



FRYSCKy BUSINESS

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

Fall 2013

Fall Greetings: A Season of Change

by Brian H. Akers, President, FRYSCy, Inc.

Betsy Layne (KY) • I hope this note finds everyone doing well and having the 2013 school year beginning with a season of change. It seems that we have faced many changes as of late with our coalition and the division. However we are still in the business of helping families of Kentucky find the necessary resources to ensure their children have success in school. We will certainly miss Betty Marshall and Michael Denny who had the opportunity to retire. We wish them much joy and happiness for their new season as well.

I've had the pleasure of serving on the FRYSCy, Inc. board for several years and didn't anticipate being your President a year early. I hope to represent each of you with the task of making our voice heard on a state level as we have in the past. This is going to be an exciting time for me professionally; however I am only going to be able to do this with your help. We need everyone to continue their dedication to promoting your centers. Please take every opportunity to remind your legislators of what you do for the children of Kentucky. Our theme for the upcoming session is a message to our Legislators that states, "I know your plate is full, but see what the FRYSC's are serving up!"

I look forward to visiting with you all and value each of you for your unique and innovative ideas for you centers. I sincerely hope you know that your dedication to your job and the coalition is appreciated by many.

As we prepare for the upcoming holiday's that are without question our most busy season take care of yourselves. Make this a season of change in your students, but take time to reflect of the great things you are blessed with too.

To everything *there is* a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:

Wishing you the best season ever. Brian can be reached at brian.akers@floyd.kyschools.us or at 606-478-5550.

November 13 – 15, 2013

**Lexington Convention
Center**

Fall Institute 2013
FRYSCs: Our Mission Continues

***Lodging at Hyatt Regency
and
Hilton Downtown***

Special Feature



**Advocate...Leader...Friend
Thank You!!!**

A Chat with Michael Denney

When Michael Denney announced his retirement during this summer's Victory Over Violence, the FRYSC initiative saw one of its most active and vocal supporters leave the Frankfort scene. In an exclusive interview with the *FRYSCKy Business* newsletter, Mr. Denney shared some candid and personal thoughts.

What are your post-retirement plans?

My wife and I have a couple of trips planned that we are quite looking forward to taking. I also have a long 'honey do' list to address. In the long term, I want to be involved in some type of activities that continues my commitment to human services.

How many years have you been the Director of the DFRYSC?

4 years 10 months...but who's counting? I was appointed October 1, 2008. I served in an acting role for 5 months prior to that.

How many total years were you involved with FRYSCs?

I began with the program as a Regional Coordinator in southern and southeastern Kentucky on September, 1995. In June 2001, I began working in Frankfort. Over the course of next seven years, I essentially did the same job even though I have three job titles. I went to Frankfort as Staff Assistant, later was named Executive Staff Advisor and then Internal Policy Analyst. In September 2006, I was named Assistant Director. In all, I have been with the program almost 18 years.

What is your greatest memory of working with FRYSCs?

I am not sure that I can give a greatest memory. In reflecting upon these years, the montage of memories is expansive and diverse. The most moving times for me were found in site visits and conversations that shared the successes that people had experienced. I remain in awe of the diversity of work that has been done for so many. In the current educational landscape that seems to value tests above people, I remain inspired by those who work with students holistically and remain committed to the belief that small victories today lead to great changes tomorrow.

What was your greatest challenge while working with FRYSCs?

The greatest challenge was dealing with the budget reductions, the exploding number of students on free meals and the resulting declines in center budgets. I will not miss agonizing over the budget and losing sleep in knowing that people would lose jobs and others would have their hours/days cut. I have sat in my office and wept as I composed letters that announced reductions. When the new director is selected, he/she will be in my prayers in the hope that they will sit there with greater resources at their disposal.

As you move toward your final day as an official FRYSC, what is the biggest difference in the FRYSC initiative from your very first day of being a FRYSC?

There are many changes that I could discuss, but the most dynamic change involves the areas of work that now must be addressed. In those early days, we were spending so very much time on basic needs--and, while we continue to do that, the issues facing our centers, our families and our kids are so much more complex now. No one had even heard of sexting and cyber-bullying back then. Now we are facing rapidly evolving and ever-changing issues that push the limits on what we can do. I don't anticipate that changing in the future. That is why my commitment to professional development has been so strong.

What do you think the future holds for FRYSCs?

The future for the FRYSCs is both bright and frightening. It is bright, because there continues to be huge support for the program by legislators and policy makers. The frightening aspect is in the fact the demands will continue to increase as issues and problems continue to evolve. Since my cup is usually half full, I believe in a bright and successful future!!!

Do you have a favorite inspirational quote?

The late Rev. Dr. Peter Gomes shared a line in a sermon a few years ago that is especially meaningful to me. He said, "A great mind is a dangerous thing without a heart; and a useless thing without a soul."

What do you want to share, but haven't been asked about yet?

One of the questions that I expected was why I chose to leave now rather than waiting until the end of Governor Beshear's administration. Honestly, it just seemed like the best time for my family. I could have stayed, in fact I was asked to stay, but in the long run I think this is the best decision for me.

The other question involves whether I would do anything differently. Of course I would do some things differently--only a fool would not change anything they have done. In retrospect, I would have spoken less and listened more.

Other thoughts, ideas, Etc.

The commitment to "*Whatever It Takes*" must never cease. I hope to hear twenty years from now that that philosophy is still permeating the program!!!

Thanks for everything!!

Mike

Regional Roundup

Region 3 (Jefferson County) ~ Transition Programming Is the Name of the Game at Goldsmith!!

by Kim Grider, Coordinator, Goldsmith FRC

Louisville (KY) • It is back to school Tuesday, August 13, 2013 for 100 kindergartners and their parents at Goldsmith Elementary School! Although JCPS did not begin classes until August 20th, Goldsmith kindergartners have a chance to get their feet wet before school even begins!



Goldsmith hosts this annual transition program in an effort to acclimate both students and parents for a smooth beginning to school. While kindergartners are being introduced to teachers, the school building and new friends, parents are encouraged to become a part of Goldsmith. The Family Resource Center Coordinator, Kim Grider stressed that parent involvement is key! It includes everything from joining and serving on PTA to having their students agenda's signed and getting them to school on time.

One parent last year commented, "Wow, I didn't realize there would be drawings for books and schools supplies, how cool" after her child's name was drawn to receive a free backpack and school supplies. Books are also purchased for parent drawings. Titles that included Homework Hero's and 100 Ways Parents can Build Self Esteem.

In addition to introducing kindergartners to school we are also able to access which children might have a difficult time separating from their parents. The staff comes up with strategies that will work to better transition the child to the classroom on the first day. This Family Resource coordinated program is huge support for both students and teachers.

VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE

July 7-8, 2014

Marriott Downtown
Louisville, KY



Region 6 (Garrard County) ~ DREAM BUILDERS: Garrard Volunteers Make Beds so Kids Sleep Well, Live Better

by Stephanie Collins, Journalist, Danville Advocate-Messenger

This article originally appeared in the Danville Advocate-Messenger on May 4, 2013.



Lancaster (KY) – About 90 energetic volunteers young and old gathered Saturday at the former Garrard County Middle School to assist the Garrard County Family Resource Center and ATEAM AmeriCorps build 26 beds for needy children.

The build-a-bed mission was created by a few Kentucky volunteer corporations in 2009 and has since produced thousands of beds that have been distributed throughout many Kentucky counties.

The reasoning behind build-a-bed's mission is to ensure every child has a private bed to get a solid night's rest, rather than cramming in with other family members.

According to research on build-a-bed's website, every child should receive at least eight hours of sleep per night; getting less than eight hours of sleep can result in bad behavior, obesity problems, poor grades, stunted growth and more.

"By providing beds and bedtime bags that promote healthy bedtime rituals, we hope to increase the quality of sleep for Kentucky children," states the website. "We believe that a better bedtime will give kids brighter dreams, happier days, and more opportunities for lifetime success."

Garrard County High School guidance counselor Michael Anderson echoed that philosophy.

He said "mentally getting a good night's sleep gets children ready for school" while adding that, emotionally, it is important to have a private bed so children can "have their own space."

Each volunteer was equipped with a blueprint with step-by-step instructions for piecing together the donated lumber. Along with the bed frame and mattress, each child received a bag of goodies including comforters, sheets and pillows.

Resource center director Angie Wagoner said donations came in nearly twice as much as expected so every needy child they know of will receive a bed and bag.

The group aimed to raise \$4,500 but local churches, businesses, and people provided nearly \$7,000, which Wagoner said took care of the children on the waiting list and added some more goodies to the bags.

Wagoner said she did house visits to homes recommended to her office and some of the places she visited were difficult circumstances.

"It was rough," she said. "They need a lot more than just beds."

Wagoner said one little girl was so excited to be getting a new bed she decided to paint her walls pink "to go with her new bed."

AmeriCorps worker Sarah Randolph said she was pleased with the turnout at her first build-a-bed event.

"I never would have imagined there would be this much community involvement," Randolph said, after pointing to the many organizations listed on the back of her volunteer shirt.

Randolph said about five beds had been delivered by 10 a.m. as dozens of volunteers worked efficiently inside the cafeteria of the former middle school to build more.

The floor was nearly wall-to-wall with lumber as volunteers walked through cleared out areas to the stations they needed and the buzzing of conversations and drills made it hard to hear.

"It's been wonderful," said AmeriCorps program director Donna Morgan. "This is our first year in Garrard County and we are just overwhelmed with the generosity."

One of the names mentioned by many workers was Jason Johnson, a manager at 84 Lumber in Danville, which provided the lumber.

While some of the lumber was paid for by donation money, Johnson went above and beyond to donate extra lumber because he said the build-a-bed cause is close to his heart.

Johnson and his wife Barbara Johnson adopted an infant girl who was born addicted to methadone and fosters the now three-year-old's big sister.

Johnson said he wanted his family to be involved because not everyone is as fortunate as they are.

"It's really important to me," he said. "It's good to get everybody out there to see it's not all grapes and candy."

Wagoner said she was proud of the volunteers' success and that each child received a bed. She added the excitement kept her from sleeping Friday night.

"Everyone came in just ready to go," she said. "We got all of them. If we needed more would have found a way to get it."

By 1 p.m. Wagoner said all of the beds had been delivered and the group was beginning cleanup.

"It was a huge success," she added. "We couldn't have done this without our volunteers. I am so excited with the process. It has gone smooth."

Regional Roundup

Region 1 (Fulton Independent) ~ Fulton's Kindergarteners Are Ready To Learn

by Tracy Pulley, Coordinator, The Family Connection

Fulton (KY) – These days it's not enough to show up for the first day of kindergarten with a freshly-washed face and an eagerness to learn. Today's kindergarten students are expected to know how to write their first and last names -- in upper and lower case, no less -- before they even enter the school building.

In the Fulton Independent School District, family resource / youth services center coordinator Tracy Pulley is doing her best to prepare kindergarteners for the reality of school in 2013. Using funds supplied by the Four Rivers CECC (Community Early Childhood Council) Pulley purchased backpacks filled with foam letters, raised-number cards, counting links and small journals in which the children could practice writing. During summer months, Pulley delivered a backpack to the home of each incoming kindergarten student.



At each home visit, Pulley reviewed the materials with parent and child and talked about kindergarten preparation. She urged parents to review letters and numbers daily and help their children practice writing their names in hopes that Fulton's children would arrive in classrooms better prepared for kindergarten.

"I'm the mom of a kindergarten student myself," said Pulley. "When I filled out the Brigance screener and was asked whether my child knows ten sight words already I was astonished . . . Kindergarten expectations are growing by leaps and bounds."

As state funds continue to shrink Pulley constantly searches for new funding sources for FRYSC services. "Governor Beshear's launch of his kindergarten readiness campaign is exciting, but it's a challenge to think of new ways to address school readiness and how to pay for those ideas," said Pulley. "I am grateful for our CECC. The council is offering several new options for supporting parents of our youngest kids and local day care centers."

One of those options is a fall festival for families with children ages 0-5. In October Pulley's FRYSC, The Family Connection, will host the festival in conjunction with the CECC, Head Start and the county's Extension Service. Children will be screened for developmental delays while parents will learn about the five areas of school readiness and receive a Grow Bag full of learning materials. In the spring The Family Connection and Four Rivers CECC will host a family literacy event, and in early summer they'll collaborate on a kindergarten readiness program.

"I suppose it's impossible to freeze time so nothing ever changes in education," said Pulley. "Thankfully we can team up with CECCs on kindergarten readiness, no matter what comes next."

Regional Roundup

Region 9 (Whitley County) ~ Community Collaboration Yields Smiles and Happy Feet

by Della Rose, Coordinator, Pleasant View/Boston FRC

Williamsburg (KY) – Pleasant View/Boston Family Resource Center Coordinator, Della Rose was contacted about a program with Samaritan Feet and University of the Cumberland's. It was thrilling to have the two schools participate. The event was very well organized. Forms were sent home for guardian's to put the child's shoe down. Shoes were then pre-order. Pleasant View Elementary and Boston Elementary students were privileged to participate in a shoe giveaway at the college, 100 students from each school were chosen on a first come first serve basis to get free shoes and socks at this event on August 27. Upon arrival at the college, youth were met by Cumberland students, who were helping with the program. The children were paired off into stations that had several college students leading games such as jump rope, ring toss, duck-duck-goose, parachute toss and other fun games that students enjoyed. While some students were playing games, other students were getting their feet washed and getting new socks and shoes.

Samaritan's Feet are special people. Words can't describe the appreciation shown from the Corporation and the University of the Cumberland's sport teams.

I don't think we have seen so many smiling faces in one place; it was such a humbling experience to be a part of this event. Words cannot express the gratitude toward our staff, volunteers and parents and grandparents that who went with the schools to help chaperones, to make this possible for our students to have such a wonderful day. Thank you, Samaritan's Feet and University of the Cumberland's. You have truly made a difference in our student's life.

Congratulations!!

Bullitt Central Drama Team and Tonia Wiggins, YSC Coordinator

2013 Recipient of the Steve Kimberling

Youth Leadership in School Safety Award

Presented by the Kentucky Center for School Safety

- Name of Program - Bullitt Central Drama Team
- Team Leaders – Tonia Wiggins, Bullitt Central High School Youth Service Center Coordinator & Kevin Gose, Bullitt Central High School Drama Teacher
- School – Bullitt Central High School in Bullitt County
- Students – Anastasia Bell, Dalton Lee, Brandon Woodward, Kallen Juric, Rebecca Ralston, Devin Smith, Amber Hardesty, Allison Greer, Sierra Harvey, Evan McDaniel, Max Steck, Marissa Kays, Isabella Browner, Corey Stearman & Ava Cooper
- Drama is an academic course offered at Bullitt Central High School. A core group of students make up the Drama Team. Kevin Gose leads the drama team and each year collaborates with Tonia Wiggins, the Youth Service Center Coordinator to put on a play that address issues regarding student safety. Kevin & Tonia conduct research to find the playwright to use and investigate funding to support the production. In the 2010-11 school year the team performed *Don't u Luv Me?*, a play about teen dating violence and *Bang Bang You're Dead*, a play about the consequences of violent crime. In the 2011-12 school year the team performed *Alky*, a play about the dangers of underage drinking and drinking and driving. In March 2013, the team performed *Remembering Grace*, a play about the long term consequences of texting and driving and written by Kevin Gose, himself. Many of the students are leaders in the school's Student Against Drunk Driving club and some have been selected as the community Partners in Prevention VIP – Very Important Partner, poster candidates for their dedication to live alcohol, tobacco and drug free lives.
- The drama team puts on a powerful performance that engages students and causes them to reflect on the choices they make each day that can place themselves and others at risk. Many of the students are leaders in the school's Student Against Drunk Driving club and some have been selected as the community Partners in Prevention VIP – Very Important Partner, poster candidates for their dedication to live alcohol, tobacco and drug free lives.
- The drama team has impacted the students in a positive way. The students involved feel empowered and motivated by the ability they have to evoke emotion in others through their performance while also making a statement that motivates some to change their behavior. The school culture has also been impacted due the communication among students and staff regarding these important safety issues and their impact on student life.

Regional Roundup

Region 3 (Jefferson County) ~ First Neighborhood Place: Has Awesome Back-to-School Program

by Ricky Owens, Coordinator, Thomas Jefferson Middle School YSC

Louisville (KY) • Wow! What a great First Neighborhood Place/FRYSC Back to School Festival we had today. We had a line forming at 7:30 a.m. this morning and the event did not start until 10:00a.m. We served over 1500 students with backpacks and school supplies and over 600 families. So we had well over 2,000 people at our event. Besides supplies we had voters registration, school registration, sports physicals, music and all kinds of community vendors. Nutritional Services providing over 700 lunches to the kids was a great addition this year.

This has to be one of the biggest and best events in the entire city. The really cool thing about this event is that it is strictly grass roots. We do not have a big corporate sponsor, but somehow we always find the backpacks and school supplies to serve our community. I am honored to be a part of the "FRYSC nation". I must say a special thanks to Krista Campisano, coordinator Indian Trail. She led the planning of the meetings and did so many things behind the seen. And what can I say about Gloria Moorman administrator at First Neighborhood Place. Gloria's energy and personality is infectious. She has worked tirelessly for the past couple of months to make this event happen. Also big thanks to Ben Langley for providing Angela Eddings, Program Specialist. Angela was there from the beginning and constantly coming up with supplies.



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FACES ACROSS KENTUCKY



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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Betty Marshall

*Thank you for your friendship,
leadership, and passionate
professionalism.*

*Kentucky's families and
children are better for your
efforts.*

Happy Retirement...

