



FRYSCKy BUSINESS

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

Fall 2015

Preparing for Our Silver Anniversary!

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

Betsy Layne (KY) • It never seems to slow down, it's like watching a clock on the wall go around and around without slowing down. As I write this letter to you on the 30th anniversary of the movie, Back to the Future, not a lot of things predicted in that movie have come to pass. The Cubs still haven't won the World Series; we are not using Hover Boards on a daily basis or driving in flying cars. There is only one constant, which would be our mission to continue to serve the children of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The beginning of the school year seems like only a faint memory, and now we are preparing for the Fall Institute and knowing that the holidays are just around the corner. As we prepare for the Silver Anniversary of the Family Resource Youth Services Centers, we need to know that we have made a difference in countless lives of children and families across the state. I want to take this time to thank each of you for your commitment to your schools for making the FRYSC initiative a part of the educational climate within each of your centers.

We have been extremely fortunate to obtain two wonderful cooperate sponsors this year. **Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield-Medicaid** and **Humana CareSource** have both given generous donations to our FRYSCky Coalition. This will help provide the training to give our coordinators the necessary education and motivation to return to their schools to be an important part of their educational community. I would like to encourage you all to go and continue the good works that you do with families and students.

As the ending of my tenure as President is slowly approaching, I want to assure each of you that our FRYSCky Board is working hard to provide a network to serve all coordinators during the upcoming legislative session. Our Public Policy Committee is developing a plan to implement a strong initiative during the session, which is also a state budget year. You will be hearing a lot from the Coalition during the next few months. Please use your contacts with legislators prior to the session. We do not want the only contact to be from us. I appreciate your willingness to welcome legislators into centers often.

In closing, I want to say how blessed I've been to serve as your president and will continue to represent you to the best of my ability. We are truly a better organization because of each of you. Remember as one we cannot accomplish much, but together we make a strong cord that cannot be broken.

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

Featured Article

The FRYSC Monitoring Visit: A Chance to Shine

by Sherry Paul, Coordinator, Whitley North FRC

Rockholds (KY) • Hearing your name called at the regional meeting indicating that your center will be monitored that year is something most coordinators would loath. I have to admit, I, too, was filled with an emotion of sheer fear and dread when Maxine Reid called off my center name. Having months to prepare also meant having months to dread the day. Why? Why was I so worried? I knew I did my best at my job every day. I knew Maxine had completed her center visit and had found nothing huge that I needed to do, change, or work on. Still, knowing that I was going to be "officially monitored" put my stomach in knots!



I soon received an email from Tammy Gay indicating that she was the lead for my monitoring visit, and was given clear instructions on what to do to prepare for the day and what to expect. I took the monitoring tool line by line and made sure I had everything at my fingertips to make the visit go more smoothly. I chose several parents and teachers to be interviewed, and it all began to fall into place. Soon, I began to feel more confident on what was going to transpire.

By the time the day arrived, I felt prepared. Then, it hit me. I am a people person and realized that I actually was looking forward to Tammy Gay and Mary Ann Jennings visiting my center, meeting my school family, and talking with some of the parents. Whitley County North Elementary is a wonderful school in a great part of the state, and I work with some of the most fantastic teachers and staff anyone could ask for. Most of all, the students! The monitoring team was going to get to meet the students that I am blessed to see and enjoy each and every day.

In a nutshell, my experience with center monitoring was great. It was a day filled with visiting and laughter as we completed the task at hand. In the end, I am glad my center was chosen. It gave me and our part of the state a chance to shine!

For coordinators who are going through the monitoring process and would like to talk to Sherry, please contact her at sherry.paul@whitley.kyschools.us. She is happy to share more information and insight into the process.



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Region 9 (Whitley County) ~ Never Too Young

by Sherry Paul, Coordinator, Whitley North FRC

Rockholds (KY) • As continued research indicates the importance of healthy brain development, overall health, and school readiness, it is never too soon to provide engaging activities for children under five years of age. Whitley County and Williamsburg FRYSC collaborate with Bell Whitley CAA, Whitley County Health Department HANDS Program, and Whitley County Extension Services to provide Cradle School. Cradle School is a program which offers parent and child time as well as a plethora of information to parents regarding early childhood health and development. Combined with information, hands-on activities, and literacy, it is designed to promote a strong foundation for future school success.

The program is designed to touch base with parents and children on a monthly basis and provide information on topics such as early dental care, back sleeping, the importance of early literacy, fine motor skills, and cognitive development. The group meets at the local Whitley County Extension Office in a home environment meeting facility. The parents as well as the children engage with others to learn and share experiences and information.



Initial providers Sherry Paul (WCNE FRC), Tammy Stephens (Williamsburg City FRYSC), and Cheryl Owens (Whitley County Extension Office (EFNEP Assistant) look forward to seeing the program grow as the number of attendees increases and the community partners continue this unique collaboration.



Region 6 (Cumberland County) • Cumberland County FRYSC (Priscilla Schwartz, Coordinator) is recipient of the i3 **“Get the Picture” Family Engagement Grant** through GRECC. The grant focuses on providing a multi-layered system of support and is built around the belief that when exceptional learners from rural, high-poverty communities receive frequent, one-on-one guidance and support, they can and will develop the self-determination needed to set and achieve individually, personalized goals focused on their post-high school aspirations. The FRYSC role is to engage the families in the career and college readiness process. Cumberland County High School FRYSC visited the KCTCS Clinton Center site on Monday, September 29, 2015. The trip focused on College and Career Readiness. Pictured is Ms. Tracey Finley, Madison Wheeler (10th grader), Debbie Wilson, and Patience Nicholas from KCTCS. This project is sponsored through the GRREC – I3 “Get the Picture” Grant.

Region 9 (Harlan County) • Jenny Farmer, Coordinator at Cumberland Elementary FRYSC, held "College Readiness" classes with the goal of helping students to set their goals toward a better education. The AHEC program from SKCTC provided support to make these classes possible.



Region 6 (Lincoln County) • Families First Youth Service Center (Susan Miller, Coordinator) and Lincoln County 4-H Extension office in collaboration with Bonneville Baptist Church did a **salsa making summer activity** in which the students learned the basic of salsa making and gardening. 22 youth and 85 adults attended. The adults had topics on gardening, budgeting and health related issues. The Cattlemen Association cooked a steak dinner for all that attended and Ephraim McDowell Hospital provided free health screening.



Region 9 (Williamsburg Independent) • Pictured is first grade student Miles Leskiw, the son of Christopher and Jenine Leskiw. He is a student at Williamsburg Independent School and was recently named one of the **Star Students of the Week**. This program recognizes students in grades kindergarten through 5th grade who are nominated by their teachers for good attendance and great effort in class for the week. During the 2014-2015 school year nearly 300 students were recognized in the elementary for their hard work and dedication to school. Star Students receive a free Wendy's frosty certificate, a draw string back pack and assorted goodies to celebrate their success. Additionally, their picture and profile are displayed in the elementary lobby for the week. The Star Student program is a joint effort sponsored by the Elementary Dean, Williamsburg Wendy's, Ellison Funeral Home of Williamsburg, and the WISD Family Resource Center (Tammy Stephens, Coordinator).



Region 9 (Bell County) ~ Frakes FRYSC Coordinates a Back-To-School and Open House Event with Support from Multiple States

by Linda Partin, Coordinator, Frakes FRYSC

Frakes (KY) • With support from the Salem Baptist Church in Knoxville (TN) and some generous individual donors from Chattanooga (TN) and from Georgia, the Frakes FRYSC held a back-to-school Readifest and open house prior to the new school year beginning. Twenty-one members from the Salem Baptist Church brought boxes of clothes, shoes, household items and school supplies for the Frakes families as a free resource for the event. They also brought new clothing for Frakes students who would be incoming Freshmen.

"This is the first time anyone has bought clothing for our 8th grade students going into the 9th grade", stated, Ms. Linda. "It was a very kind gesture and everything the church members did was appreciated very much".

Ms. Mabel (organizer of the event) stated she wanted the students to have a good transition going into high school.

The students had sponsors that bought them new clothes, shoes and school supplies. Ms. Mabel (83 years old) organized the event by corresponding with Linda Partin, Frakes FRYSC Coordinator.

Will and Gayle Patrick also assisted in providing supplies for the new year. They are from Georgia and brought the Family Resource Center books, new backpacks, new underwear, socks and 2 TV's. Ms. Lisl Jackson from Chattanooga brought supplies also.

At the conclusion of this wonderful day, Frakes School had an Open House with several collaborating partners. The new Principal at Frakes, Mr. Terry Wilson, along with 5 new staff members, the FRYSC Coordinator, the Parent Liaison, and all returning faculty were available for a meet and greet event to start the year off right.



Ms. Mabel gives upcoming Freshmen, William Miracle his back-to-school supplies.



William and Gayle Patrick also donated items to Frakes FRYSC.



Region 10 (Pike County) ~ Fabulous Fitness Fair

by Eugenia Whitt, Coordinator, Blackberry FRYSC

Students at Blackberry Elementary School participated in a Fitness Fair on Friday, October 9, 2015. The Fair was sponsored by ARH of South Williamson in collaboration with the Belfry FRC. CEO Tim Hatfield, Dr. Chuck Johnson, Administrative Assistant Sandi Gregory, along with several nurses and other members of the ARH staff made up the amazing team whose efforts made the fitness fair possible. Students were timed while doing various exercises such as running, sit-ups, and push-ups. Health screenings included, height, weight, vision, blood pressure and scoliosis. This Fitness Fair is part of the ongoing efforts to educate our students about making healthy lifestyle choices. Hopefully, by demonstrating that fitness can be fun, our students will develop a positive mind-set about exercising and making healthy food choices. This will

eventually lead them to be more fit, healthier individuals. Other schools in the area will be participating in the ARH Fitness in the upcoming weeks.



part of the Fitness Fair, Dr. Josh Leonard, DMD, donated bicycles.

Region 9 (Whitley County) ~ Collaboration at its Best!

by Sherry Paul, Coordinator, Whitley North FRC

Rockholds (KY) • When a program works, it works! Beginning in 1993, Whitley County and Williamsburg City FRYSC have collaborated with community partners to offer a variety of workshops to the parents and the communities of Whitley County for the past 22 years. Sharing the responsibilities of food, speakers, childcare, and door prizes, the centers collaborate with local agencies such as Whitley County Health Department/HANDS, Bell Whitley CAA, Whitley County Extension Service, and Christopher Chiropractic.

The planning committee meets each summer to plan for the year's topics and activities. Topics of interest include mental health and dealing with stress, drug prevention, and a health and wellness fair. Also included are topics such as child abuse awareness and prevention, child development, and school readiness.

Long time attendees agree the workshops not only provide a great deal of information, but allow parents time to network with other parents while gaining support and friendships along the way.

The workshops are held on the third Wednesday of each month in September, October, and November, and continue in March and April.



Region 6 (Wayne County) ~ STEM Learning through Summer Robotics Camp

by Leslie Randall, Coordinator, Wayne County FRYSC

Monticello (KY) • Students who will be attending Monticello Elementary have an opportunity to participate in summer Robotics Camp each year, where students are introduced to STEM learning through the use of Lego Mindstorm EV3 robots. Since the camp is open to incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students, it provides an opportunity for students who are new to the building to get acquainted with some of the staff at their new school as well as develop a familiarity with the new building.



During the week-long day camp, students have an opportunity to build several models of robots using the Lego Mindstorm kits and then operate their creations using the corresponding Lego Commander app. At the start of the week, students build robots based on the building instructions included in the Lego EV3 software, but by the end of the week get to design their own creations and test their engineering skills.

While students don't get into in-depth learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, we do discuss the variety of ways robots are used in society today and the camp builds interest and excitement about participating in the afterschool robotics club available to fifth grade students at Monticello Elementary. In the afterschool club, students use math and programming to get their robots to accomplish specific tasks. Eventually students have the basic skills necessary to create their own program and compete in Sumobot competitions with their robot. Last year we were able to take 11 students to the state STLP event and 1 student was able to compete in the Sumobot competition at State STLP!



Region 9 (Whitley County) • The Whitley East FRC (Kathy Ballew, Coordinator) recently collaborated with the 21st century program to take the Whitley East Unbridled Mustang 4-H Horse Club to participate in the annual Daniel Boone Festival Parade located in Barbourville, KY. The group consisted of over 55 students and volunteers who attended the parade and constructed the float. Twenty of the themed costumes were sewn by the students under the supervision of the 4-H horse club leaders, Kathy Ballew and Brooke Wilson.



Region 6 (Cumberland County) ~ Students Targeting Outside Pressures (STOP)

by Priscilla Schwartz, Coordinator, Cumberland County FRYSC

Burkesville (KY) • Good social skills are critical to successful functioning in life. These skills enable us to know what to say, how to make good choices, and how to behave in diverse situations. The extent to which children and adolescents possess good social skills can influence their academic performance, behavior, social and family relationships, and involvement in extracurricular

When you are 13 years old, it is difficult to understand that “life is the sum of your choices” (Albert Camus). That realization comes after years of life experiences and often times after wrong choices are made. The teenage years can be a land mine of choices.

On September 25th, Cumberland County Middle School seventh grade students participated in the STOP program, the goal of which was to help students understand the opportunity and consequences of choices. The innovative program was organized by the Family Resource & Youth Services Center, Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Service/ 4-H in collaboration with 21st Century Panther Learning Center and the Middle School.



The Students Targeting Outside Pressures (STOP) was a one-day event pairing students with a volunteer “parent” to respond to a drawn scenario depicting an inappropriate behavior such as bullying, drug and alcohol use, shoplifting, etc. The pair visited appropriate booths to discuss their “crime.” Authorities working booths included the School Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel, School Administration, District Judge, Juvenile Justice, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, and counseling professionals. At the conclusion of the program, students participated in a debriefing session led by Elijah Wilson, to help internalize and reinforce program objectives. In addition to the role playing exercises, students heard guest speakers Jeff Connor, Burkesville Christian Church, and Matt Abel, Grider Methodist and Marrowbone Methodist Church. All talked with the students about the power of choice and the influence of friends, family, school, and community.

Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Lego Summer Camp: Creativity and Skill Unleashed

by Angie Martin, Mud Creek Community FRYSC

Grethel (KY) • The Mud Creek Family Resource Youth Service Center held a fun-filled and challenging summer session (Lego Camp) to allow students to display their creativity and astounding architectural skill. The Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky has put together a team to travel to schools around the region and give students who are unable to travel to the center in Hazard the opportunity to experience these enrichment programs or “camps” that teach science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a totally hands-on manner where students are out of the classroom and on their feet having fun and learning. Topics range from basic engineering using Legos, space science, environmental issues, spy technology, rocket technology, and kinesthetic learning in science. These programs allow students to develop valuable life skills and discover exciting career possibilities while learning to attempt challenges and missions. Students work on individual tasks and group tasks. The programs are led by highly-trained and enthusiastic “Mad Scientists” on a mission to get kids excited about science and how it affects the world around them. Stumbo Students showed great enjoyment while taking on each of these challenging tasks and have asked that the program return for another year.





Region 9 (Harlan County) • Each year, Cumberland Elementary FRYSC (Jenny Farmer, Coordinator) schedules a program about **self-esteem, bullying, and behavior** by the "Silly Saints" from Indiana. This program is brought to the schools free of charge. For more info, contact jenny.saylor@harlan.kyschools.us.

Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Accelerated Reading Camp 2015

by Angie Martin, Mud Creek Community FRYSC

Grethel (KY) • The Mud Creek Family Resource Youth Service Center and Stumbo Elementary share in the firm belief that reading is the foundation for all levels of learning, and should begin in early childhood, and happen on a daily basis. Given this belief we felt that it was necessary to allow students access to the Accelerated reading program throughout the month of July to avoid the dreaded summer slide. Students had the opportunity to come to the school's library and get a head start on their AR points for the upcoming school year. Our school uses Accelerated Reading to enhance achievement in reading. Students are evaluated and then choose books at their own level; therefore, they can read and progress at their own pace. Accelerated reading offers many rewards for students throughout the year. The library was open 3 days out of the week by the resource director with some teachers willing to jump and help-out from 10:00am -3:00 pm, students could come and stay the full allowed time or stay for an hour. Parents were also welcome to stay with students. Refreshments were provided by the center and the turnout was great! The program will be offered again next summer.





Region 10 (Fayette County) • Linda Prater, Coordinator at Arlington FRC, held the **Bricks for Kidz summer camp**. Thirty students attended the camp grade K-5th at Arlington Elementary. The theme of the camp was “Animal Grossology” with activities to go along each day of the camp. All students studied with their booklets to build a chameleon, spider, seal, snake, frog and alligators with Lego Bricks. The activities are based on the Math and Science Common Core State Standards. The students learn to explore, invent and create while having a good time in the camp. Parents were invited to attend the last fun day celebration. Each child received a t-shirt, Legos, and a certificate to become a “Bricks 4 Kidz Grossologist”.

Region 10 (Floyd County) • The Adams Middle School Youth Services Center (Michelle Keathley, Coordinator) hosted a **Robotics Camp** during the summer for Middle School Students. The camp was held in collaboration with the Challenger Space Center in Hazard.

The students participating learned how to design and create their own robots and controllers. While at the camp, they also were able to find out about cool new technologies coming out.

The camp funded in part through a grant from Kentucky ASAP and through the generosity of the school. The center hopes to be able to offer the camp next year.



Region 6 (Madison County) • The Kingston FRC (Angie Daniels, Coordinator) and South Madison FRC (Lisa Gay, Coordinator) in Berea collaborated with the Madison County Public Library to offer **Music Time** every Tuesday from 10:30 am to 11:15 am during the summer of 2015. Music Time led by Mrs. Lisa and Mrs. Angie is one of the library's most popular activities in the summer and always has a large attendance. This program targets children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. The program is developed using skills found on the Kindergarten Readiness Checklist. Parents/ Grandparent's/ Caregivers are encouraged to participate in order to learn how to play at home while teaching their child skills.

Ben, pictured to the left, enjoyed the “Froggy Went a Courtin’” song with his grandparents while shaking frogs on the parachute.

Region 9 (Whitley County) ~ New Beginnings

by Sherry Paul, Coordinator, Whitley North FRC

Rockholds (KY) • As the number of children being raised by grandparents and other relative caregivers increased across the state, family resource centers in Whitley County saw the need to support this special group of people. Thus, in March of 2009, the Whitley County Family Resource Centers began the grandparent support group, New Beginnings.

Since that time, New Beginnings has grown not only in number of attendees, but has also increased in the number of community partners collaborating to continue the program. To date, Whitley County Family Resource and Youth Services Centers combined with Williamsburg FRYSC and Christopher Chiropractic plan, support and sponsor the meetings each year. Topics include legal issues, estate planning, and nutrition while other topics of particular enjoyment are Thanksgiving and grandparent appreciation.

Support group attendee Wilma Grubb states, “These meetings provide me with support from other grandparents raising their grandchildren, and help me realize I am not alone in this situation. They also help ease the day to day struggles of raising children in today’s society.”

New Beginnings Support Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month for 10 months out of the year. The final meeting of each year is held in June, and is a special outing for the attendees to celebrate the successes and enjoyments of their special families. Some of the most favorite family outings have been visits to Kentucky Splash Water Park, Cumberland Falls State Park, and a picnic with inflatables.

As the program continues success and growth, it is sure to provide support to families for years to come!



Region 6 (Cumberland County) ~ Panther Pals: High School Mentors for Elementary School Youth

by Priscilla Schwartz, Coordinator, Cumberland County FRYSC

Burkesville (KY) • Cumberland County High School Panther Pals for the 2015-16 SY. Panther Pals support young people in grades K– 5th grade by providing them with one-on-one guidance, friendship and long-term positive role modeling with a high school student. The Panther Pal program was designed to, ‘help children

who face many obstacles and are at a risk of not performing to their fullest potential’. This program gives disadvantaged or at-risk children the opportunity to interact with someone older, more mature and more knowledgeable than they are. Someone who they can rely for guidance and assistance in dealing with many of the various challenges they may be faced with, in essence a ‘Pal’. Young people face similar and different challenges, but the positive impact of the Panther Pals program can make a difference. We believe that every young person should feel valued and important.



Region 10 (Floyd County) • Allen Central High School YSC (Sharon Collins, Coordinator) held a “**Why Try Summer Camp**” for incoming freshmen. They did many activities including team building, a drug and alcohol session, daily math and English classes, a trip to the Area Technology Center to build flower boxes and weld shepherds hooks, made kites using their geometry skills, bullying activities and the camp ended with a trip to the Toyota Plant, Newport Aquarium and a Cincinnati Reds baseball game. Operation U.N.I.T.E. and KY ASAP mini grants along with ESS and Youth Services Center grant made this camp possible.



Region 6 (Cumberland County) • Mrs. Nancy Buchanan representing the Burkesville Baptist Women’s Missionary Society donated to the Cumberland County Family Resource & Youth Services Center (Priscilla Schwartz, Coordinator) funds to purchase snacks for Cumberland County Elementary Students in need. Thank you Women’s Missionary Society and the other volunteers who donate snacks monthly! In the picture, Ms. Buchanan is presenting the check to Mrs. Lori Spears, who is accepting it on behalf of the FRYSC.

Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Summer Camp Offers Spanish Culture and the Art of Dance

by Cissy Roop-Williams, Coordinator, Rainbow Junction FRC

Bevinsville (KY) • Rainbow Junction FRC sponsored a 3-day camp, offering intro to Spanish/Spanish Culture & the Art of Dance. The camp was open to elementary students, grades K - 5. Daily attendance averaged 18.

Students were divided into two groups, (K-2 & 3-5); the groups rotated. During the Intro to Spanish session, students were taught the culture of how to greet (air kisses), foods, fashion, etc. They learned to say their names in the Spanish language as well as colors, days of the week, greetings, goodbye, and names for dance moves they were learning during intro to dance. (Homemade salsa was available for them to try). The students also got to swing/bust a piñata.

During the Intro to the Art of Dance, students were taught various dance steps, proper ways to move, etc. The students (K-2) & (3-5) surprised their parent with a dance presentation during the last hour on the last day of the camp. Parents and our Principal also participated in the last segment.

We want to thank Gloria Newsome, (Certified Spanish Teacher) and Tiffany Owen (Owner of The Dance Gallery) for working with our children! We want to give a BIG thank you to the Masons, they made it possible to pay for the Spanish portion of the camp.

Region 6 (Casey County) - From Summer Camp to 6th Grade Transition to Back-to-School Bash: Casey County FRYSCs Have the Bases Covered

by Jennifer Godbey, Coordinator, East Casey FRC

Liberty (KY) • The following highlights reflect some of the many activities and programs provided by the FRYSC coordinators in Casey County during the summer.



Casey County FRC's KidsTeam Summer Kamp

Kids Team is for girls and boys between the ages of 2 and 12 years of age. Daily activities at the camp include things like arts and crafts, sports/athletics, games, water day, school readiness and enrichment activities along with group activities based on our theme. Our trained staff works to ensure each child has a fun and rewarding summer experience. We host several community volunteers such as the County Extension Agents, Public Library, Health Department, and Local Law Enforcement just to name a few, to participate in various activities.

Campers go on field trips during the summer that coincide with the theme. This summer we partnered with Community Ed and the migrant program to take the students to an alpaca farm. Students not only saw the animals but got to see spinning the wool.

Campers have 2 meals and a snack provided through our local feed the children program.



6th Grade Transition

The Casey County Family Resource and Youth Services Centers held an annual 6th grade transition camp for all students that will be entering the middle school in the fall. Students attended sessions on Alcohol and Drug Abuse prevention, Bullying Prevention and participated in Group Tours of the school building. Students received a free t-shirt with a drug prevention logo. Students also received information on middle school policies etc. and were given the dates for open house.



Back-to-School Bash

The Casey County Family Resource Centers held an annual community wide "Back-to-School" bash. Various organizations and businesses across the county hosted informational booths and brought free school supplies for those in attendance. Approximately 600 attended the event.

CareSource, a leading nonprofit health plan, is a corporate sponsor of the **FRYSCKy Hero Fund**, a coordinator scholarship program. CareSource understands the challenges consumers face navigating the health system and works to put health care in reach for those it serves. Learn more about their plans including Medicaid and CareSource Just4Me™ at CareSource.com.



Thank You!!!

Featured Article

NATIONAL EDUCATORS TOUR KENTUCKY FAMILY RESOURCE AND YOUTH SERVICE CENTERS

by Doug Jones, RPM – Region 7, Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers

Lexington (KY) • National education leaders are taking notice of the impact the [Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Service Centers \(FRYSC\)](#) are making across the commonwealth.

An impressive list of these leaders visited Kentucky in late September to see first-hand the array of services the [FRYSC Program](#) provides by serving as the vital link between classrooms, families and communities. Officials from the [National Education Association](#), [Center for Popular Democracy](#) and the [Communities in Schools](#) organization initiated the trip. Participants represented a multi-disciplinary group of educational activists as well as teachers, principals and administrators from public school systems across the country. Doug Jones, manager of [FRYSC Region 7](#), helped organize the trip by choosing sites for tours in both rural and urban areas.

“Our visit to the five centers with Doug Jones and his amazing team was an eye-opener and an inspiration for the fifteen of us coming from half a dozen states and as many organizations, both national and regional,” said Evie Frankl, from the Center for Popular Democracy. “As far as we know, nothing like this exists on the scale that it exists in Kentucky. The fact that their dedicated, resourceful, and engaged site coordinators work together through entire feeder patterns and communities to plan services for kids and their families ‘from cradle to career,’ is a model that we are determined to recreate in as many geographies around the country as we are able.”

The rural FRYSC Center sites included Bath, Menifee, and Morgan Counties in the northeastern Kentucky region. Program coordinators, statewide FRYSC officials, school administrators, superintendents, along with community partners from government, business, industry and the faith community participated in a forum about the impact of the centers. Local and state officials including Representative David Hale attended, along with officials from U.S. Representative Andy Barr’s office and U. S. Representative Hal Rogers’ Forward in the Fifth organization.

Rowan County Judge Executive Walter “Doc” Blevins, who served over 30 years in the General Assembly spoke to the group about the program’s importance. “The day that legislation passed was one of the proudest moments of my life,” said Blevins. “I know firsthand the impact these Centers make every day.”

Visitors also learned that the centers provide education support to students as they work to eliminate barriers by meeting their basic needs. Coordinators explained how the programs collaborate with community groups to meet those basic needs. In East Kentucky, for example, more than \$14,000,000 has been awarded in child sponsorships for basic needs as a result of the FRYSC’s collaboration with Children’s Inc., a faith based child welfare agency since 1999.

The group then travelled to Fayette County School Centers at Bryan Station High School and Arlington Elementary to understand how the program operates in an urban environment. Executive Director Melissa Goins explained the history and mission of the FRYSC program, which will soon celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary.

“Kentucky is the national standard for provision of school-based human services in the schools,” Jones told the visitors. “The \$49 million budget serves 813 Centers throughout the Commonwealth and in 2014-15 the FRYSC’s served more than 525,000 students across the state.”

Cindy Heine, longtime educational activist from the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, discussed the history of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) and the importance of the connection between helping teachers

meet the needs of their students. Center coordinators shared implementation and results of programming and outcomes from the components.

Kentucky State Senator [Reggie Thomas](#), a graduate of Bryan Station High School, brought two unique perspectives to visitors. As a parent, he explained how the center impacted students and as a state senator, he stressed the statewide impact of the program by telling what Kentucky schools were like both before and after implementation.

"Program coordinators do whatever it takes to bridge the gaps so kids can stay in school every day," Thomas said. He went on to explain that attitude, along with broad legislative support have contributed to such a sustainable program.

As a result of the two-day tour, the National Education Association will coordinate a return trip in the near future to shoot video at these "best practice" centers.

"Kentucky's best kept secret is now on the national radar," said Jones.

Officials with visiting groups hope to propose the FRYSC Program as a model for trying to engage funding possibilities to implement similar sites across the country.

"Look for FRYSC's to start popping up in states all over the South and the country," said Frankl. "We are planning educational and motivational materials, legislative pushes and more. We are thankful for the Kentucky program for leading the way for so many years and for generously sharing their knowledge with us!"

Red Basket is a non-profit organization that allows individuals to donate time or money directly to people or projects that need help. Think of all the spaghetti feeds or "pass the hat" fundraisers you've been to. All of them are worthy causes, but you don't get a tax-deductible donation from it. With Red Basket, not only do the people who need help get access to a larger audience than the typical church basement, donors get a benefit, too. Powered By Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society.



Red Basket
Tiny deeds. Tremendous good.

<https://redbasket.org>



Red Basket connects people who need help, with those who can give it.

Who We Are

Red Basket, founded in 2012, is a web-based, non-profit 501(c)3 micro-philanthropy corporation headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. Our web site allows you to raise money for causes and projects you care about. We are fully supported by Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society* which covers Red Basket's administrative costs in their entirety so 100% of your donation is passed directly to the cause you choose to support.

How It Works

Individuals may request help with medical bills due to accidents, illness, and other unforeseen circumstances, or for assistance in rebuilding after a natural disaster or accident. Individuals or organizations can also request support for community improvement projects such as building new parks, offering a literacy service or improvements for common use areas that impact the general population.

Project requests may also include a call for volunteers to help do the work or to provide support in other ways besides financial, making it easier for everyone to be involved.

Step 1: You Give to a cause you believe in

or

You Ask for support for your cause

Step 2: You link your chosen cause on your Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn – any social media sites you belong to.

Step 3. Because you shared the story with others, they will also pitch in and help support the cause.

Step 4. We deliver the funds to the Asker.

Step 5: Families achieve financial independence and communities are improved – thanks to you!

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www.redbasket.org

*Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society and/or Omaha Woodmen Life Insurance Society is a Nebraska corporation that is licensed as Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society (Woodmen of the World) in all states and the District of Columbia, except CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, and WY. In those states, Woodmen of the World is licensed as Omaha Woodmen Life Insurance Society (Woodmen). For consumers in those states, Woodmen of the World means Woodmen.

FACES ACROSS KENTUCKY

Snapshots of FRYSC in Action



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