



# FRYSCKy BUSINESS

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

**Spring 2014**

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## Spring: I Can't Believe We Finally Made It!

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

**Betsy Layne (KY)** • Can you believe that the 2013-2014 school year is almost over? With the arrival of spring, I am reminded how quickly a year passes by. It seems like yesterday we were shoveling snow, and having to endure the frigid temperatures that winter seemed to bombard us with continually. We have missed so much school this year and having to be flexible with our programming and schedules because of the severe weather. I truly hope that your year was rewarding and that you were able to make a difference within your school, students and communities. I encourage each of you to strive to make a difference in the lives of our students so one day they will be able to pay it forward as well!

I would like to take this time to thank the FRYSCky Coalition and the Public Policy members for sharing so much important information with our legislators. The Public Policy team had 20+ individual meetings with key legislators this session as well as working hard on completing another successful survey, hosting the legislative reception, as well as working six page days during February and March. I would also like to thank each of you for your emails, phone calls and the personal contacts that you made to let legislators know that your center is making a difference in our student's educational experience. You must know that our work is never finished and we must continue to be advocates for our centers, this isn't something we can do only during the session it must be ongoing throughout the year.

As you start planning your summer programs, I would like for you to take some time for yourself to refresh and recoup in order not to be overwhelmed with the never-ending task of being a FRYSC! As I start my eighteenth year as a coordinator, I look around and I have lost some pretty special people who have retired, passed away or simply because they choose to do something else with their career path. I know that being a FRYSC coordinator is tough, but the dividends are so great!

As I look back over my first year as president, I want to be able to say that we did, "Whatever it takes!" to be a voice for our coordinators. I look forward to seeing each of you during VOV with a smile and a tan!

God bless you for what you do everyday!

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**FALL INSTITUTE**

*November 10-12  
Galt House - Louisville*

## Get Your Free Copies *Exceptional Family Magazine*

*Exceptional Family Magazine* is a free, statewide publication that is sponsored by the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities and serves Kentuckians with disabilities and their families.

The goal is to get this publication into the hands of families who will benefit from the information. With the help of FRC coordinators last year, more than 9,000 copies of *Exceptional Family Magazine* was mailed free of charge to Family Resource Centers across the state.

The 2014 issue of *Exceptional Family Magazine* with even more resources and a whole new set of stories is now available.

If you'd like 10 or 20 copies mailed to your school to be distributed to your families, please contact John Lynch at [john@lexingtonfamily.com](mailto:john@lexingtonfamily.com) or call (859) 223-1765.



Follow this link to view an online version of the magazine.

[www.lexingtonfamily.com/resources/exceptional-family/](http://www.lexingtonfamily.com/resources/exceptional-family/)



### **VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE**

*July 7-8, 2014*

*Marriott Downtown  
Louisville, KY*



## Regional Roundup

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### *FRYSCKy Legislative Page Days...*

Region 6 ~  
Southern Middle School FRYSC Page (Kelsey Bradley) from Pulaski County assists Representative Ken Upchurch in filing an amendment to a Bill.

### *FRYSCKy Legislative Page Days...*

Region 6 ~  
Southwestern High School FRYSC Page (Bryan Roberts) from Pulaski County serving in the House of Representatives.



Visit [www.fryscky.org](http://www.fryscky.org)

*Register for conferences  
Get a membership form  
Find your legislator  
...and more.*

## Regional Roundup

Region 2 ~

**212° Luncheons** - At Fordsville Elementary School, we all strive to give 212° in everything we do. The 212° philosophy is that at 211° water is hot, at 212° water boils, with boiling water comes steam, and steam can power a locomotive. So, by going the "extra" degree, we can accomplish a lot. Each month, we choose 1 student from each classroom who has given 212° and give them recognition for their efforts. The Family Resource Center also provides a special luncheon for these students. Each 212° Luncheon is hosted in a formal setting, and students get to eat with the school principal and a guest speaker who is a leader in our community.



Region 2 ~

**Recycling Project** - This school year, National Furniture presented Fordsville School with a bench made from recycled bottle caps. In continued collaboration with National Office, the Family Resource Center and students are now in the process of collecting more caps to have another bench made for our school. This project teaches students that what is normally thrown away as "trash" can be used in a positive way for the Earth instead of a negative way.

Region 2 ~

**The Tree House Club** - The Family Resource Center started an after-school program this year called The Tree House Club for grades K-6. Each month, we offer a mix of 4 clubs such as: Jr. Chefs (cooking class), Mad Scientists (hands on science experiments), Creative Minds (arts & crafts), Caring Hearts (service learning projects), etc. In addition, students get physical fitness time, homework help, and snack each day.





## *Regional Roundup*

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### Region 6 (Russell County) ~ Native Son, Kevin Williams, Comes Home to Help Local FRYSCs

*by John Loy, Coordinator, Russell County YSC*



**Russell Springs (KY)** • Kevin Williams, a Russell County native and band director for the legendary Gaither Vocal Group, came back to his hometown of Russell Springs for a benefit concert on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Kevin hosted the benefit as a way to raise awareness to the local kids that needed assistance and as a means to raise funds for the local FRYSC's. The event was attended by over 750 people and raised a total of \$20,707 that will be used solely by the three FRYSC's in Russell County.

"Doing something like this has been on my mind and heart for over three years and it was great to

see it all come together and see this community come together to benefit the kids that are less fortunate and need a helping hand", remarked Kevin. The event could not have come at a better time. Within the past two weeks the community learned that a long time local factory was shutting its doors for good. Fruit of the Loom, Inc. announced that the Russell County factory would be closing and a total of 601 local jobs would be phased out within the next 9 months. "The loss of these jobs will create more hardships and needs among our families and students and therefore require more from our FRYSC's" said Johnna Dalton, Russell County FRYSC District Contact.

During the event there were various performances by individuals and groups. The Renaissance Quartet led by Gaither Vocal Group pianist Matthew Holt was on hand to perform as was the Crossroads Quartet. The Crossroads Quartet is led by former State Senator, Vernie McGaha, who was always a great supporter of FRYSC's across the state. Other local talent performed including a community choir that consisted of over 75 people.

Kevin Williams stated, "I was one of those kids that needed a little extra help while growing up". He also noted that while growing up all of his needs were met by his parents or the community and his desire is to see that the same is afforded to the youth living in Russell County today. Kevin also noted' "what better way than the FRYSC's to offer this support".

The benefit was such a huge success that plans are already being made to make this an annual event. Kevin and local members of the community will form planning committees that will continue to work with the FRYSC's and also try to expand to other areas in the community as well.

The Russell County FRYSC's would like to thank Russell Springs Baptist Church for hosting the event, all performers, and the community for all the support. They would also like to thank Kevin Williams for his idea and efforts to make this event possible.

## Regional Roundup

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Region 2 ~

Coordinator Beth Thomas, USES Family Resource Center at Sturgis Elementary. USES purchased and began the WATCH D.O.G. (Dads of Great Students) Program this year. The program brings fathers and father figures in to the building as volunteers in the classroom and as a security measure for the school. The picture is of Beth Thomas (Coordinator's father), who signed up to be at WATCH D.O.G. at her school and her son, who is in Kindergarten.



Region 6 ~  
East Casey FRC's  
KidsTeam program  
was honored to be  
visited by special  
volunteers!

*(at right)* ~ U.S. Marshal,  
Josh Devine, spoke to the  
students about gun safety  
and the importance of  
physical exercise.

*(at left)* ~ School Board  
member Marilyn Coffey  
reads to students in  
observance of Dr. Seuss  
Day.



# Regional Roundup

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## Region 4 Snapshots and Stories...



The Family Resource Center and Staff from Ft. Wright Elementary did a family Halloween party in the community. They traveled to the apartment area after school to run a Halloween party for the students and their parents. Stations were set up outside for families with different language and literacy activities that encouraged parent-child interaction and taught parents skills to boost student learning at home. Families received a prize of Halloween candy after participating in each station.



The Ft. Wright Family Resource Center ran an after school club every Tuesday in September and October called the Falcon Fitness Club. This group is for the entire school, grades k-5. Students meet after school and learn basic fitness/health principles, such as the importance eating healthy and exercising. Each meeting has a lesson and fun activities to promote healthy lifestyles among our students at Ft. Wright.



The Family Connection Resource Center and Staff at LaGrange Elementary did a Math and Reading Night for parents. Parents came and learned how to help their child with Math and Reading. Parents were able to make simple math items to use with their children at home. It was a very successful event.

# XXII Green River Regional Teen Leadership Conference November 8-9, 2013

***Event was a great success!!***

On November 8 and 9, a record number of high school students (123) participated in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Green River Regional Teen Leadership Conference at Mt. Saint Joseph Conference Retreat Center to learn strategies on how develop youth coalitions to combat substance abuse issues particularly prescription drugs.

Representatives from Indiana Teen Institute were guest facilitators for the weekend's event. River Valley Behavioral Health and Pennyroyal Behavioral Health coordinating the event. The conference was funded in-part through the *Partnership for Success II Grant* and the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Prevention Branch.

Participating Schools were:

Daviess County	Dawson Springs
Hancock County	Hopkins Central
McLean County	Owensboro Public
Owensboro Catholic	Ohio County
Union County	Webster County

These students returned to their respective schools to further their coalition groups so they can provide peer-to-peer education, effectively address school and community policies and local ordinances.



**Student Body of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Teen Leadership Conference**



**Students mixing with each other!**



**FUTURE, OHS, and Daviess Sponsors  
enjoy breakfast together!**



**School Planning Begins!**



**Indiana Teen Institute Trainers**



**Dawson Springs Students  
Brainstorm Ideas!**

### **About Indiana Teen Institute!**

The Indiana Teen Institute - ITI Adventure (ITI) is an affiliate program of Vincennes University. Indiana Teen Institute was founded in 1983 and has hosted nationally recognized, teen leadership institutes every summer since 1984.

ITI Adventure was launched in the fall of 2000 to highlight our experience-based programs available to businesses, schools, and community groups year-round. The ITI team is committed to Equipping Leaders and Building Teams.

# Regional Roundup

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## Region 6 (Pulaski County) – Operation Preparation: Career Exploration

by Cindy Pierce, Assistant Coordinator, Northern MS YSC (Pulaski County)

**Somerset (KY)** • Operation Preparation is an opportunity for our students to learn about careers of interest from community members who hold these positions. Our students are matched to speakers based on careers of interest they have saved in their Individual Learning Plans (ILP's).



*(at left)* ~ Mike Strunk, with KY Fish & Wildlife demonstrates tagging a fish to students that are interested in the Conservation field.

*(at right)* ~ Dr. Citak speaks with students interested in the medical field.



*(at left)* ~ Cory Johnson speaks with students interested in entering the Military.

## Region 6 (Cumberland County) ~ Operation Preparation & Reality Store in Cumberland County

by Priscilla Schwartz, Coordinator, Cumberland County FRYSC

**Burkesville (KY)** • Cumberland County FRYSC conducted Operation Preparation and Reality Store 2014. Cumberland County along with Kentucky is committed to ensuring that every student is college/career ready by the time they graduate from high school. Operation Preparation focused attention on the importance of planning for college and/or career by engaging students, schools and communities in the process. Each student was placed in their Career Cluster using the student's career Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and EXPLORE/ PLAN results, then a trained volunteer discussed their area of interest. FRYSC invited 24 community and business volunteers into the middle and high school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as career cluster leaders for Operation Preparation. On Friday, Reality Store was the culminating event for 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students with over 63 volunteers from the community and business. Reality Store helps youth become aware of their need for basic skills in financial planning, goal setting, decision-making and college/career readiness.

*Photos below: (at left) ~ Sheriff Steve Wheat, Policeman Lawrence Nettles and District Judge Kristi Castillo were Community Volunteers at Cumberland County Reality Store 2014. (at right) ~ Cumberland County High School 10<sup>th</sup> graders participating in Reality Store 2014.*



*Region 10  
(Floyd County) ~  
Prestonsburg  
Elementary School  
Celebrating Child Abuse  
Prevention*

# Regional Roundup

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## Region 9 (Laurel County) ~ America's ToothFairy Smile Drive

by Caprecia Sizemore, Coordinator, South Laurel HS YSC

**London (KY)** • Designed to raise awareness and collect oral care products for at-risk children and teens, the *America's ToothFairy* Smile Drive was held this February during National Children's Dental Health Month. Volunteer Laurel County Youth Leadership Council Students United with *America's ToothFairy* are leading campaign activities in London.

With participation from 3,900 Walmart locations, the *America's ToothFairy* Smile Drive will promote oral health for families across the nation. Local community members can visit their local Walmart® to drop off donated oral care products for local at-risk youth in the *America's ToothFairy* Smile Drive Box and pick up their free Kid's Activity Packs including *America's ToothFairy* Kids Club free membership cards, ToothFairy 101® educational activities for children and coupons from Walmart, Crest and Oral-B.

"We are so grateful that Walmart, an *America's ToothFairy* Proud Underwriter, is helping to ensure children across the nation benefit from our National Children's Dental Health Month campaign," said Fern Ingber, NCOHF President & CEO. "Their participation in the *America's ToothFairy* Smile Drive, combined with support from Kid's Crest® and Oral-B® Stages® products at Walmart and engagement from the Laurel County Youth Leadership Council Students United with *America's ToothFairy*, will help promote healthy smiles for all children while helping to give at-risk youth the tools they need to prevent the pain and embarrassment associated with tooth decay."



*Pictured (L to R) are North Laurel Middle School members of the Laurel County Youth Leadership Council: Mackenzie Morris, Hannah Wilkerson, Taryn Fields and Sabrina Hicks. Total collected at Wal-Mart in London: 211 toothbrushes, 173 toothpaste, 144 floss, and \$63.46 cash (which will be used to purchase more dental care supplies). Products will be distributed to Laurel County students when members of the middle and high school Laurel County Youth Leadership Council provide oral health education to elementary students.*

National Children's Oral Health Foundation, known as *America's ToothFairy*, was formed in 2006 as an aggressive response to eliminate pediatric dental disease by providing community programs with comprehensive resources to deliver vital educational, preventive, and treatment services to children most in need. Supporting the delivery of oral health education and care beginning at the prenatal level, *America's ToothFairy* engages caring dental professionals and the general public in programs designed to promote children's oral health. Through the generosity of dedicated Underwriters including Walmart and support from Kid's Crest® and Oral-B® Stages®, *America's ToothFairy* has reached millions of children through its non-profit clinical network, Kids Club and volunteer professional and student community service programs.

### **About National Children's Oral Health Foundation: *America's ToothFairy*®**

National Children's Oral Health Foundation: *America's ToothFairy* (NCOHF) is dedicated to raising awareness of the #1 chronic childhood illness: pediatric dental disease, facilitating the delivery of comprehensive oral health services and eliminating this preventable disease from future generations. With a growing Affiliate network of exemplary non-profit community programs, the *America's ToothFairy* Kids Club, professional and student service programs, *America's ToothFairy* is building a powerful, united effort to eliminate tooth decay and protect the smiles of our most vulnerable children. For more information, please visit [www.AmericasToothFairy.org](http://www.AmericasToothFairy.org).

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*FRANKFORT— Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, adjourns the 2014 legislative session "sine die" at the stroke of midnight in the Kentucky Senate.*