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800 Friedens Road Suite 200
St. Charles, MO 63303

Executive Director's Corner

Now that our accreditation has become official I would like to recognize the efforts of the F.A.C.T. Staff, our Customers, and our Board Members. Becoming accredited has been a long term goal of F.A.C.T. and comes finally after a rewarding and sometimes difficult journey. We are continuing our journey, and hope to expand our organization so that we are not bound by county lines. We have already started a partnership with Lincoln County. Be assured that even though we are growing we are dedicated to supporting our community through enhanced quality programs. We are ever willing to build and expand upon community partnerships so that the maximum number of people may be served. As always, thank you for your consistent support of F.A.C.T.

- You can still sign up for our e-newsletter at www.factmo.org
- Our Transitions Program is up and running. Call Heather at 636.949.2425 ext. 256 for information.
- Visit our website, www.factmo.org to see our new monthly calender

F.A.C.T. Newsletter



March 2009

2008 Family Partnership Celebration was a Success

Once again our Partnership Celebration was a success. The kids enjoyed going to the movies, and parents enjoyed having dinner at the Stegton. However, it seems that change is in the air at F.A.C.T. We have sent out surveys to find out what our customers think, and what they want for our next Partnership Celebration. The results are in and a final decision has been made. By popular demand we are going to have all of our partnership families, parents and children, together at Incredible Pizza! We are planning on having our celebration on September 24, 2009. Stay tuned for more details.



F.A.C.T. is hosting its first Bakeless Bake Sale and invites you to participate.

Bake sales can be a good way to raise some cash, but planning, shopping, baking, and making...it's just too much to ask.

There is also the dilemma about what to make. Too many choices! Cookies? Brownies? A Cake? Who's got the time? And then there's the mess... Why, a bake sale would cause a lot of stress!

So, step away from the oven! Save yourself the calories and woe.

Skip the baking and just send us your dough!

If you would like to donate to F.A.C.T. you can do so online at www.factmo.org or send money to 800 Friedens Rd. Ste. 200 St. Charles, MO 63303.



New Hires and Expansions

F.A.C.T. is expanding into Lincoln County. We have hired our first Lincoln County Parent Partner, Crystal Shields. We are excited about our growth and know that Crystal will work hard to serve the Lincoln County families. A little closer to home we have said good bye to Shari Schafer and Salita Dease, and welcome to Nikia Gist and Carol Wells. We are excited about our additions and know that they will serve our families well. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Charlotte at 636.949.2425 ext. 258. Susan Newton, our newest Advocate, joined us in October 2008. She has already become a valuable addition to our staff.



Crystal Shields



Carol Wells



Nikia Gist



Susan Newton

2009 Workshop Schedule

Special Education Basics

March 28 Saturday
8:30 - 10:30 AM
April 13 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM
May 4 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM
June 13 Saturday
8:30 - 10:30 AM
July 22 Wednesday
8:30 - 10:30 AM
August 3 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM

The IEP Process

March 28 Saturday
10:30 - 12:30 PM
April 20 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM
May 11 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM
June 13 Saturday
10:30 - 12:30 PM
July 22 Wednesday
10:30 - 12:30 PM
August 10 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Assertive Communication

March 28 Saturday
1:15 - 3:15 PM
April 27 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM
May 18 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM
June 13 Saturday
1:15 - 3:15 PM
July 22 Wednesday
1:15 - 3:15 PM
August 17 Monday
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Transitions

April 8 Wednesday
6:00 - 8:30 PM

Child Abuse and Neglect

March 24 Tuesday
6:30 - 8:30 PM
April 28 Tuesday
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Please join us for our Shoe Party fundraiser at BRONX diba Shoes, 3630 Corporate Trail Dr., Earth City, MO 63045 on March 28th from 12:00 -2:00 PM. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to F.A.C.T.



Our 14th Annual Hopes and Dreams Gala is coming up on May 1, 2009.

The 2009 gala will once again be held at the Old Hickory Golf Club. The theme is going to be "Tropical Paradise." Tropical attire is welcome. There will be a raffle, wonderful silent and live auction items, and good food. If you are not already on our invitation list and you would like to be, please call Jennifer Brooks at 636.949.2425 ext. 255

F.A.C.T. Announces CQL Accreditation



Executive Director Denise Gould and Board President Frank Conard

St. Charles, Missouri - Denise Gould, Executive Director, announced that F.A.C.T. (Family Advocacy & Community Training) has been awarded the four year CQL Accreditation from The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). The announcement completes a six-month process for F.A.C.T. and confirms that the organization shares CQL's vision for person-directed solutions to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and people with mental illness.

"The journey that we have begun with CQL has been unique and rewarding, not only for the organization, but for our customers," Gould said. "As we have explored the ways in which we have provided services in the past, we have found affirmation and also excitement for the more far-reaching opportunities we have to provide quality services for not only our customers, but our community."

James F. Gardner, Ph.D., President and CEO of CQL, stated, "CQL commends F.A.C.T. for its success in increasing the quality of life for the people it supports. CQL Accreditation signifies organizational excellence in promoting a common vision of community participation and quality of life for all people."

The accreditation received by F.A.C.T. meets the new standards announced by CQL in May, 2005 as part of its "Quality Measures 2005®" initiative. The new measures support strategies that enable service providers to develop a fully integrated quality management system. The Quality Measures 2005® represent a major breakthrough in how organizations can evaluate their own effectiveness at providing quality supports for people with disabilities and people with mental illness.

The Quality Measures 2005® combine many of CQL's existing innovative quality management practices into one core document that provides a blueprint for moving an organization forward. They call for service providers to integrate the assets of the social environment where they are based...an approach CQL has called Community Life®.

F.A.C.T. was founded in 1987 by parents who had children with disabilities; they sought to unravel the mystery of the special education process that often left families feeling frustrated, isolated, and inadequate. They were determined to provide a program that would value and support effective parental input in a child's education and improve outcomes and high school completion rates for all children with disabilities.

Headquartered in Towson, Maryland, CQL is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to the definition, measurement, and improvement of personal and community quality of life for people with disabilities and people with mental illness. Known as the innovators in the human services field, CQL has for almost 40 years challenged "conventional wisdom" while pioneering the concept of "person-directed solutions" for service and support organizations, state and national government agencies, regional systems and networks, and professionals and self-advocates.