



FRYSCKy BUSINESS

*The Official Newsletter of the Family Resource and Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky, Inc.
Bridging Barriers and Changing Lives Since 1991*

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Freedom of Choice, but Not of Consequence

by Michael Flynn, President, FRYSCkY, Inc.

Irvine (KY) • The legislative session has finally come to a close and I would like to extend a great big thank you to everyone who assisted in all the Coalitions efforts and programs during the session. Your coalition representatives and many of you spent many hours and days in Frankfort meeting with Senators and Representatives reminding them of the valuable work that we all do. We focused on letting them know how much we appreciate their support and had conversations about the rising number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch and the resulting decreasing funding for individual centers. We also posed the question, "What do we need to do to better inform you (the senators and representatives) of the work we are doing and its impact on our students?"

We continuously received the same information from everyone that we spoke with. "Show us the impact your services are having on the academic success of Kentucky's students." Several legislators noted that while they knew we were not just another welfare program many of our centers are not advertising their academic programming as efficiently as they are the basic needs services. I encourage each of you to make sure that as you invite your legislators regularly and often to attend the programs of your Center at your schools that you stress the impact of those services on the removal to educational barriers and the enhancement of student achievement.

Freedom of choice, but not of consequence is my "new" favorite quote. If you visit my center you'll find it posted on the wall. I recently participated in a National Conference with ten students from my middle school. The conference as a whole was a truly motivational and uplifting experience that was only enhanced by the uplifting and enthusiastic young people whom I both brought to the conference with me and met over the span of four days. The quote came from one of the keynote speakers and as I listened and accepted his challenge of not putting off to tomorrow what should have been done yesterday my friends and family, Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, came to mind several times.

How often do we find ourselves helping children and families sort through lives based on free choices with no consideration of the consequences until it is too late? We help them pick up the pieces and endeavor to help them see the importance of making wise choices based on the consequences and outcomes. We chose to "help", but we must also face the truth that it is up the families and students to choose to accept our help and to utilize this assistance as a catalyst to a better life. Both choices have consequences. Our choice is going to lead to either a family who listens and tries to create a better

situation for themselves or one that chooses to ignore and continue on the path that they are on. Their choices are going to be to either listen, learn, and grow or to continue as they are. These are the choices that are allowing us “to change the world of tomorrow through the children of today.”

However, as we continue to make the choice to assist others I encourage each of you to also make the choice to keep the focus of making a better world for families. Not just the families that you work with everyday, but your own families as well. Please do keep up the work and doing “Whatever it Takes” to do so with one small exception. Don’t forget to support your own families in the process. As the ugly harshness of winter passes on and the beauty of spring and its glories emerge take the time to focus on your own families and loved ones. Make the choice to cherish every available moment and those consequences will truly be some we can all live with, without a doubt.

Regional Roundup

Region 1 (Livingston County) ~ *WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Success)*
by *Stephanie Henson*

Smithland (KY) • IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT HAVING WATCH D.O.G.S. ROAM OUR HALLWAYS. WATCH D.O.G.S.® (DADS OF GREAT STUDENTS) IS AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR FATHERING FOCUSING ON PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE IN OUR NATION’S SCHOOLS BY USING THE POSITIVE INFLUENCE OF FATHERS AND FATHER FIGURES. WE ARE IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM AT BOTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THIS YEAR. THE PENNYRILE ALLIED COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR CHILDREN PURCHASED THE INITIAL KITS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM, AND OUR FAMILY RESOURCE AND YOUTH SERVICE CENTER COORDINATOR, STEPHANIE HENSON, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR COMMUNITY EDUCATION INITIATIVE IS COORDINATING THE IMPLEMENTATION. WE HAD KICKOFF EVENTS AT BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY ON AUGUST 17TH, AND OVER 100 DADS ATTENDED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE. WE HOPE TO HAVE OUR FIRST WATCH DOG ON THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, PENDING BACKGROUND CHECK APPROVAL.

WATCHDOGS ARE FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS, UNCLES, AND OTHER FATHER-FIGURES WHO VOLUNTEER FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY EACH YEAR AT AN OFFICIAL WATCH D.O.G.S.® SCHOOL. DURING THE DAY, WATCHDOGS MAY READ AND WORK ON FLASH CARDS WITH STUDENTS, PLAY AT RECESS, EAT LUNCH WITH STUDENTS, WATCH THE SCHOOL ENTRANCES AND HALLWAYS, ASSIST WITH TRAFFIC FLOW, MENTOR STUDENTS, AND ANY OTHER ASSIGNED ACTIVITIES WHERE THEY ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH NOT ONLY THEIR OWN STUDENTS, BUT OTHER STUDENTS AS WELL. THEIR MERE PRESENCE OFFERS ADDITIONAL SECURITY AT THE SCHOOL DURING THE DAY! ON THE DAY OF THEIR PARTICIPATION, THE PARTICIPANTS ARE GIVEN A BRIEF REVIEW OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND THEY WEAR AN OFFICIAL WATCH D.O.G.S.® T-SHIRT OR VEST WITH A DISPOSABLE ‘DOG TAG’ IDENTIFYING THEM AS WATCHDOGS.

ACCORDING TO SHERI HENSON, PRINCIPAL, “TRADITIONALLY, MOTHERS ARE MORE INVOLVED WITH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS THAN THE DADS JUST BECAUSE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED THE MOM THING TO DO. MOST OF THE TIME, IT IS THE MOM WHO GETS THEIR CHILD READY IN THE MORNING, HELPS WITH HOMEWORK IN THE EVENING AND VOLUNTEERS THEIR TIME TO HELP OUT WITH CLASSROOM PARTIES AND

PTO. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A FEW VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE ABLE TO COME IN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY TO HELP, BUT THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE WOMEN.

WITH A LACK OF MALE PRESENCE AT OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AND MANY OF OUR STUDENTS NOT HAVING FATHERS AT HOME, WE SAW A GREAT NEED TO GET OUR DADS AND OTHER MEN MORE INVOLVED. WE REALLY NEEDED A SPECIFIC PURPOSE PLANNED WHEN INVITING THE MEN TO TAKE PART, AND THIS PROGRAM OFFERED JUST THAT.

PARENTS ARE THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION. TEACHERS CAN TEACH STUDENTS ALL DAY, BUT IT IS THE VALUE THAT PARENTS PLACE ON EDUCATION THAT REALLY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE. AT SOUTH LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY, WE WORK HARD TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PARENTS TO KEEP THEM INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION THROUGH THE USE OF PLANNERS, E-MAIL, NOTES, PHONE CALLS AND OUR WEBSITE. WE KNOW THAT PARENT INVOLVEMENT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE."

Regional Roundup

Region 6 (Bullitt County) ~ *Zappos Helps to Get Year Off on the Right Foot for Kids*
by Alex Wimsatt

Shepherdsville (KY) • As Stefanie Walls of Zappos Fulfillment Centers will tell you, a comfortable, stylish, new pair of shoes is essential for looking and feeling your best.

Zappos Fulfillment Center and the Bullitt County Public Schools Family Resource and Youth Service Centers provided shoes for local students.

Unfortunately, during these tough economic times, it's difficult for many families to put food on the table and pay the mortgage, much less spend \$50 on a pair of shoes.

To help ease some of the financial burden on local families, ZFC have partnered with Bullitt County Public Schools and Bullitt County Family Resource and Youth Service Centers to provide shoes for 350 BCPS students of all ages during the Kicks for Kidz event at Paroquet Springs on Saturday.

Walls, who coordinated the affair on behalf of ZFC, said the inaugural event went well.

"It was very successful," she said. "There were lots of smiling faces."

One of those smiling faces belonged to 9-year-old Shepherdsville Elementary student William Carnell, who walked away from the event with a brand new pair of tan KangaROOS.

Carnell was brought by his grandmother and guardian Donna Day. As a single disabled woman caring for her grandson, Day greatly appreciated ZFC's Kicks for Kidz.

"I'm sure most of the community appreciates Zappos for their generosity. That's very nice," Day said. "It's a wonderful program for people that sometimes have trouble getting good quality shoes for their kids."

Carnell was so happy with the shoes he received that he showed them off to his friends the first chance he got.

"He fell in love with those shoes," Day said. "He's very proud of them."

Day was so grateful she planned to write a thank you note to ZFC for all they've done, suggesting that

others do the same.

"That's something we can do to show our appreciation for their pride in our community," she said.

The event was the first of its kind in the county, however, it wasn't the first community service event hosted by ZFC and BCPS.

This is at least the third year the two organizations have teamed up to help local families. In 2008 ZFS distributed classroom supplies to schools throughout the district and last year ZFC joined with Shepherdsville Elementary FRC to provide 25 students the opportunity to visit the outlet store where they got to pick out backpacks and shoes.

Walls said ZFC has worked hard to serve the community since they've been in Shepherdsville and they would like to expand that community service in the future with hopes of providing more shoes at an even bigger event next year.

"At Zappos we like to wow," Walls said. "We're just trying to make it bigger every year."

Walls said her company would like to partner with other area businesses to be able to purchase more shoes for more students next year.

"There are tons of families who could use the help," Walls said.

Shepherdsville and Nichols Elementary FRC coordinator Traci Gould said she was pleased that ZFC's community service has grown as much as it has over the years, particularly with budget cuts and so many businesses unable to afford the kind of community services they once provided.

"It's a blessing," Gould said.

Freedom and Brooks Elementary FRC coordinator Sherri Bishop agreed, adding that she felt lucky to be involved with Kicks for Kidz.

"Seeing the kids leave excited about their new shoes... That's the best thing," Bishop said.

Regional Roundup

*Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ Legislative Pages Part of Action at Capitol:
Students Met and Mingled with Lawmakers at the Capitol
by Tammy Lane*

Lexington (KY) • Seeing their government in action made a lasting impression on Fayette County students who ventured to the state Capitol as legislative pages for a day.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience – something I can never forget," said Paola Hernandez, an eighth-grader at Morton Middle School.

She was among eight FCPS students chosen by the Family Resource and Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky (FRYSCKy). Joining Paola were fifth-graders Jymie Salahuddin of Breckinridge, Locke Cordle of Cassidy, John Felty of Dixie, Erica Hanson of Garden Springs and Mikaili Gore of Russell Cave; sixth-grader Lauren Bolt of Tates Creek Middle; and eighth-grader J.D. Owens of E.J. Hayes Middle School.

After a brief tour Feb. 23, the kids spent the afternoon on the Senate and House floor. Some worked alongside their assigned legislators, and some took turns carrying paperwork to the front, fetching coffee or water, and running other errands. All the while, they watched the lawmakers closely.

Lauren, for instance, reported how a colorful, personable senator turned to “all business” when presenting a bill to his colleagues. And Paola noted the process was not always the solemn affair she expected.

“It gets crazy when all of a sudden they stand up and start yelling,” she recalled of excitement in the House.

“We’re learning about the three branches of government in school right now. My peers will be impressed that I was here experiencing what the Legislature does,” she said.

A veteran who worked as a FRYSCy page last year, Lauren gathered lots of details, too.

“We just finished our government unit in social studies, so I can go back and share with my class,” she said.

Her mother, Pam Bolt, appreciated the students’ opportunity to visit the Capitol.

“It’s a brief introduction since they’re so young. But when (Lauren) sees it on TV or in the news, she’ll remember, ‘Hey, I was down there,’” Bolt said. “It’s a great first exposure to government for these kids.”

The students were selected based on their applications, essays about why they wanted to be a page and posters illustrating what a Family Resource and Youth Services Center does – providing everything from classroom supplies to clothing to self-esteem activities.

“They support kids who need it,” Lauren said. “You have a shoulder to cry on when you need to,” Paola added.

The FRYSCy page program is open to grades 5-12; one winner is picked from each participating school.

“It’s a way of getting the kids getting involved in the page process, and the kid becomes an advocate to the Legislature about what the FRYSCs do for their schools and how important they are,” said Jill Blackman, Region 10/Fayette representative on the FRYSCy Coalition.

The coalition is a nonprofit organization of educators and human services providers who come together to provide legislative advocacy, training and support for FRYSC coordinators and their staff in Kentucky. Blackman said observing state lawmakers in Frankfort shows students one way that they, too, can make a difference in the public arena.

“They can be an advocate, no matter their age, for what they feel is important,” she said.

Regional Roundup

Region 10 (Pike County) ~ BOO HOO Breakfast
by Jill Hammond

Pikeville (KY) • Many tears can be shed the first day of school as several parents let go of their children for the very first time. As school began on August 11th, Pikeville Elementary School hosted a “Boo Hoo” breakfast.

Kindergarten and Pre-School parents were invited to the breakfast, along with all new parents to the school.

The goal of the event was to provide parents with a positive experience as both their children and themselves transition from out of school to becoming students at PES. Parents were provided with the opportunity to ease into the transition as their children, many for the first time, became official students.

Veteran parents were on hand to provide others with answers to questions they may still have concerning policy, routine, homework and additional questions. Principal Robert Jones addressed the group and provided parents with information about their children becoming a Panther.

The program was sponsored by FRYSC (Family Resource Youth Service Center) and the Parent Involvement Program.



Picture from Boo Hoo Breakfast

Regional Roundup

Region 7 (Rowan County) ~ Beds Being Built for Youths
by Mike James

Morehead (KY) • Children who don't get enough sleep are prone to learning disabilities, obesity and other health concerns. Children who don't have a bed of their own to lie down in aren't likely to get enough sleep. Those are the facts behind the Build-a Bed project to make beds for youngsters. MSUCorps, the Morehead State University division of the federal Americorps program, is heading up the program in northeast Kentucky with the intent to build 50 beds. It is part of a statewide program to ensure children have a proper place in their homes to sleep. MSUCorps is getting ready for its building day on March 12, and is still looking for donations and sponsors for beds. Each child chosen for the program will get a twin bed made of unfinished spruce, a mattress and springs and a bedtime bag, said MSUCorps program assistant Carrie Kizziar. The bedtime bag includes sheets, comforter, pillow, pajamas, toothbrush and paste, book and stuffed animal. Family Resource Centers in area schools are taking applications and will screen them near the end of March; beds will be delivered in May. The program serves 16 counties, including Boyd, Greenup, Carter, Lawrence, Elliott, Rowan, Bath, Bracken, Bourbon, Clark, Fleming, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery and Morgan. The beds will be built by MSUCorps members, who ordinarily work in schools as math and reading tutors. MSUCorps is looking for businesses or individuals to sponsor a bed for \$120, Kizziar said. Smaller cash donations, or gift cards to

Walmart or Lowes also are welcome, she said. The project already has received some donations and discounts from materials suppliers, she said. Details on how to donate or volunteer are at the project website, www.build-a-bed.org. Donors also may make out checks to MSU_Corps Build-a-Bed and send them to MSUCorps, 2233 Waterfield Hall, Morehead 40351. Donations are tax-deductible. Donors or volunteers also may contact Kizziar at 606-783-2901.

Regional Roundup



Readifest in Rowan County (Region 7). Special Guest, Governor Beshear, came to visit and talk with parents and community members, and took a picture with Rowan County FRYSC Coordinators and staff.

From left to right Sandy Caudill, Carol Turner, Pat Richmond, Kay Roe, Governor, Darinda Ramey, and Susie Shuster.



Michael A. Jones • Editor
fryscopycoalition@me.com

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Executive Office

Family Resource & Youth Services
 Coalition of Kentucky, Inc.
 2220 Nicholasville Rd., Ste. 110-333
 Lexington, KY 40503
 T ~ 859.333.4209
 F ~ 888.282.8549
 www.fryscopy.org

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FRYSCs Across Kentucky

