “Reclaiming the Futures of Youth in the Juvenile Justice System”. Portland is a research community willing to try new approaches. Their approach to the juvenile justice system is one of a collaborative approach rather than authoritative approach. The first thing that is done when a child enters the system is to screen the child to make sure other health issues are ruled out. The next step is to assess the child; then the care team develops a positive plan. The fourth step may include sports/music lessons; next the youth and family engage in services. The last step is program completion. The entire program begins with the strength of the child. Three years into this research project, they have designed approaches that fit the child. They are also seeing positive changes in the children. This plan was developed by NPC Research and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This plan was also developed because they felt that the inclusion of strengths was very important in the assessment process. The domains of the Youth Competency Assessment are: (1) “Repairing Harm, Developing Pro-Social Norms and Values,” (2) “Creating a Healthy Identity” and (3) “Connecting to Family, Peers and the Community”. This new approach to the Juvenile Justice System is sensible and a working one. We need judges, juvenile officers, case managers and others that work directly with these children to have a different mindset to make this program work. If Portland can do this, so can St. Louis. Final Goal: Ideal citizens that grow up and can contribute back to the community.

Charlotte Allen

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2ND ANNUAL BAR OLYMPICS AT T.G.I. FRIDAY’S ON SEPTEMBER 13TH FROM 7-11 P.M.
- “MUSIC OF OUR HEARTS” KARAOKE EVENT ON 11-5-05 AT BREWSKEEZ FROM 6-10 P.M. RAFFLE, SILENT AUCTION AND PERFORMANCE CONTEST

If you need more details about any upcoming events or would like to become a volunteer please call Jennifer Brooks at 636.949.2425 ext. 13

## Message from Frank Conard, Board President

A new book bag full of new school supplies may seem like a routine part of getting ready for the new school year. For some families that we serve at F.A.C.T. that can be an overwhelming task and a tremendous financial burden. It was wonderful to be a part of the Annual Back to School Event this year and have the opportunity to visit with families and children who were receiving these school supplies. It is a reminder of the important work that we all do at F.A.C.T. and the need to be diligent about planning for the future of the agency so that this important work can continue to be a resource for children and families long into the future. In an effort to be about that business, the board of directors and staff have been busy going through our Strategic Planning Process. We will be seeking input and feedback from customers and other stakeholders in the near future. This plan when it is completed will be what guides the agency over the course of the next three years. Please take the time when you get these important surveys to give us your thoughts and ideas. It is only when we are able to have a full view of the needs that our plan will be successful.

|   |
|---|
| <h3>F.A.C.T. Staff contact information</h3> <p>636.949.2425</p> |
|---|

#### Administrative Staff

Denise Gould ext. 12  
 dgould@factmo.org

Audrey Yarbrough ext. 11  
 ayarbrough@factmo.org

Jeanie Adams ext. 14  
 jadams@factmo.org

Jennifer Brooks ext. 13  
 jbrooks@factmo.org

#### Advocates

Brenda Boyd ext. 19  
 bboyd@factmo.org

Karen Cooper ext. 18  
 kcooper@factmo.org

Lynn Foust ext. 20  
 lfoust@factmo.org

For advocacy services call ext. 13

#### Parent Partners

Charlotte Allen ext. 17  
 callen@factmo.org

Laura Bickford ext. 27  
 lbickford@factmo.org

Shari Tutterrow ext. 25  
 stutterrow@factmo.org

Check out our fall workshop schedule on our updated website: [www.factmo.org](http://www.factmo.org)

## *F.A.C.T. Advocates attend NAPAS conference*

In June we attended a conference in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the National Association of Protection & Advocacy Services. Our main interest revolved around the Educational Advocacy training, concentrating on the newly revised Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA)/(IDEA 2004) and how it impacts the processes currently utilized to obtain strong effective educational programming for students with special needs. One of the most exciting aspects that is shaping the future of educational programming for the students with special needs is the marriage of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and IDEIA. The two of these bonding together creates a high standard for developing strong effective IEP's with challenging standards, meaningful assessments, research based practices, highly qualified teachers and effective parent involvement. Below is a summary of NCLB-IDEIA requirements:

- Standards-the right of all students to receive instruction according to state academic content and achievement: (what this means for the special needs student-all students must have the opportunity to learn according to the same standards; schools must help all students make continuous and substantial academic improvement toward established goals; students IEP's should reflect all the requirement for academic standards listed for the state).
- Assessments-the right of students to take state assessments and have assessment results used to improve their learning (what this means for the special needs student-assessment results should allow parents, teachers and administrators to understand and address the specific academic needs of students and to adjust classroom instruction to meet these needs)
- Research-Based Practices-the right of students to receive instruction and other education services that are supported by research.
- Highly Qualified Teachers-the right of students to receive instruction from highly qualified teachers.
- Parent Involvement-the right of students to involve their parents in most aspects of their education.

There is still a lot to be ironed out in implementations of the new regulations and how they relate with the current regulations, but we believe that positive outcomes are forthcoming. As Advocates, this conference gave us the opportunity to network with a variety of Advocacy Agencies across the United States. This allowed us to learn different tactics used by the other agencies that are experiencing the same dilemmas in advocating as we do. The conference has definitely empowered the Advocacy Staff at F.A.C.T. to embrace the new IDEIA regulations and No Child Left Behind.

*Brenda Boyd and Lynn Foust*

## *Newcomers at F.A.C.T.*



Susan Leonard, Vice-President

We are very fortunate that Susan has joined the Board of Directors at F.A.C.T. She is the Director of Marketing at Century Tel. Century Tel has been the top corporate sponsor at our last 2 annual dinner events. Susan's fundraising and public relations skills will be put to good use. She has served on the Stephens College Alumni Board and has been involved with the Greyhound Foundation and with Junior Achievement. Susan said, "My heart was touched at last year's annual dinner. I would like to help the children."

Welcome Susan!



Karen Cooper

I am the mother of 2 wonderful children, Sam and Sarah. Sam was diagnosed as language delayed at 3 years old and received services through pre-school. I depended on the doctors and school personnel to help me get Sam what he needed and guide me through the process. I came to F.A.C.T. when Sam entered 1st grade without an IEP. I realized that depending on others to help me help my son wasn't effective. F.A.C.T. taught me that I needed to educate myself to be the best advocate for my child. I am excited to work for an organization that helps so many people help themselves.

We are very delighted to have Karen aboard. She brings a variety of valuable skill sets to F.A.C.T.



The mission of Family Advocacy and Community Training is to enhance the opportunities and quality of life for children and youth with disabilities.

Consider making a difference in the life of a child with disabilities by making your tax deductible contribution to:

F.A.C.T.  
2260 Bluestone  
St. Charles, MO 63303

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

F.A.C.T. is funded by the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board and The Children & Family Services Authority of St. Charles County.

---

## *Executive Director's Corner*



(Joshua D. of St. Charles)

I hope everyone is having a great summer. As parents of children with disabilities and/or mental health issues we know that won't happen without planning and hard work. The same is true for the agency and it's future success. The board of directors, staff, consumers and stakeholders are being asked to take on an active role in our 3 year strategic planning process. We will be sending out survey's in the next few months to get your input. Your feedback is extremely important as it, together, with the other information we gather will help form the new strategic plan that will assist the board of directors and the staff at F.A.C.T. to plan for the future. We want to stay connected to what it is our consumers want and need.

It's time to be getting ready for school to begin again. We recently helped 108 families get the school supplies together for another year. We couldn't have done it without the generosity of our community (see front page article). If you go to our website ([www.factmo.org](http://www.factmo.org)) you can see lots of smiling faces. Thanks to you all!

*Denise Gould*