



Summer Newsletter

F.A.C.T. Staff & Board

9th Annual Dinner Dance

The 9th Annual Family Advocacy and Community Training dinner dance was held on April 17 at the Holiday Inn in St. Peters, and it was a booming success. Approximately 230 people were in attendance and almost \$18,000 was raised to help F.A.C.T. The proceeds from this year's dinner dance and auction more than doubled last year's. Several corporate sponsors were instrumental in the event's outcome including Century Tel, Law Offices of Larry Bagsby, Burkemper Construction, Anheuser-Busch, SSM St. Joseph Health Center, G.S. & S. Inc. General Contractors and Covenant Financial, LLC.



Three young people with various disabilities were speakers at the event. They were K.C. Adams, who attends Lindenwood University, Chandler Fowlers, who participated in an independent living program; and David Gould who recently moved into his own apartment.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to this very worthy cause, especially to Kristin Tapia. We are already in the process of planning for next year's dinner dance. If you are interested in volunteering or sponsorship opportunities, contact Lynn Foust at 636.949.2425 ext. 20.

Community Events

"The Music of Our Hearts" - Please come join us to kickoff our first Karaoke event to raise money and awareness for children and young adults with disabilities. The event will take place on October 16, at Kokomo's West Bar & Grill at 3925 Mid Rivers Mall Drive. We will have several donated items to raffle throughout the evening. Karaoke begins at 9:00 p.m. and continues until 1:00 a.m. Attendees must be 21 to attend the event. If you have any questions or would like to donate an item to raffle, please feel free to call Jennifer Brooks at 636.949.2425 ext. 13.

St. Charles County Autism Support Group-6:30-8:30; Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month beginning in August. Handicap Accessible. All are welcome. Admission is free. 4535 Central School Road-Early Childhood Center Contact: Cathy Foust 636.387.2220

Music on Main-3rd Wednesday of every month from 5-7:30; Fun Summer event, great place to meet friends and listen to excellent music; 200 North Main Street—Bring a lawn chair!!

"The Big Kahunas" Dress in your favorite Hawaiian shirt and join us for a fun evening featuring local celebrities competing to raise the most tips to support Community Living which supports people with disabilities. July 16 @ R.T.Weiler's on 201 North Main from 6-9 p.m.

Executive Director

Denise Gould

Program Director

Audrey Yarbrough

Advocacy Specialists

Lynn Foust

Vicky Teson

Parent Partners

Charlotte Allen

Laura Bickford

Shari Tutterow

Board of Directors

Larry Bagsby

Joan Bates

Mike Blankenship

Karen Bynum

Frank Conard

Robin Kohler

Lynne Schroeder

Midge Smith

Charles Stone

Floyd Tapia

Jen Zink-Cornell

Admin. Assistants

Jeannie Adams

Jennifer Brooks

F.A.C.T. seeking applications for Educational Advocate with experience. Send resume and salary requirements to Audrey Yarbrough at 2260 Bluestone Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303

No Child Left Behind Act

Ten Facts Every Parent Should Know:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Child Left Behind gives schools more money. 2. No Child Left Behind holds schools accountable for results. 3. No Child Left Behind gives states and cities more control and more flexibility to use resources where they are needed most. Principles will spend less time filling out forms and more time helping your children. 4. No Child Left Behind gives parents report cards so they can see which schools are succeeding and why. 5. No Child Left Behind focuses on teaching methods that have been proven to work. There will be no more experimenting on children with educational fads. 6. No Child Left Behind provides funding to help teachers learn to be better teachers. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. No Child Left Behind provides more than \$1 Billion to help children learn to read. For more information on how you can help your child learn to read, call 1.877.433.7827 toll free, to order a free copy of <i>Reading Tips for Parents</i>. 8. No Child Left Behind may let you transfer your child to a better public school if the state says the school your child attends needs to improve. 9. No Child Left Behind may provide your child with free tutoring if the state says his/her school needs to improve and your child is eligible. 10. No Child Left Behind requires states to test your child every year in grades 3 through 8 in reading and math. Your child will also be tested at least once in high school. |
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Disabilities Resource Numbers

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Support Group of St. Charles County 636.441.5185 • Community Council of St. Charles County 636.922.8610 • Community Living 636.946.3557 • Crider Center 636.332.8000 • Delta Center for Independent Living 636.926.8761 • Developmental Disabilities Resources Board 636.939.3351 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Athlete Sports Association 636.477.0716 • Family Support Services 636.949.2546 • Judevine Center 314.849.4440 • Life Skills Foundation 314.567.7705 • Missouri Family Trust 1.888.671.1069 • Mums National Parent to Parent Network 877.336.5333 • Willows Way 636.947.6591 • United Services, Inc. 636.926.2700 |
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A complete resource listing booklet can be obtained by calling the Developmental Disabilities Resources Board @ 636.939.3351

<p><u>F.A.C.T. Workshop Schedule</u></p> <p>Workshops will begin again in the fall.</p> <p>Please call 636.949.2425 for a new schedule in early August.</p>	<p><u>ADHD Support Group for Parents</u></p> <p>Catholic Family Services & F.A.C.T. are co-sponsoring a new support group for families of middle school-aged children living with ADHD. Meetings will take place on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Peters room at St. Joseph Health Center.</p> <p>Bring your laughter, your tears, your need to vent as well as your successes.</p> <p>For further information contact: ayarbrough@factmo.org or 636.949.2425 ext. 11</p>	<p><u>Disabilities Support Group</u></p> <p>Family Advocacy and Community Training will facilitate a new support group for persons with disabilities. In 2002, the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board conducted a needs assessment for St. Charles County. Thirty-six percent of families with children ages 6-18 identified the need for a support group. Although this age group will be the focus, families of all age groups are welcome to attend. Meetings will take place the 4th Thursday of the month at 2260 Bluestone Drive.</p>
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Have a great summer!



Reading Sources

- Classroom Success for the LD and ADHD Child—Author—Stevens, Suzanne H.
- Learning Disabilities and ADHD: A Family Guide to Living and Learning Together—Author—Osman, Betty B.
- Helping Your Dyslexic Child: A Step-by Step Program for Helping Your Child Improve Reading, Writing, Spelling, Comprehension and Self-Esteem—Author—Cronin, Eileen M.
- Learning Disabilities A to Z: A Parent's Complete Guide to Learning Disabilities from Preschool to Adulthood—Author—Smith, Corrine, Strick & Strick, Lisa W.
- Our Labeled Children: What Every Parent and Teacher needs to know about Learning Disabilities—Author—Sternberg, Robert J./ Grigorenko, Elena L.
- Smart But Stuck: Emotional Aspects of Learning Disabilities and Imprisoned Intelligence—Author—Orentstein, Myrna
- Straight Talk About Psychiatric Medications for Kids—Author—Wilens, Timothy E.
- The Misunderstood Child: Understanding and Coping with Your Child's Learning Disabilities—Author—Silver, Larry

Helpful Websites:

www.reedmartin.com
www.emmaushomes.org
www.behavioralconsultants.com
www.showmeaquatics.org
www.somo.org (Special Olympics)
www.charityadvantage.com/unitedservices
www.wrightslaw.com
www.dese.mo.gov

Advocate of the Year

Brian Hudson has been employed by the Fort Zumwalt School District for 17 years. Before becoming the Principal at South Middle School 6 years ago, he was an Assistant Principal for 9 years. He began his career as a special education teacher. Brian also served on the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board for a brief time.

Brian has always been a strong advocate for children. He has had the opportunity to advocate for children and youth with disabilities in several different roles during his distinguished career.

As a teacher, he was known for being creative and innovative in finding ways to teach diverse learners. In his role as Principal he leads by example. He treats children and families with dignity and respect. He sees children for the gifts that they each possess not their challenges or disabilities.

Brian seems to have a natural ability to engage young people of all abilities with a positive attitude and encouragement. The parent nominating Mr. Hudson said, "He has broken down barriers to acceptance of children with disabilities. This key ingredient promotes the building of friendships, academic progress, self-esteem and mutual respect in the school community. Parents who have worked with Mr. Hudson as their child's teacher or principal note with fondness, their appreciation for his integrity and compassion. As a parent of one of his diverse learners, I applaud Mr. Hudson for continuing to be one who is still willing to lead by example", said Mrs. Karen Craven.

Brian is married to his lovely wife, Denise and is the parent of four sons ranging in age from 10 to 21 years of age.

F.A.C.T. congratulates Mr. Brian Hudson—F.A.C.T.'s 2004 Advocate of the Year

Dees Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Vasquez Grant for winning 1st place and obtaining a \$500 scholarship award. Vasquez is currently attending Francis Howell High and after finishing is planning on attending St. Louis Community College at Meramec to pursue a computer degree with emphasis on special effects. Vasquez enjoyed wrestling all 4 years of high school and worked part-time to help pay for college. He plans on attending a four year college after completing Meramec. Vasquez says, "Education is very important to me because it's the only way I'm going to be able to leave and do something with life and I'm very eager to get started. My main goal is to have a successful and exciting life and the only way that is going to happen is continuing my education." We wish you the best of luck in the future!

Congratulations also goes to Deanna Wadlow, 1st runner up for receiving a \$200 scholarship award. Deanna attends Francis Howell Central High and is planning on attending Hickey College in St. Louis in the fall to prepare for an administrative assistant career. Deanna's English teacher, tells us "that Deanna has overcome many difficulties with her dogged determination and solid work ethic. Along with that comes reliability with her being there every day. Because she deals with others and situations with her humor, others have a hard time telling if she is not in a good mood, a trait that many teen-aged girls don't have. In this class she is surrounded by friends who value her for her loyalty and wit. She balances work, school and social life with grace and maturity. This is a good kid."

Deanna loves working with people and computers. She is also involved in the VICA and Junior Achievement organizations. We wish Deanna the best of luck in her endeavors!

To enhance the opportunities
and quality of life for
children and youth with
disabilities.



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

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Message from the Executive Director

As we close another school year rumors abound that I am retiring. Whether it is wishful thinking on the part of some, or the fact that many of the students I advocated for now have children of their own, I'm not sure. At any rate it is time to set the record straight. **I am not retiring I am much too young!**

That said, I am resigning my position as Executive Director as of June 30th. It is time for me to return to my first love, advocacy. It is the passion that ignited my desire to create this agency 18 years ago and it is a passion that continues today. I look forward to my new position as a Program Director and the opportunity to channel my energy into growing and improving our advocacy programs for children and families.

I leave this position with the knowledge that our new Executive Director will be dynamite! Denise Gould is no stranger to advocacy. She is a parent who has learned the power of advocacy in her journey with David, her 20 year old son who has multiple disabilities. Denise also served as the agency's Executive Director about 10 years ago. I hope that you all will join me in welcoming Denise back to F.A.C.T.

Sincerely,

Audrey Yarbrough