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F.A.C.T. is Getting a Little Greener



Several times each year we send out over 700 newsletters to our customers, supporters, and friends. While we are happy to send you a newsletter in the mail we thought that we would give each person the option of receiving their newsletter via e-mail. We already recycle our aluminum cans and our print cartridges. Now we are moving towards using less paper.

If you would like to have your F.A.C.T. Newsletter sent to you via e-mail please go to www.fact.org and click on contacts. A screen will pop up for you to enter your information

You may also contact Heather at hlytle@factmo.org or 636.949.2425 ext. 256 if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter.

**Our annual “Music of our Hearts” Karaoke Fundraiser is on October 4th.
This year it will be held at South 94 Bistro. Save the Date!**



F.A.C.T. Summer Newsletter 2008



13th Annual Hopes and Dreams Gala Japanese Dragon Festival

Our 13th Annual Hopes and Dreams Gala was held on April 25th at the Old Hickory Golf Club. Thanks to all of you it was a huge success. We are grateful to all those that attended our Gala, donated to our cause, and helped to make it so successful.

The evening started at 6:30 pm with drinks, appetizers and open auction tables. We had more auction items than ever before, and therefore something to please everyone. Our highest dollar item, a week on the beach in a fabulous 8 bedroom home in North Carolina, went for \$4100.00. Congratulations to those lucky winners. We hope you enjoy your trip.

We enjoyed hearing from all of our guest speakers, and we thank them all for their hard work, and inspirational stories. St. Charles County is lucky to have people like you working to make it a better place for everyone.

And lastly we would like to thank Kathy Conard, Gala Chair, and Louise Howden, Auction Chair, for donating so much of their time and energy. The months of preparation paid off as this Gala was one of the most successful so far.



F.A.C.T. IS SEEKING ACCREDITATION

As F.A.C.T. continues to grow and improve our services, we will seek our first accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership this fall! CQL is an international, not-for-profit organization actively involved in accreditation, quality, and training programs. Accreditation signifies that an organization, such as F.A.C.T., has been approved by experts as conforming to specific standards and is considered to be outstanding in their field. As we go through the accreditation process, we will be checking to make sure that we are continually learning what is important to the people who are receiving our services, that we remain responsive to our customers, and that we continue to develop and reinforce our partnerships with other community resources. In addition, our funding organizations, the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board (DDRB) and the Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB), feel that accreditation is a good way to assure customers that their contracted agencies offer quality services and use sound business practices.

Our journey began last year when the F.A.C.T. Board of Directors approved the decision to seek accreditation and funding was secured. In December, we invited a representative from CQL to visit us. For three days in February we met with Albert Van Kleeck, Director of Accreditation, to learn more about the accreditation process and to tell him about F.A.C.T. We agreed that a partnership with The Council was definitely a good fit!

During the spring we have been working on a self-assessment document that will be submitted to CQL this summer for review. We are also writing and updating policy and procedure manuals, comparing "the way we do business" with CQL guidelines.

The accreditation survey will take place the week of October 13, 2008. For four days, two CQL staff members will be visiting with F.A.C.T. employees, customers and other members of our community. Participants will be joining in focus group discussions and one-on-one interviews with the surveyors, offering their personal ideas, opinions and insights. At the end of the visit, survey findings will be presented to F.A.C.T. CQL accreditation is awarded for four years. After the initial visit, follow-up surveys will take place each year for the next two years. We are excited about this new phase in the agency's development and confident that it will strengthen the support we provide for the families of children and young adults with disabilities!

Our New Transitions Program

The process of transition from high school into adult life has long been a top priority for both F.A.C.T. and many of our customers. Now, with generous funding from the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board, F.A.C.T. is able to offer transition assistance free of charge to families who qualify. Our new program, called Transitions to Success, has generated a lot of excitement here at F.A.C.T. as we extend advocacy efforts to students who are quickly approaching adulthood.

Parents and students start by attending F.A.C.T.'s Transition Workshop. This 2-hour training describes the educational mandates of formal transition planning as well as the rights and responsibilities of families. Next, students attend a series of curriculum sessions that describe functional living skills, self-advocacy techniques and requirements for obtaining and maintaining employment. Parents attend a parallel set of sessions that gives them the tools to advocate for their child's needs and desires. Finally, the family will meet with F.A.C.T.'s Transition Specialist to finalize the student's personal Transition Plan. The plan will include the student's long-term goals and desires for life after high school, specific short-term steps that the family can take to assist the student, and linkages to formal educational and community services. The overarching goal of Transitions to Success is to empower families through information and referrals so that students have the opportunities to achieve their goals for life as an adult.

The response to the new program has been phenomenal. F.A.C.T.'s first Transition Curriculum course started this May and was full within a matter of weeks. Our second course which starts this September is already at capacity! We have been reviewing additional options to enroll students, such as providing one-on-one curriculum sessions and partnering with our local school districts.

If you are interested please call Rob Cracchiola at 636.949.2425 ext. 222.

Cardinal's Care Grant

We are pleased to announce that once again we were the proud recipients of a Cardinals Care Grant. As you all know we use this grant money to fund our Partnership with Families Back-to-School Event. This year was a little different because not only did Cardinals Care donate money, but they also donated all of the book bags. There are many charitable organizations in the St. Louis metro area and so we are extremely grateful to be chosen as one of the grant recipients.

This year our Back-to-School Event was held at the St. Peters City Pavilion. We were joined by many happy children and Fred Bird®. We had over 200 children participate, and all were happy to get a new back pack and enjoy Ms. Piggies Smokehouse BBQ.



Parent Library

Having a child with a disability or SED is always a challenge. But being educated on your child's disability or SED can make the challenge more manageable. The more information that you have the better able you will be to make decisions regarding your child at home, in school, and in all areas of life. We have spent a tremendous amount of time building up our Parent Library. We have many books available for check-out such as "Bipolar Child" by Demetri Papolos, M.D., and Janice Papolos, "A Parent's Guide to Attention Deficit Disorders" by Lisa J. Bain, and "too loud, too bright, too fast, too tight" by Sharon Heller, Ph.D.

Please stop by our office at any time to peruse our Parent Library. There is no fee for this service. Please contact Heather at 636.949.2425 ext. 256 if you have questions or would like more details.

2008 Workshop Schedule

Special Education Basics

May 6, 2008 Tuesday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
June 14, 2008 Saturday
8:30 – 10:30 AM
July 9, 2008 Wednesday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
August 11, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 10, 2008 Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
October 11, 2008 Saturday,
8:30 – 10:30 AM
November 3, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
December 1, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM

The I.E.P. Process

May 13, 2008 Tuesday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
June 14, 2008 Saturday
10:30 – 12:30 PM
July 16, 2008 Wednesday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
August 18, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 17, 2008
Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
October 11, 2008 Saturday
10:30 – 12:30 PM
November 10, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
December 8, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Assertive Communication

May 20, 2008 Tuesday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
June 14, 2008 Saturday
1:15 – 3:15 PM
July 23, 2008 Wednesday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
August 25, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
September 24, 2008
Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30
October 11, 2008 Saturday
1:15 – 3:15 PM
November 17, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
December 15, 2008 Monday
6:30 – 8:30 PM