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Advocate's Corner

Twelve Commandments for Parents of Children with Disabilities

1. Thou art thy child's best and most consistent advocate.
2. Thou hast valuable information about your child.
Professionals need your input.
3. Thou shalt put it in writing and keep a copy.
4. Thou shalt try to resolve problems at the lowest level, but not hesitate to contact a higher authority if the problem is not resolved.
5. Thou shalt keep records.
6. Thou shalt seek out information when needed.
7. Thou shalt take time to think through information before making a decision.
8. Thou shalt have permission to be less than perfect. Important lessons are learned from both successes and failures.
9. Thou shalt not become a martyr. Decide to take a break now and then.
10. Thou shalt maintain a sense of humor. It is great for your emotional well-being and that of your child.
11. Thou shalt always remember to tell people when they are doing a good job.
12. Thou shalt encourage a child to make decisions because one day he or she will need to do so.

F.A.C.T. Newsletter

Fall 2009



Partnership Celebration at Incredible Pizza

For the first time ever F.A.C.T. decided to have our Partnership Celebration at Incredible Pizza. In the past we have had a movie for the kids and dinner for the adults, but after polling our customers we realized that they were ready for a change. Not only was this a new venue at a new time of year, but everyone was invited to the same place. We are happy to announce that we have had the best turnout ever. There were over two hundred and fifty in attendance, and there was plenty to do for all. The buffet included pizza, pasta, salad, and dessert along with other scrumptious foods. And then there were games, games, and more games. The go-karts were a hit as were the bumper cars. Parents had an opportunity to network with one another, as well as time PARTNERS. All in all the evening was a success!



Join Us For Our Sixth Annual

MUSIC of Our Karaoke Fundraiser

When: October 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: South 94 Bistro, 19 Charlestowne Plz

St. Charles, MO 63303

Come out in support of F.A.C.T. for a fun-filled evening of singing and dancing. There will be a raffle, live auction, drink and dinner specials. F.A.C.T. staff has special performances planned that may or may not include a “Shoop Shoop” song and a beehive hairdo.

Raffle Prizes

- Dave and Buster’s Power Cards
- Meramec Caverns Passes
 - Sam’s Club Gift Card
 - Shop-n-Save Gift Card
 - Magic House Passes
 - Target Gift Card
 - Botanical Garden Passes
 - Paint Me Pottery Passes
- Fritz’s Frozen Custard Gift Card
 - Camping Chairs
 - Kids Game Sets
- Electronic Dart Board
 - Magic Set
 - Rams Football

Live Auction Items

- Drury Inn One Night Stay
- 2 Southwest Airlines Tickets
 - Booze Basket
- Double Chair with Canopy
- Sidney Street Cafe Gift Card
- Play Station 2 Gaming Package
- Embassy Suites One Night Stay

F.A.C.T. Workshop Schedule

Special Education Basics	The I.E.P. Process	Assertive Communication
October 5, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM	October 12, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM	October 19, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM
November 9, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM	November 16, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM	November 23, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM
December 7, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM	December 14, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM	December 21, 2009 Monday 6:30 – 8:30 PM
January 9, 2010 Saturday 8:30 – 10:30 AM	January 9, 2010 Saturday 10:30 – 12:30 PM	January 9, 2010 Saturday 1:15 – 3:15 PM

What is New at F.A.C.T.?

- We have hired a new Transition Specialist, Tim Amato.



“I am proud to be a member of a very special and dedicated organization whose mission, vision and values are all aligned with the goal of improving the quality of life and opportunities for children and young adults with disabilities. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida International University with an emphasis in communications and a minor in Psychology. I have spent nearly 20 years in the mental health field.”

- F.A.C.T. has received funding from the Franklin County Children and Families Resource Board. We will soon be serving Franklin County as well as St. Charles and Lincoln Counties. We are thrilled to be expanding as we believe that a wraparound approach is a successful way to meet the needs of our families.
- Laura Bickford has been promoted to Parent Partner Supervisor for both Lincoln and Franklin Counties.
- We are almost at the end of our first year of Accreditation and will be visiting with the Council on Quality and Leadership in October.
- We will be working with the Knights of Columbus in November for the No Hunger Holiday which is a program that provides a Thanksgiving dinner for families that might not otherwise be able to have one.
- In December we will be working with Sts. Joachim and Ann for Adopt-a-Family.
- We have been informed by our postal carrier that from now on any mail that is sent to F.A.C.T. that doesn't include our suite address will be returned to sender. So if you want to mail something to us don't forget to include "Suite 200" in the address.
- Our parent library has been recently updated. To take a look or check out a book stop by F.A.C.T. or talk to your Advocate or Parent PARTNER.

People First Camp Wonderland Retreat Resounding Success!

Six members of People First of St. Charles along with a handful of support staff spent September 19-21, 2009 at Camp Wonderland at the Lake of the Ozarks. The Retreat was started several years ago to give People First members a chance to socialize in a less formal setting than the normal steering committee meetings and conferences. While the weekend was filled with discussions about goals for the upcoming year and some legislative issues, the real purpose was to connect (and reconnect) with people that members may only see once a year.

Activities included basketball, volleyball, and bocce ball as well as pontoon boat rides and canoeing. Some members dug up worms and tried their hand at fishing. A dance was held on Friday evening, and Saturday night included a camp fire sing along and s'mores. The newly renovated game room with foosball, shuffleboard, board games, puzzles, and video games was busy late into the night.

Except for a few light sprinkles on Saturday night the weather was perfect for a fall weekend at the lake. The only complaint heard all weekend was that it was too short!!!
