



FRYSCKY BUSINESS

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

Bridging Barriers and Changing Lives Since 1991

Spring 2012

We Learn by Doing

by Michael Flynn, President, FRYSKY, Inc.

Irvine (KY) • Isn't hard to believe that we all either have another school year behind us or are very close in doing so? As we close our schools doors to the masses each summer I am reminded of why what we do is so very important. I think of all the services that I provided to each child as they get into their cars and climb onto those school buses and I ponder upon the idea of: What would become of the continuum of these services if it were not for the summer programs and services that we continue to provide to our students and their families during the summer months. We impact our students and families in so many ways, but probably, in my opinion, our greatest impact is the fact that we continue to be a support network for them after many of the other programs that they are involved in close for the summer months. We truly cannot ever know all the changes that we are making in the lives our students, however, we can be sure that they will never forget.

This is just one of the many reasons I claim to have found "my calling" in my work and why I have stuck with it over the last nineteen years. It is also, why I chose to become involved in the work of the FRYSKY Coalition. I simply wanted to do my part in assisting all of you in continuing to remove educational barriers to our Commonwealth's children in any manner that I could. In the process I discovered so much about myself that I never knew and have made amazing friends with people whom I admire and respect so much. I truly encourage each of you to take the opportunity to get involved in the Coalition and its initiatives. It truly can lift you up and give you a greater appreciation for the work that we all do.

As I look back over these past two years as your president, I am reminded of so much that I was given the privilege of sharing with many of you. From our Victory Over Violence Conferences, to the Fall Institutes, to 20 year celebrations, to page days, and who could forget that very busy legislative sessions. It truly has been my pleasure to serve as your Coalition president and it has been my honor to do so. As I pass my torch on to your next president, Betty Marshall, I am sure that she will work diligently to ensure that your Coalition will continue to be your voice and your support. Furthermore, I ask that you give her the support and empowerment that you gave me.

I wish each of you a wonderful summer and certainly hope that while you continue to serve the children of our schools that you also take time to enjoy your families.

In closing I leave you with a quote by Anatole France. “You learn to speak by speaking, you to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; in just the same way, you learn to love by loving.” I believe that this quote says so much as to what it is we do every day in our jobs as coordinators. We all came to our jobs not really having a clear picture on what we were to do, yet by doing you jobs we learned how change the world of tomorrow through the children of today.

State Roundup

FRYSC Legislative Page Days another Huge Success

Lexington (KY) ~ The Family Resource and Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky (FRYSCKy) was founded in 1991 by Center Coordinators as a membership and advocacy organization who would support the FRYSC initiative by voicing concerns to policy-makers and leading the evolution of the program. The Coalition came together to provide legislative advocacy, training and support for Family Resource and Youth Services Centers Coordinators and their staff in Kentucky. The Coalition strives to promote a network that removes barriers to success in school through learning from each other, sharing resources and collaborating more effectively on behalf of children, youth and families.

The Coalition sponsors a Legislative Page Program during the General Session. Students complete an application process that includes an essay on “Why I want to be a Page in the Kentucky Legislature” and a poster which depicts at least one way the Family Resource or Youth Services Center at their school has helped students or their families. Once selected, students are then paired with a Legislator from their area and they spend the day fulfilling the duties of a Legislative Page.



Sophomore Daniel Correll from Breathitt High School was chosen as the Legislative Page from Breathitt County. On February 8, he traveled to Frankfort and served as a Page with Senator Johnny Ray Turner. While on the Senate floor, Daniel got to experience the workings of our state government.

Mrs. Milessa Barnes, Rangeland Elementary Family Resource Center Coordinator, took **5th grade student, Eduardo Hernandez (see photo above)**, to Frankfort, KY to serve as a Family Resource Youth Services Center Legislative Page on February 7, 2012. Eduardo was one of 20 students participating in this event from JCPS. He was selected as the Page for Mr. Thomas Burch in the House of Representatives and had the opportunity to perform many duties and learn about Kentucky Government. He had the opportunity to tour the State Capitol, visit many Government offices and meet Legislators. Eduardo loves to learn. He stated "doing his homework" as one of his hobbies. Eduardo's mom, Carolina Mendoza, accompanied Eduardo on his trip to the Capitol. Ms. Mendoza is very active at her son's school, in fact, she had to get back to Rangeland Elementary the same night for a program where she was talking to other ESL parents about the new Kentucky Common Core Standards.



Colbi Johnson is an eighth grade student at Carr Creek Elementary. She is interested in pursuing a career in law. She is the daughter of David and Judy Johnson. On February 8th, she spent the day in Frankfort as a Legislative Page with Representative John Short.



Ms. Karen Evans (see picture far left) - Newburg Middle Youth Services Center - took **8th grade student - Kirsten Doan (shown in both photos)** to Frankfort, KY to serve as a FRYSC Legislative Page on 2/7/11. Kirsten was selected as the Page for Rep. Kevin Bratcher in the and had the opportunity to perform many duties and learn about Kentucky Government. She had the opportunity to tour the State Capitol, visit many Government offices, and meet Legislators. Kirsten plans to become a lawyer and work in the District Attorney's office.

Regional Roundup

Region 8 (Knott County) - Carr Creek FRYSC Supports Children and Families in Many Ways

By Debbie Joseph, Coordinator, Carr Creek FRYSC

Carr Creek (KY) ~ Carr Creek Elementary Family Resource and Youth Service Center has linked with Crosspoint Community Church to provide in school, summer, and community resources for the students and their families. Crosspoint Community Church (C3) is located in Peach Tree City, Georgia. They have been traveling to Kentucky for 5 years. Each summer they spend one week with the students and families. Their youth group provides activities for students at the school. This includes puppet shows, music class, theatre, drama, physical fitness and swimming. The adult members of the church work in the community and at the school remodeling and landscaping. Projects include building handicap ramps, adding room additions to homes, new flooring, siding on homes, painting, and landscaping. We plan one night of fellowship for the entire community. This includes performances of the students, swimming, games, and food. C3 has developed a Christmas program for the children. They bring gifts and treats to students and families each Christmas.



Other Carr Creek activities include:

- Based on our 2009 Needs Assessment, the greatest areas of need were physical fitness and student low self-esteem. Our students and faculty were excited about the possibility of a fitness center. The Carr Creek Family Resource and Youth Service Center began talking to local agencies and coal companies. Through generous donations we now have a fitness center utilized by 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and school faculty.
- Carr Creek Elem. FRYSC has an Early Childhood Center for children ages 2 years thru 5 years of age. Volunteers are a crucial part of the program. We have one volunteer that has been with us for 12 years. She assists the children in developing skills for reading and writing. She has shown the children how to plant a garden. They harvest cabbage, tomatoes, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, and cucumbers. Her dedication and loving devotion has enriched the lives of many children in the 12 years.



- Each year in March, Carr Creek Elem. FRYSC hosts a Read Across America Day. We have at least 30 volunteers read to all the students at the school. These volunteers include coal miners, educators, administrators, local agencies, parents, bus drivers, and professional persons.

Regional Roundup

Region 11 (Cloverport Independent) ~ Backpack Food Program: Giving Is Important

by Pat Fuqua, Coordinator, Cloverport Independent FRYSC

Cloverport (KY) • I have a family who has deemed our Backpack Food Program as their family project by supporting it financially and by shopping with me, for me when I'm pressed for time and assembling the bags in order to save me time. I do the distribution and am the only one who knows the identity of the recipients as well as the donors. Here is a message I received from the parent after I took the son shopping with me for food boxes for the students and their families to use during Christmas break. I have removed the names in order to keep the anonymity.

Sent via email, Dec. 19, 2011 from student's mother to FRYSC Coordinator

Pat,

*I just got through talking with **** about his day with you. I can't thank you enough.*

He has been so excited talking about his day with you and how much he learned and how happy it made him feel that he was really doing something. He told me that it made Christmas really special for him this year. His main adjective in describing you and the whole experience is cool. The whole time he talked - he had the biggest smile on his face. He really got it and I'm proud of him.

Thank you, thank you. You are awesome and I'm so happy you let us be a part of what you are doing.

Merry Christmas. We love you and let us know if you need anything.

Fall Institute 2012

October 29-31, 2012 • Galt House Hotel and Suites • Louisville, KY

Regional Roundup

Region 2 (Russellville Independent) ~ *Dedicated Volunteers = Student Success*

by Carol Kees, Coordinator, Stevenson FRC

Russellville (KY) • The Stevenson Elementary School is so fortunate to have dedicated volunteers that make such a huge difference in the lives of our children. Renee Adams is one such volunteer. Renee began helping in her son's Kindergarten classroom over 12 years ago. Although her son is now a junior in high school, Renee still comes to the same classroom and helps her son's Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Laura Carson, every Monday through Friday that school is in session. She spends her day reading with children, listening to them read, and making sure each child has a book to read every night. She is an asset not only to our Kindergarten program, but also to all of SES, as she works diligently from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily, just to make sure each student receives what he or she needs to be successful.

Region 4 (Kenton County) ~ *Girl Zone*

by Amber O'Brien, Coordinator, Summit View FRYSC

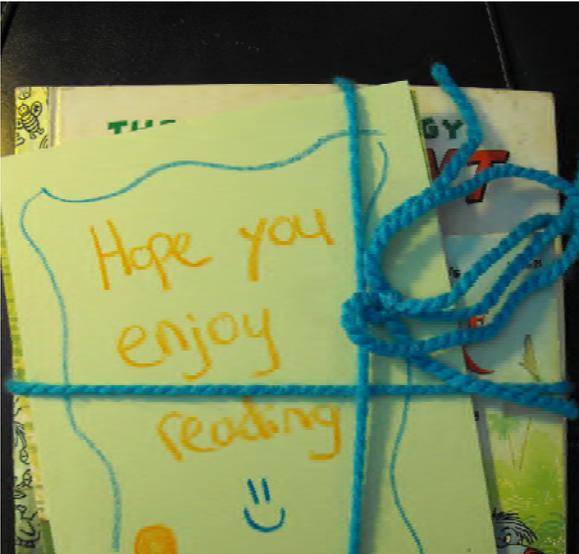
Independence (KY) • Summit View Elementary's FRYSC Coordinator and Advocate recently teamed up with Girl Scouts to host "Girl Zone" to almost 100 girls! Girl Zone is held once a week for three weeks, girls share in snacks, crafts and silly songs – all of which followed the theme of science and learning. Programs such as Girl Zone are yet another great example of how FRYSC Coordinators team up with community partners to enrich the lives of our students.



Regional Roundup

Region 4 (Kenton County) ~ Kenton County Coordinators Conduct Community Service Projects

by All FRYSC Coordinators, Kenton County



Ft. Wright (KY) • FRYSCs in Kenton County hold annual family service events, students and their families are invited to attend and perform service projects to benefit our own students, as well as others in the community. Last year, families bundled gently used books and included a note or a picture. These were donated to our local women's shelter to be given to children so they will have something to call their own in a very unfamiliar situation. As Coordinators, we understand the benefit of providing service opportunities to our families, and the connection with the community it gives them.

FRSYC's in Kenton County host a Families Serving Together event, families are invited to participate in packaging our Food for Thought bags. Food for Thought bags are funded by partners of the local food pantry and are sent home to over 175 students living in at-risk homes in our county each Friday. Students are provided with bags each Friday to ensure they have food in the home during the weekend. The FRYSCs in our county know the benefit of spending time together as a family, and try to provide as many opportunities for that as we can. What better way to spend time together than providing a service to others!



Regional Roundup

Region 4 (Kenton County) ~ Kenton County Coordinators Conduct Community Service Projects

by All FRYSC Coordinators, Kenton County

~ (continued from Page 8)

Last year a new club was formed at Goodridge Elementary School – the Caring Cardinals Club. What makes this group so different from other groups? The club membership is made up entirely of Special Education students. As Laura Mosqueda, Family Resource Center Coordinator states, “These are students who don’t get to take a leadership position among their peers very often. Since they are out of their homeroom class a lot, they don’t get to head up projects or be class representatives. The projects they do do not only contribute to the community and school but to their own self worth as well.”

The Caring Cardinals Club is just that – a group of students who sponsor and organize community service activities at the school who just happen receive special resource services. For the past two years, they have co- sponsored the Mountain of Food collection drive with the Family Resource Center and this year they added Treats for Troops. They just applied, in partnership with the FRC, for a grant to help hungry students and are hoping they will be able to implement a new project of service if they receive funding.

Resource Teacher, Tami Sallee-Thomas states “It would be really nice if every school could provide these opportunities for these students. They are really a great resource that is underutilized to benefit all. I would really like them to come out of the shadows so that other students in the school see them as an important part of the student body. This also teaches tolerance and acceptance among all students.”

The Caring Cardinals Club is a valuable resource for our school and has supported the efforts of the Family Resource Center greatly.



Regional Roundup

Region 4 (Kenton County) ~ *Bornlearning Academy Turns Everyday Moments into Learning Opportunities*

by Julia Goodman, Coordinator, Beechgrove FRC

Beechgrove (KY) • The Beechgrove Family Resource Center is proud to share information about how we meet Family Resource Center grant components by helping children enter kindergarten prepared for academic success. In 2009, Tim Hanner, former Superintendent of the Kenton County School District, ask us to pilot the Bornlearning™ Academy at Beechgrove Elementary. We partnered with United Way of Greater Cincinnati Success by 6 and Early Childhood Education faculty members at Northern Kentucky University to achieve Mr. Hanner's vision. His vision ensures that families in our community have the best tools available to help their children succeed in kindergarten and throughout their school career.

The Bornlearning™ Academy teaches parents and caregivers of children from prenatal to five years of age *how to turn everyday moments into learning opportunities*. Families participate in monthly workshops to learn the value of teaching their children so they are prepared for a successful entry into school. During each session, families enjoy dinners that focus on healthy nutritional choices. Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers. Educational crafts & programs are provided for school-aged children by Beechgrove Elementary staff members. The families participate in a family-focused closing activity where the parents can model what they just learned during the session.

We are now in our third year of offering the Bornlearning™ Academy and we are encouraged by our continued growth from 15 families to 25 families participating in the program. Parent involvement has increased because families are becoming more involved in their child's education. Families who are participating in the Bornlearning™ Academy are recruiting other families to participate. This program is having a positive impact on our school and community as evidenced by the following quote.

“This is how the bornlearning™ Academy has changed my family’s life. My children eat healthier. My children read more. I have more patience. I understand their development better and we are able to work out our differences and compromise. We are more loving and compassionate. It has taught us to give to others, to be more selfless instead of selfish. Best of all, my children look forward to coming to the program every month. The bornlearning™ Academy changed my life for the better. Thank you, Mr. Hanner! You have changed this family’s life.”

”bornlearning™ participant since 2009

The results are promising!

- **At the beginning of the workshop series, only 27% of families felt informed about supporting their young child’s learning and development. At the end of the series, 80% of families felt informed.**

- The belief that “the first year of life” is the best time to begin reading to a child increased from 80% to 93%.
- The likelihood that parents would begin singing to their child increased from 69% to 93%.
- 100% of parents and caregivers indicated that the bornlearning™ materials were helpful and that they had used the materials with their child.
- 100% of parents and caregivers found that the bornlearning™ Academy helped them better understand how their children learn.

The bornlearning™ Academy is an excellent program for schools to reach out and support school readiness. Our overwhelming success is a tribute to the dedicated school staff and volunteers, district leadership, community partners and our willing family participants. The pilot project at Beechgrove Elementary has led to the expansion of the bornlearning™ Academies into four other school systems and multiple schools in Northern Kentucky. ***We are thankful for the financial support from The Bank of Kentucky and Beechgrove Elementary’s PTA. We are especially grateful to Cummins Filtration of Walton, Kentucky for a financial grant that provided additional funding for this worthy and rewarding program.***

For more information about helping prepare children for kindergarten and Success by 6 in Northern Kentucky, go to sb6uwgc.org. Catch our vision of preparing students at Beechgrove Elementary for academic success by checking out uwgc.org/2011videostories.



Regional Roundup

Region 4 (Oldham County) ~ Blessings Come to LaGrange Elementary

by Graham Reynolds, Coordinator, Family Connections

LaGrange (KY) • LaGrange Elementary in Oldham County is very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers for the Blessings In A Backpack Program. The volunteers, who come from the community churches, faithfully come to pack the food that goes home to 200 kids for the weekend. This program would not be possible were not for the financial backing of community churches, United Way, and individuals.

Regional Roundup

Region 4 (Covington Independent) ~ Business Education Success Team (B.E.S.T.)

by Denise Dandridge-Brown, Coordinator, Sixth District Elementary FRC

I wanted to turn in information about our B.E.S.T. partner (Business Education Success Team) for a possible newsletter article. We are partners with Gateway Community and Technical College. We have won numerous awards from the Chambers Of Commerce. Two yrs. ago we were inducted to the hall Of Fame. Here are a few things they are collaborating with our school to ensure academic success. I am on the BEST partner committee. I collaborate with them on several FRC activities which include:

- a project called "Helping Hands" which is when Gateway employees come into the classroom to assist the teacher
- Family Fun Night assistance
- 5th grade students visit the Gateway campus
- Gateway Parent Night at the Gateway Campus
- Book Talks (Gateway volunteers lead book discussions)
- Bike Giveaways -Book Drives
- Reading Chains (Gateway monitors reading logs and awards classrooms who have read the most books)
- Toy drives for FRC (Christmas)
- Teacher Appreciation week (they cater lunch and give all the staff gifts)
- Spring Fling Event
- Christmas Concert
- BEST Celebration Breakfast
- Parent/Volunteer Appreciation Night

Region 4 (Covington Independent) ~ Legislative Page Excels in School and Community

Renata Watts, Coordinator, Holmes Middle School YSC

Covington (KY) • Alaria Long, a sixth grader at Holmes Middle School in Covington, has been selected as a Family Resource and Youth Service Centers Legislative Page. She was selected based upon her application, artwork, and essay.

Though she is only 11, Alaria already demonstrates all the assets needed to be successful. She is a well-rounded young lady and a future leader. She has perfect attendance, straight As and a great attitude. She balances academics and athletics. She is a member of the school's volleyball and the girls' basketball teams.

Alaria has also attended the school's YSC activities that included topics pertaining to substance abuse prevention and abstinence education. She also volunteers in the YSC by serving as a tour guide for new students.

She is the daughter of Nadine Long and Al Long. We are very proud of Alaria's accomplishments. She represented her family, Holmes Middle School and Covington Independent Public Schools well.

Region 4 (Shelby County) ~ *The Dynamic Duo*

Rachael Page, Coordinator, West Middle School YSC

Shelbyville (KY) • West Middle Youth Service Center is very fortunate to have a very unique volunteer duo here. Shelia Reese and her mom, Geraldine “Jerry” Poulter are very dedicated and valuable volunteers. Together they help every teacher, staff, and student. If one can’t come the other one does.

Mrs. Poulter, grandmother to 7th grader, Lane Reese, comes every Tuesday, like the mailman.. rain, snow, ice, or sunshine. She stops by and says hello and fills me in on life and to see if I will need her. Then she is off to help in any capacity needed. She goes to Lane’s teachers first, getting her “jobs” for the day, and afterwards visits the other teachers to see if anyone else needs her. The teachers know they can count on her and have stuff ready each Tuesday. Along the way she greets students as they pass by, she has a unique laugh and smile. Everyone around her loves her!!

Shelia Reese, Lane’s mom, comes every Friday, just like her mom (and the mailman)! Shelia and her husband are dairy farmers, they milk 130 cows twice a day, by themselves, sometimes only having 2 hours down time in between milking. You can only imagine the amount of work and the long day she has already had by the time she hits West Middle, but she is here every week with the same wonderful disposition as her mom. If you think about it, she is up while most of us are sleeping, milking all the cows, 2 times every day, and then comes in every week, religiously!! Not only does she help me with things such as the school sign, copying, and anything I need, she also goes around and helps all the teachers, students, and staff.

Shelia made sure every backpack student went home with gifts for their parents and families this year. She even worked it out to go as a chaperone for her son Lane’s class to Chicago for “Night at the Museum” which she had a big group of boys to take care of. She is very devoted to West Middle and I could not do without her!! She is an inspiration to me and the students she works with!

Shelia and Jerry volunteer whenever there is an event at school. They have mentored students, reading with them, helping with school work. Last year, Mrs. Poulter taught her mentor student how to write in cursive. It started when the girl told Mrs. Poulter that she loved the way she wrote, Jerry told the young lady that when they got her work done she would work with her. The girl asked Jerry to write sentences for her. During the next week the girl practiced and copied Jerry’s sentences until she mastered how to write in cursive, and then proudly showed Jerry the next week!!

I am very happy to let the world know about this Dynamic Duo and know they have touched many lives! West Middle is so fortunate to have them as volunteers and friends!

Legislative Reception
A Time to Say “Thank You” and Express Appreciation



Michael A. Jones • Editor
fryskycoalition@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.frysky.org

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• **FACES OF FRYSC: ACROSS KENTUCKY**

