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The mission of F.A.C.T. (Family Advocacy & Community Training) is to empower families through advocacy and training to improve the quality of life and opportunities for children and young adults with disabilities.

F.A.C.T. is funded by the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board and Community and Children's Resource Board of St. Charles County

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Executive Director's Corner

**I want to take time to thank all the members of our strategic planning task force who under the gifted & steady leadership of Dick Goldbaum helped us produce our new 5 year plan. This dedicated group gave much of themselves and their time to this process. Thanks go to Danielle Abrams, Rich Allen, Laura Bickford, Linda Clark, Frank Conard, Sharon Go, Audrey Yarbrough, Pat Moore, Lynne Schroeder, Mary Wilkes and Kathy Krueger. This process also produced a new mission and vision of which we are very proud: F.A.C.T.'s mission is to mentor & empower families through advocacy and training to improve the quality of life and opportunities for children & young adults with disabilities. F.A.C.T.'s vision is a community where ALL children and young adults are supported through their challenges, valued for their diversity and fully included as they choose.**

*Denise C. Gould*



Summer 2007

## 12th Annual “Hopes & Dreams” Dinner Gala

April 14th, 2007 was filled with magic! This was F.A.C.T.’s largest attendance to date with over 200 present. Once again the tables were beautifully decorated with flowers by Skip Cassoutt of Hearts and Roses Florist. Guests entered to pose for their souvenir pictures with Snow White (Angela Gardner), Cinderella (Lynn Foust) Belle (Erin Schroeder), and our two Knights in Shining Armor (Nathan Adams & KC Adams). Photos were taken and sponsored by NCN News Channel 20, Newsdirector-Randy Gardner. F.A.C.T.’s special events



committee chair, Kathy Conard and the unstoppable fabulous french duo - Louise Howden and Francoise McCollister and the committee worked extremely hard to make this event a huge success. We could not do it without them. The auction items were elegantly displayed and ranged from spa packages, sports memorabilia to concert tickets. Michael Lacy and his New Orleans Swing Band had the crowd dancing! Mr. Dave Guckes, was the recipient of the 2007 F.A.C.T. Advocate of the Year award. F.A.C.T. presents this award annually to individuals who believe in and actively promote the enhancement and opportunities for children and youth with disabilities. Guest speaker, KC Adams, spoke proudly about his journey to self-advocacy with the support of F.A.C.T. and a loving and supportive mother. Judy Thomas also spoke about how the agency helped her learn how to advocate for her son and his success now as a father able to read to his child.

Great job to all committee members--Kathy Conard, Brenda Boyd, Karen Cooper, Louise Howden, Karen Bynum, Skip Cassoutt, Debbie Civey, Richard Gould, Carla Hollins, Francoise McCollister, Lynne Schroeder, Midge Smith, David Yarbrough, Jeanie Adams and Jennifer Brooks. A special thank you to Frank Conard for being emcee; also we were very grateful to have Andy Garrett as our auctioneer. We appreciate everyone’s support. This event could not have been successful without the support of our Corporate Sponsors--Century Tel, P&A Drywall, G.S.&S., and Stegton Regency Banquet Center. We look forward to our 13th annual Gala which will be held at Old Hickory Golf Club on April 25th, 2008. Thank you to those of you who attended who made the evening magical.

## Cardinal Care- “Back to School”

The St. Louis Cardinals really stepped up to the plate and fully funded this years “Back to School” event. Each year the agency holds this event and provides dinner and bookbags filled with school supplies for our children in our partnership program. This year was no different with the help of the St. Louis Cardinals- Cardinal Care Program. The event was held on July 12th at the St. Peters City Pavilion and we were



pleased to welcome FREDBIRD®. All of the families enjoyed some good BBQ by Ms. Piggies Smokehouse. This event is very special to all of us at F.A.C.T. and one that we extremely enjoy; seeing the joy on the all of the kids faces is why we do the work that we are doing. A HUGE thank you to Cardinal Care and to everyone who helped to organize this event to be the success that it always is.

## Harmon Foundation Grant

F.A.C.T. would like to graciously thank the Harmon Foundation for our training grant. The Advocates attended the LRP National Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with disabilities in San Diego, CA from April 22-25, 2007. Advocates learned key policy and practice implementations of IDEA 2004 & 2006 regulations. Parent PARTNER’s attended “Building on Family Strengths” in Portland, Oregon. One of the highlights of the conference was during the Juvenile Justice session; they talked about how kids with mental illness are put in the Juvenile system due to no place to house them. The speaker emphasized the need for a separate facility to address the mental health needs of these kids in order for them to become productive citizens.

## F.A.C.T. 5K Event

October 13th, 2007, F.A.C.T.’s inaugural 5K Walk/Run/Roll will take place in Historic St. Charles. The run begins at 8 a.m. in Frontier Park near the Jaycee’s Stage. Individual registration cost is \$20.00 and there is a discount for a team registration with 3 or more people. If you would like more information regarding the event please call Jennifer Brooks at 636.949.2425 ext. 255 or log on to:

**<http://www.factmo.org/5K>**

We are also looking for volunteers and company sponsorships; if you are interested please contact Jennifer at the number above.



## Workshop Schedule

Basic Legal Rights Workshop	The I.E.P. Process Workshop	Assertive Communication Workshop
August 11, 2007-Saturday 8:30-10:30 a.m.	August 11, 2007-Saturday 10:30-12:30 p.m.	August 11, 2007-Saturday 1:15-3:15 p.m.
September 10, 2007-Monday 6:30-8:30 p.m.	September 17, 2007-Monday 6:30-8:30 p.m.	September 24, 2007-Monday 6:30-8:30 p.m.
October 16, 2007-Tuesday 9:00-11:00 a.m.	October 16, 2007-Tuesday 12:00-2:00 p.m.	October 16, 2007-Tuesday 2:00-4:00 p.m.
November 5, 2007-Monday 6:30-8:30 p.m.	November 12, 2007-Monday 6:30-8:30 p.m.	November 19, 2007-Monday 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Please call Jeanie Adams at 636.949.2425 ext. 256 to reserve your seat for any workshops.

Join us the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for our “Continuing Advocacy Support Group.” Audrey Yarbrough the Founder/Director of Programming of the agency is available to answer additional advocacy questions at this time. Again, for reservations you can call Jeanie Adams at the number above.

## Announcements

**Lynn Foust was promoted to Advocacy Supervisor and Charlotte Allen was promoted to Parent PARTNER Supervisor. Congrats to you both ladies!!**

**Our very own-Denise Gould was nominated at the 5th annual Dove Awards-Women of Achievement Luncheon at Whitmoor Country Club. Great job Denise!  
Thank you for all of your hard work you do for the agency and the community.**

**Denise Gould and Lynn Foust both received Advocate of the Year awards presented by Annie Malone Child & Family Services Organizations.**