



# FDVSC Ky BUSINESS FRYSCKy BUSINESS

*The Official Newsletter of the Family Resource and Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky, Inc.*

*Bridging Barriers and Changing Lives Since 1991*

**Fall 2014**

## **Happy Fall Greetings: New Year and a New Season**

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

**Betsy Layne (KY)** • It's hard to believe we are in the midst of another school year! This makes my eighteenth year of working with families and with it comes new challenges and issues. Our summer camps and programs have been growing and improving throughout the state every year and we are continuing to serve children with more educational and enrichment activities that make us a vital part of the climate of our school.

This school year, I would like to challenge each of you to continue to work to improve the quality of life for your students by giving them opportunities to grow both personally and educationally. Our economic challenges continue to grow within the Commonwealth due to declining jobs and higher unemployment. So I am seeing many different families than I have in the past. I am receiving many requests for assistance for the Holidays, which makes me know that this could be one of our most difficult years.

I love Fall, and it's probably my favorite season. I enjoy going to football games, getting to sit around a fire in the cool evenings with friends making S'mores. With the holidays upon us, please remember we cannot save the entire world with our efforts. We are here to refer and collaborate with our community. Work on building relationships with your stakeholders that will make your job easier.

We are serving the children of Kentucky regardless of their needs, as well as their families. It is easy to say I've done all I can do and I can't do anything else. I know I find myself feeling this way many times. Just know we need to continue to make a difference by showing love. That doesn't cost anything to give a hug, a handshake or a high five to make a child know he is noticed, appreciated and cared about.

As always, if you need to contact me, I can be reached at [brian.akers@floyd.kyschools.us](mailto:brian.akers@floyd.kyschools.us) or at 606-478-5550 and I'm always glad to hear from you.

Wishing you peace and joy!

### VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE

July 13-14

Galt House Hotel - Louisville

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### FALL INSTITUTE

November 11-13

Lexington Convention Ctr.

## **Featured Article**

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### **Summer Support for FRYSC Activities from UK Tomorrow Corps Interns**

*by Ann Kingsolver and Shane Barton, UK Appalachian Center*

**Lexington (KY)** • Family Resource and Youth Service Centers in Kentucky's 54 Appalachian counties have a new opportunity for summer support from UK Social Work students as part of the UK Appalachian Center's new UK Tomorrow Corps. This paid summer internship program was created in response to community requests for direct support of families, particularly relatives raising K-12 students. UK Tomorrow Corps interns will focus specifically on providing tutoring programs and support to FRYSC staff in serving the families utilizing the tutoring, which will be based in public libraries or schools.

Students from a number of colleges across UK will tutor in literacy, English as a Second Language, math and science. These tutoring sessions have been popular in pilot programs; they aim to help K-12 students retain grade-level skills through the summertime. UK Social Work student interns will be available to support library and school staff by, for example, organizing and training volunteers, helping to organize backpack programs and apply for USDA summer feeding site funds, or help write handouts.

This is not a research program, but a service program to strengthen a mentoring cycle between elementary, middle school, high school, and college students. Many UK Tomorrow Corps interns will be students from the 54 Appalachian counties of Kentucky who want to contribute to the well-being of the next generation in their home communities. All UK Tomorrow Corps interns will be well-trained and well-mentored through the UK Appalachian Center and the College of Social Work, and your mentorship will be welcomed in their professionalization and educational success.

For more information about how you can partner with the UK Tomorrow Corps, please contact Shane Barton, Assistant Director of the UK Appalachian Center, at [shane.barton@uky.edu\) 859.257.3948](mailto:(shane.barton@uky.edu) 859.257.3948).



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## **Regional Roundup**

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### **Region 2 (Bowling Green Independent) ~ Technology Information Night for Latino Parents**

*by Linda Krutza, Coordinator, Bowling Green Junior High YSC*



**Bowling Green (KY)** • On Monday night, October 13, 2014, the Bowling Green Junior High YSC together with Sandra Light, BGJHS special education teacher, Allen Martin, BGISD technology Resource Teacher and Teresa Sneed and Mildred Maradiaga from the BGISD migrant program sponsored an off campus event at the BGISD Professional Development and Learning Center providing passwords and codes to train our Hispanic parents on how to use technology as a tool to keep them informed and aware of their student's progress.

The event was well attended, with approximately 55 parents, students and children from our Hispanic community. Ms. Light and student leaders called the Hispanic families at BGJHS and personally invited them to the event.

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### **Region 2 (Russellville Independent) ~ Back-to-School Event in Russellville**

*by Carol Kees, Coordinator, Stevenson Elementary FRC*

**Russellville (KY)** • Stevenson Elementary hosted a back-to-school event the week before classes began. The students and parents were able to come to the school, tour the building and meet their teachers. Information was provided for transportation, medication, breakfast/lunch, clubs, etc., with parents being asked to complete only a minimum amount of paperwork that evening. After meeting their teachers and reuniting with others, students and parents were treated to free popcorn and time on inflatables before leaving the grounds.



## Region 8 (Lee County) ~ 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Readifest – Huge Success!!

by Sherry Lanham, Coordinator, Lee County FRC

**Beattyville (KY)** • The Lee County Family Resource Center held their 21st Annual Readifest on Friday, August 1, 2014. This year 54 agencies took part in the event. Parents and children started lining up as early as 3:00 am to be first in line when the doors opened. Every child received school supplies, treats and more from the agencies, while parents received information on services and had the chance to meet with school staff, including the superintendent, principals and teachers. Once the families visited all the booths they went into the gym and every child received a new backpack filled with supplies, new shoes and a new T-shirt for the year.



The event was hosted by the FRC and all items for the children were purchased with grants and donations obtained by the FRC staff. The first Readifest was held in August of 1994 and 11 agencies participated. This year 54 agencies participated and the event hosted over 3,000 people.

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## Region 11 (Hardin County) ~ Be Your Own Beautiful

by Tiffany Jenkins, Coordinator, Woodland FRC



**Radcliff (KY)** • In September, the Woodland FRC coordinated a "Be Your Own Beautiful" Day. Several brave staff members participated in the day by going "natural" (i.e. no make-up or hair products)! The video "Try" inspired me to get this together to show our girls that true beauty lies within. The program tied into my 5th grade "Always Changing" program and Girl Power. Friends from across Kentucky participated via Facebook. The conversations that we had in my school groups, in our classes, and in our staff meetings were amazing and so empowering.



**VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE**  
July 13-14, 2015

*Galt House Hotel & Suites  
Louisville, KY*





## Region 8 (Magoffin County) ~ Back-to-School Event in Salyersville

by Alice Helton, Coordinator, Salyersville FRC

**Salyersville (KY)** • Salyersville Grade School FRC held their back to school night on August 7, 2014. Families were given the opportunity to come and receive clothing, household items, school supplies, and food. Every student received tablets, pencils, ruler, shampoo, soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant.

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## Region 2 (Warren County) ~ "Spartan Life" Summer Program Kicks-Off Year for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

by Gina Powell, Coordinator, South Warren Middle School YSC

**Bowling Green (KY)** • The "Spartan Life" summer program is a kick-off event for incoming 7th graders. This year, the program consisted of classroom scavenger hunts, locker relays, yoga techniques for relaxation, and lessons about the public library and the services that they offer.



## Region 11 (Hardin County) ~ Take a Stand Against Underage Drinking

by Leslie Hall, Coordinator, North Hardin High School YSC

**Radcliff (KY)** • The NHHS Take A Stand USB Project will be developed and implemented by the NHHS Youth Service Center student representatives. They will create an informational PowerPoint presentation on the dangers of underage drinking and healthy alternatives for youth. The presentation will be loaded onto a 2gb USB keychain personalized with the lettering NHHS – Take A Stand. The students will prepare a presentation to introduce the PowerPoint along with welcoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders to high school for the following year. This project was done last year and will be updated and

expanded for this year. Funding from CommuniCare RPC for the Take A Stand initiative and the YES Grant has allotted enough funding to take this program to eighth grade students at North Middle School and James T. Alton Middle School. This is an information dissemination program coming from high school students to middle school students soon to transition to high school. NHHS students lead by example.



Pictured of Brandon Morton and Henry Jandl two of the NHHS YSC Advisory Council student representatives at the 2014 Take A Stand Youth Summit. The Summit is about underage drinking prevention. They were asked to create and promote a program to address underaged drinking prevention in the middle schools and the community.

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## Region 11 (LaRue County) ~ COOL School



Pictured above is Mrs. Heather Hynes teaching and in the back, Seth Newby (Student Assistant) helping students.

by Melissa Pearman, Coordinator, Hodgenville FRC; Machelle Durham, Coordinator, Abraham Lincoln FRC; Marsha Duncan, Coordinator, LaRue County YSC

**Hodgenville (KY)** • The LaRue County FRC's & YSC collaborated to provide a great week of educational learning & fun during the month of June. The Abraham Lincoln Elementary Family Resource Center and the Hodgenville Elementary Family Resource Center sponsor: **COOL School**, a summer enrichment program designed to keep children's brains engaged during the summer with a lot of hands on activities such as cooking, nutrition, art, physical activity as well as a trip back into history or possibly a virtual trip to another country. Approximately 110 elementary aged students attended this past summer. There was a \$30.00 registration fee for the camp, which pays for certified teachers for each class. The FRCs along with

LaRue County Community Action provide several scholarships for students to attend.

With the number of students attending, this makes for large class numbers and the teachers need assistants in the classrooms. This is where the collaboration begins. LaRue County Youth Service Center not only helps with the implementation of **COOL School**, but also addresses the "Summer and Part-Time job development for High School Students" Core Component. These students applied for positions and went through an interview process. Ten (10) students were hired as **COOL School** Assistants. Students then completed a job orientation, prepared needed materials for the week, set up workstations and assisted teachers in the classroom during the week of the camp. These students gained valuable work experience through this collaboration.

## **Region 2 (Warren County) ~ FRC Coordinates Teacher Home Visits**

*by Janice Lockwood, Coordinator, Briarwood FRC*

**Bowling Green (KY)** • Briarwood Elementary teachers board a bus and go visit kids in the low-income housing projects. They do this right before school starts and hand-out school supplies. The FRC staff coordinates this event and puts together the school supply bags. The kids love seeing the teachers get off the bus and visit them at home.



## **Region 2 (Warren County) ~ Hostess with the Mostess Camp**

*by Janice Lockwood, Coordinator, Briarwood FRC*

**Bowling Green (KY)** • Drakes Creek M.S., Alvaton Elem., Cumberland Trace Elem., Natcher Elem., Briarwood Elem., and Plano Elem. held a Hostess with the Mostess Camp. Warren County Ext. Office help put on this camp. Students got to learn the right ways of cooking and healthy ways to cook all using the microwave. They were given recipes to follow and prepared a full meal and even made dessert. This was not just warming things up. They were given aprons, measuring utensils and cookbooks at the end of camp.

## **Region 2 (Warren County) -**

Warren County FRYSC's held their annual Back to School Bash on July 30th at Warren Central High School in the gym. We had over 950 students and their families in attendance. All students received a free t-shirt and visited over 50 exhibitor booths where they could get free goodies and information on community resources including health services and screenings, educational programs, counseling services, and many others to get students and families ready to go back to school.

**Byline and photo credit:** Lynn Vincent, Coordinator, Henry Moss Middle/Rockfield Elementary FRYSC



## **Region 8 (Estill County) ~ FRYSCs Host Appalachian Summer Camp**

by Sara Stringfield, Coordinator, West Irvine FRC

**Irvine (KY)** • The Family Resource and Youth Service Centers of Estill County hosted the Appalachian Summer Camp during the 2014 Summer Break in partnership with the Irvine Housing Authority. Students in grades K – 12 were invited to participate. The purpose of the Appalachian Summer Camp was to teach students about our rich Appalachian culture and provide opportunities for them to receive hands-on, creative experiences. Artisans in our community taught students how to weave their own basket, create an authentic barn quilt to be included in the Estill County Barn Quilt Trail and learn how to play a dulcimer.

Students also had the opportunity to visit the Estill County Public Library Bookmobile to check-out summer reading books. Students and family members were encouraged to seek community resources throughout summer break to ensure all families were working to incorporate learning in the home during family time.

The FRYSCs of Estill County are very appreciative for the support from local organizations that financially supported the Appalachian Summer Camp. Grants were received from the Estill-Powell ASAP Board, Jackson Energy Round-Up and the Estill County Arts Council.

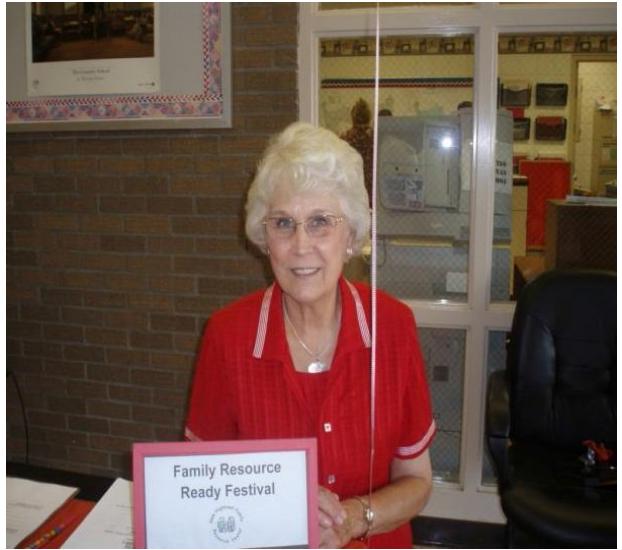
***Below is a group of students who worked on the Appalachian Summer Camp Barn Quilt. The quilt is now hanging on the outside of the Irvine Housing Authority Community Room for residents and visitors to enjoy.***



## **Region 11 (Hardin County) ~ Pansy Michels Wins Individual Bridges Over Barriers Award**

*by Teresa Edlin, Coordinator, New Highland FRC*

**Elizabethtown (KY)** • It is with great pleasure that I nominated, Ms. Pansy Michels, for the Bridges over Barriers Best Partner Award for the Individual Category. In 1993, FRYSC's were being pioneered in our state. It was also the year that I was hired as the FRC Coordinator. Looking at the mission and responsibilities, I knew that I needed help to be effective. I sent an e-mail out to the school staff. A reply came from a kindergarten teacher saying that a Grandmother of one her students wanted to be involved with the school but she did not need an additional volunteer. I contacted her and I fell in love with this special lady, Pansy Michels, the moment I met her. She agreed to come to the FRC at least one day per week during the school year to assist me with clerical work and to facilitate a school-wide birthday self-esteem program which required going through the old 1990's computer print outs of students, designing class sheets of each child's birthdays, baking cupcakes for students (600-700) plus staff, and distributing them to students with a ribbon telling each child that they are special. Pansy still runs the program for our FRC. This program has become easier over the years. Cupcakes are donated. Class lists are easily printed. However, she still hands out ribbons, cupcakes, and pencils to students. After 21 years, she has become mostly known as the beloved Cupcake Lady at our School! She also was involved with doing eye screenings on students for several years during the 90's. She also paid for a cab for one year for referrals working on their GED who did not have transportation. She has cleaned many tables in the cafeteria for our school.



Ms. Pansy continues to work one day per week at the school. She also works to assist most evening events -working two full days prior to our huge back to school Readi-Fest to help me organize it. The project is so huge; I would not be able to do it without her. She always comes early with a smile and leaves with a smile as she helps me clean up after events. She assists with our dental screenings days, Field Day, Family Fun Nights, Cradle School, etc. Over the years, she organized volunteers for a two-month (7 day/week) community fundraiser at the mall for our center, a variety of Santa Shop Fund Raisers, and much more.

Pansy took a break from volunteering at our FRC from 2003-2005, during the time that her husband was being treated for cancer. He also volunteered at our FRC during events, at the encouragement of Ms. Pansy. After her husband passed away, she came back to the FRC to assist us. She said she truly believed in our mission and that her time with the students was priceless to her. She told me many times, "God has given me health to serve and this is where I am supposed to be". She also takes care of an elderly sister in a nursing home and is active serving in a variety of roles in her church.

Pansy has also assisted the FRC many times financially. She often shows up with donations of items that she knows that we need. She has purchased a variety of refreshment items over the years that help the FRC with concession donations from PTO, Santa Shop Items, Clothing, and Basic Need Items for Families, Holiday Help Sponsorships, etc. I could truly go on and on...

Pansy's Granddaughter is now a teacher in our school system and talks about fond memories of assisting her grandmother with volunteer events at our school.

Pansy is 79 years old, a widow, and a FRC Advocate like no other. Her service to the FRC has been behind the scenes work. However, her long term loyalties, dedicated service, donations of time and personal resources show her devotion to our program should be recognized. She is amazing!

## **Region 7 (Fairview Independent) ~ Westwood Baptist Church Wins Non-Profit Bridges Over Barriers Award**

by Brenda Hale, Coordinator, Fairview Independent FRYSC

**Ashland (KY)** • As the coordinator of the Fairview FRYSC, it was my honor to nominate Westwood Baptist Church for the 2014 Bridges over Barriers Award.

As any FRYSC coordinator will tell you, the faith community plays a huge part in helping us provide for the children and families that we serve. When I came to Fairview 18 years ago, one of the first community partners that helped me was Westwood Baptist Church. They have always stepped up and assisted families in time of need with food baskets and other items they might need.

Each year the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, all six churches located in the Westwood community hold a combined Holiday service. The offering that is collected each year from this service has been donated to the Fairview FRYSC for the past 16 years to help with our programs and to assist with student needs. The fact that they chose our center to receive these funds has always meant so much.



Ten years ago, a group of women within the church decided to do a clothing drive and immediately open up the doors of the church for the community to come in and get the clothing that they needed. Thus the "Keeper's Closet" was established. Twice each year, the first time the week after school starts and the second time before Christmas the church collects clothing. The members then sort, size, launder and display the clothing in their gymnasium. They contact the FRYSC so we can do an "all call" to our families and put it on the school's website. This program has been a huge success and has taken a huge burden off of many families in providing for their children.

Drema Holmes, a member of the church and a retired Fairview teacher, came to the FRYSC three years ago and asked if there were items that the FRYSC needed that the church could try to get. At that time, we were really low on blue jeans in our clothing closet so it was decided that they would collect blue jeans for the entire month. The church membership got on board and the jean drive was a huge success, so much so that they didn't want to stop. They said what can we do next? And that is how we now receive monthly donations from the church. We have established items to be collected each month, but those can be changed as needs change.

May brings me to another service that they provide to the community. In May and June, they collect food the entire month. Some members like to give cash toward the project and these funds are used to purchase perishable items. Fairview FRYSC identifies families that are in need of help with food over the summer months and they come to the church the first of the month to pickup these food baskets. Families often share that when their children aren't in school that that is two extra meals a day that they have to provide, and sometimes it is very difficult. WOW! With all that said I bet you thought that I was done! Well you would be wrong.

Three years ago, one of the Sunday school classes had read in the paper about one of the other area schools distributing weekend snacks to students every week. Ms. Judith Gambill called the FRYSC and wanted to know if we had that program, and when they found out that we didn't, they wanted to know if we felt there was a need. And the ball was rolling and rolling quick, within two weeks we had permission forms back from 35 students and the weekend snacks have been going home ever since. This year the snack bags are being distributed to 47 elementary students on a weekly basis.

And then Mrs. Drema Holmes, who I had mentioned earlier came up with the idea of hosting a weekly 4 You program at the church every Friday all summer long! As a former educator, Ms. Holmes never tires of educating our youth. For three years now she has spent every Friday, all summer long, from 10 am to 11:30 am, playing games and teaching our community children. Yes they have a gospel lesson, but they also learn self-esteem, following directions, listening skills, and the list goes on.

I tell everyone that will listen that I have the BEST job in the world! It is community partners like Westwood Baptist Church that make what FRYSC coordinators do possible!

## **Region 3 (Jefferson County) ~ Creative Workplace Wins For-Profit Bridges Over Barriers Award**



by Lindsey Cain, Coordinator, Lincoln/Dawson Orman FRC

**Louisville (KY)** • As the coordinator of the Lincoln/Dawson Orman FRC, it was my honor to nominate Creative Workplace for the 2014 Bridges over Barriers Award. Creative Workplace is a local business in Louisville. They offer team-building services and creative spaces to businesses in the city. Many of the team-building activities are centered around volunteerism and giving to others. They have been the facilitators of many projects that have benefited families who are served by my center. They have facilitated "scavenger hunts" that have been to collect items for a Thanksgiving basket as well as to

provide holiday items for a family of five children who lost all their belongings in a fire. One of the most exciting projects that they have facilitated are building beds for the children served by my center who do not have a bed of their own to sleep in at night.

Health is a major component addressed by the Lincoln/Dawson Orman FRC. The bed-building program has been a significant benefit to our children's health. There is nothing that contributes more to the health of a child than a good night's sleep in a safe sleep environment. This leads to fewer days missed due to illness and other sleep-related issues.

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***FRYSCs appreciate your support of our work!!!***

# FACES ACROSS KENTUCKY



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**LOUISVILLE—Missy Jenkins Smith** delivers a passionate and powerful keynote speech at the Closing Session of the 2014 Fall Institute.



**LOUISVILLE—T.C. Johnson, coordinator from Lexington, presents a workshop focused on college and career readiness at the Fall Institute.**



**LOUISVILLE — Doug Jones, DFRYSC-RPM from Morehead, facilitates a discussion with coordinators.**