Summer: School Is Out; FRYSC Work Continues

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

Betsy Layne (KY) • Can you believe that the school year is coming to an end? I’ve been blessed to serve two years as your Coalition president, and I want to make sure as we enter into our Twenty Fifth Year that we make a lot of noise in celebration of 25 years of serving the children of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I am so grateful to have been able to serve in this position with an exceptional group of people from across the state.

We are finishing this year with over 700 paid members in the Coalition. Please make sure to renew your membership for the upcoming year, which begins July 1st. Going into next year’s Legislative session, we need to have a great show of support by making our numbers show our unity and having strength in numbers.

With summer comes a time when you can reach out by having summer activities. I know for many of you summer means a time of reorganizing, relaxing and catching up on everything you had to put off during the last few weeks of school because of testing. Summer activities are so important for our students, schools, and centers. I hope you have activities planned that will be the highlights of your students’ summer. Please make it a priority to make your center a place where students want to go to enhance their summer.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Victory over Violence in Louisville Kentucky on July 13 & 14th.

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.
Starting Success Early
Family Resource Centers Expanding Early Learning Program

by Kacie Goode, Reporter, The Kentucky Standard newspaper, Bardstown (KY)

Bardstown (KY) • All elementary schools in the Nelson County District will now be taking part in Born Learning Academies with the help of grants.

Born Learning is a structured workshop series that promotes kindergarten success through early learning opportunities.

About half of incoming kindergartners statewide — 46 percent in Nelson County — were considered not ready in 2014, according to the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics.

“The whole point is capturing everyday learning moments,” said Village Family Resource and Youth Services Center Coordinator Christy VanDeventer. “It’s so simple to overlook a child in the kitchen or to say ‘I’m busy’ when you could capitalize on that time.”

VanDeventer was part of the pilot program three years ago, with Boston School chosen as one of the first 10 schools in the state to implement Born Learning.

The program involves six sessions that tackle themes such as brain development, literacy and nutrition and discuss activities parents and caregivers can use with children newborn to 5 years old.

“If we can catch them in the first three years, we know that is going to have a much stronger impact because those parents are going to have those tools they need to continue working with kiddos,” she said.

By involving young children in daily activities like setting the table or making dinner, children are going to have a larger, more conversational vocabulary and knowledge of colors, numbers and the world around them, VanDeventer said.

“The sessions for Born Learning are engaging for all parents by allowing them to discuss their own experiences and successes with each other,” said parent Becky Bowman. “It has taught me that my children are in fact ‘born learning’ and provides opportunities to enhance learning in everyday life.”

As a pilot of the program, Village FRYSC signed on for a five-year commitment after receiving grants through United Way with Toyota as a sponsor.

This year, United Way, Toyota and Race to the Top Fund have teamed up to offer additional grants, for which Team Up! and NESTT FRYSCs in Nelson County were approved.

Lynne Potter, coordinator for Team Up! FRYSC, said she is excited to be able to implement Born Learning at her schools, which include Foster Heights and Cox’s Creek Elementary.
“It’s pretty big for us,” she said. “When children are that age, newborn to age 5, they are just ripe for learning, and that’s the time when they can absorb the most,” she said.

Potter was a part of the program when it was piloted at Boston, being certified to teach the Born Learning curriculum along with Marty Shannon.

Stephanie Harrison, coordinator for NESTT FYRSC, which covers Bloomfield Elementary and Middle, received her grant through Race to the Top, President Barack Obama’s chief education initiative that was authorized in 2009 and provides funding for innovations in K-12 education through participating states.

The grants help pay for various materials required for the Born Learning sessions, as well as a required family meal and monthly door prizes.

Free child care is also offered during the sessions and VanDeventer said the grant could help staff if volunteers are unavailable.

“I’m just really excited about being able to implement this at our school,” Harrison said. “One of the primary focuses with our elementary school principal here was making relationships with families and students. This is an awesome way to do that and do it early.”

Since implementing Born Learning three years ago, VanDeventer said the schools have seen a positive impact in children entering the school system who are more prepared for kindergarten.

Additionally, parents involved in the sessions are encouraged to continue their involvement at school, serving as Watch D.O.G.S. leaders, PTO members and agreeing to facilitate Born Learning sessions next year.

“It reaches every parent,” said Tabitha Edelen, an alumna of Born Learning. “We touched base on things that every parent should know … we take it back home and do it with our kids.”

Edelen, the mother of three children ages 6, 5 and 3, said by including her kids in daily tasks such as making lunch or cleaning has taught them responsibility and teamwork and makes them think more critically about the world around them.

“Tobi has gotten to the point where he reads nutrition labels when we’re making lunch,” she said of her eldest.

Edelen is one of the parents invited to help teach next year’s sessions when they begin.
Regional Roundup

Region 7 (Fleming County) ~ Etiquette Class 101

by Mendy High, Coordinator, Fleming County YSC

Flemingsburg (KY) • The Youth Service Center at Simon’s Middle School in Fleming County works with 8th grade students each school year to offer Etiquette Classes. Coordinator, Mendy High recruits the assistance of the local Fleming County Cooperative Extension Office and Homemakers Club to assist her with this annual event.

Students participate in a two-day lesson to become engaged in how to conduct themselves in a proper manner when dining in a formal setting. They also learn which silverware and tableware are appropriate for each course of food, and how to set a formal table. These are important skills as they enter into high school and join clubs and activities, which will take them to statewide and national conferences. In addition, all students learn how to tie a necktie. Boys are required to wear a necktie to the formal meal held the second day. The Youth Service Center keeps numerous neckties on hand for the demonstration and provides one to those students who need one for the day of the formal meal. As the program has been in place for a number of years, a greater number of students have started to dress more formally for the special celebration.

The YSC staff work collaboratively with the local lunchroom on this activity. While kids eat the same cafeteria food, the meal is served in a formal like setting in the school library. It is amazing to see how mature our students react to having tables adorned with tablecloths, cloth napkins, salad and dinner plates, tea goblets, silverware and water glasses with just a little training. This skill allows our youth to feel comfortable if faced with a formal setting (wedding, banquet, job interview, convention, etc.) later down the road.
Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ A Special Volunteer

by Angie Martin, Coordinator, Mud Creek FRYSC

Gretel (KY) • Addison Marie Brown is a 1st grade student from John M. Stumbo Elementary in Floyd County. She is the 7 year old daughter of Adam and Krista Brown. Addison has a heart of gold and a strong work ethic and she uses both well. Recently Addison decided to make a difference so she brainstormed and formed an idea about how to help people in need. Her first thought was to sell bracelets at her school to raise money to get food for people who are less fortunate. Her mom knowing that it would be a challenge for the family to take food to various homes and difficult for Addison to get out of class to sell the bracelets but not wanting to deter Addison in her effort or diminish her idea urged her to narrow her idea to a smaller area. Mrs. Brown then suggested that her thoughtful daughter conduct her own food drive and donate the food she collected to the Family Resource Center at school to be given to needy students. Addison loved that idea and agreed. After organizing her thoughts Addison then began her project.

On March 2nd, Addison went to the Family Resource Center to ask if it would be okay to work on a project to help the center. Angie Martin, coordinator of the FRYSC, gladly gave permission and even added that Addison could come to the center on Friday afternoons to put together backpacks for those students. So Addison completed her food drive and donated all that she received. She also gives up her snack and activity time every Friday so that she can help put together backpacks for needy students.

Addison’s efforts not only make her a special volunteer for the FRYSC but a light in the world. She is already making a difference in the lives of others at such a young age; the sky is the limit for this wonderful young lady and what she can achieve.

Region 7 (Morgan County) ~ Operation Preparation at Morgan County High School

by Alicia McClurg, Coordinator, Morgan County H.S. YSC

West Liberty (KY) • MCHS Sophomores had the opportunity to meet with community partners to discuss how to prepare for college or career as part of Operation Preparation. Twenty professionals from different careers met with students to talk about the education, working conditions and how the student could better prepare for a future in that field.

Students interested in careers working with animals and veterinary science traveled to the West Liberty Vet Clinic where they toured the facility and talked with veterinarians and vet techs. Other careers represented were computer science, small business, financial management, nursing, auto technology, welding, diesel technology, construction, psychology, social work, law enforcement, armed services, engineering, dental, medical, law, and education.
Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Operation School Shoes

by Brian H. Akers, Coordinator, Betsy Layne FRYSC

Betsy Layne (KY) • This year Christene Layne started a program in our county called Operation School Shoes, where she raised well over 10,000 dollars in as very short time to provide shoes for needy students in Floyd County.

Christene Layne provided over 500 shoes to students selected from our schools by the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers based upon their population. Schools were given 35 to 60 pairs of shoes for their students and this didn’t include siblings that attended high school.

Christene solicited donations from her home church of Betsy Layne Freewill Baptist as well as contacting many business and individuals throughout our county.

On July 26, 2014, Christene coordinated a countywide event that took place at Betsy Layne Elementary where the students and their families came to receive their shoes, socks and school supplies for the upcoming year. During the event the family was treated to a carnival like atmosphere where they received their shoes to make sure they were the correct size, got much needed school supplies. They also had cotton candy, hotdogs, and popcorn too. Every child received a prize that day as well.

This remarkable mother who took upon herself to create a worthwhile program on such a short time did a remarkable job. She had a vision that was large and didn’t let it just stop with one school she helped 13 different school in the county being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Operation School Shoes under the direction of Christene Layne helped meet my Optional Component for Basic Needs. This also helped student prepare to return to school as well. Giving them self-esteem by walking into school with shoes that were new. The shoes were all famous name brands like Nike, Rebook, New Balance, etc. She personally chose the shoes and only purchased shoes that she thought children would like and be proud of.

In working with Christene I was able to see her vision and knew her heart was much bigger than this overwhelming event. It was a day that a child received a pair of shoes but much more than that it was a day where they were shown love by a group that didn’t care to wash a child’s feet because they were dirty, or give them a hug knowing they might not be as clean as they should be.

Christene Layne was able to break down a barrier for students by blessing our students. I know she was excited after this event and has already started to work towards doing this again. She had a vision, that God laid upon her heart and she didn’t just think about doing it, she made it happen for our county.

She has already started to raise money for the 2015 school year and hope to make this an annual event.
Region 7 (Morgan County) ~ Hoops for Heart

by Angela Ferguson, Coordinator, WEVE-FRC

West Liberty (KY) • We would like to thank everyone that supported the American Heart Association by doing your part to save a heart during the month of March. Congratulations to Adam Gunnell, Brent Wright, Ben Skaggs, and Logan Williams for winning our school-wide Hoops for Heart fundraiser. Whether you spread the word, collected money, volunteered, played basketball, funded the events, or supported the cause, your acts of kindness were appreciated. FRYSC’s would like to thank the following sponsors for contributing to our event: Standafer Builders, Frederick and May, Mountain Telephone, ARH, Wells Group, Faith Family Practice, West Liberty Vet Clinic, First National, Citizens Bank, Commercial Bank, KCCD Cave Run Chapter, BLF Pipeline, Oldfield's, Bank of Mts., Fannin's Sawmill, LVRECC, McKenzie’s Pool Room, Walmart, Darren Blanton Breads, IGA, Save-A-Lot, Quality Quick Lube, Adkins Snax Sales, Woodmen of the World, Birddogs Shirts and More, Eddie Tamme, Karen Bushart, Dana Bland, Sherri and Ronald Hamilton, Ralph and Nikki Hamilton, Youngs Floral, and anonymous donors. Without your help we would not be able to reach out and help individuals in our communities.

Our Hoops for Hope basketball game was a huge success. Players were Tony Conley, Steven Gullett, Brandon Ferguson, Jon Brown, Adam Dagnan, Jerry Hampton, Jacob Ison, Brian Blair, Scott Clinger, Darren Sparkman, Matt Daniel, Steven May, Travis Napier, Jeremy Kilegore, Taylor Wellman, Steven Gunnell, John Mulkey, Jason Hoskins, Matthew Perry, Darren Ferguson, Jason Vanhoose, Ralph Hamilton, and others. Riley Jenkins did a wonderful job singing the National Anthem. Congratulations to Amberlee Markwell and Matthew Ross for winning a scholarship to a University or Technical College of choice in honor of Darrell Bradley and Greg Bush. These two men would be very proud of our community for coming together and honoring them by helping Morgan County’s youth. We are Morgan Strong!
Region 7 (Ashland Independent) ~ South Ashland Family Resource Center
School/Community Garden Partnership

by Rose-Linda Stafford, Coordinator, South Ashland FRC

Ashland (KY) • The South Ashland Family Resource Center has partnered with Elks Lodge 350 to implement a school/community garden. The garden is located at the South Ashland Family Resource Center/Ashland Independent Child Care, which has children on site 12 months a year. The garden was started two years ago through a grant from the Ashland Boyd County Health Department with the implementation of two raised beds. That quickly grew to four raised beds thanks to a local citizen. This past year SAFRC and the local Elks Lodge partnered to write an IMPACT Grant from the Elks National Foundation the program was funded for $10,000. The grant has allowed for soil, plants, and a fence to be put up around the garden to keep the deer and other critters out of our plantings. The grant will also place raised gardens at some of the district schools and purchase plants for those gardens.

Two months ago, I was approached by a community member (a card carrying Elks member) who also happened to be my first employer. Steve was being groomed by his father to take over the family greenhouse operation when tragedy struck. He was in a terrible car accident 20 years ago. As a result of the accident he suffered a traumatic brain injury and his sister was killed in the accident. Steve spent years in a rehabilitation center and is now living at home with his wife. Steve is non-verbal; he speaks with a computer box and walks with a walker. His recovery has been greater than medical professions ever thought Steve would experience. I am so pleased that Steve has been volunteering with SAFRC and the Ashland Independent Child Care program once a week. Steve is teaching the children how to plant seeds, transplant growing seeds, and eventually growing a garden. Those lessons are great but I truly feel that the lesson in diversity and special needs has been so much more important to Steve and the kids. I have been so pleased by the response of the kids to Steve and his handicaps. They love him and they are so sweet with him. I am looking forward to the garden but I think the seeds of understanding that have been planted are deeply rooted and will be longer lasting.

A special thanks to Elks Lodge 350 and Steve...Happy Gardening!!!

Region 5 (Nicholas County) ~ Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

by Paula J. Hunter, Coordinator, Nicholas County FRYSC


All 4th graders received t-shirts and bags from Progressive Agriculture. Many organizations and groups helped with the program to make it a success. Our students received not only safety information to take with them, but information for their Practical Living and several FRC components. A few years ago, we had a student who was the only one in the house who knew how to operate the fire extinguisher when they had a fire. It has been a wonderful program for our community and students.
Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Legislative Page Gets Real Life Civics Lesson

by Michelle Keathley, Coordinator, Adams MS YSC

Prestonsburg (KY) • This year Adams Middle School Youth Services Center was fortunate to have a student chosen to represent our school at Legislative Page Day in Frankfort. This year’s student was Miss Emily West, an 8th Grade Student at AMS. Emily was recommended by her teachers and was then chosen based upon her Essay and Art Work.

Emily said that she really enjoyed the experience. According to Emily her favorite thing about serving as a Page was just “seeing how everything works”.

Emily has always been a very involved student at AMS where she has also been a part of the Academic Team, Robotics Club, Volleyball and School Dance Team.

We at Adams Middle School were all very proud to have a student such as Emily representing our school for such an important event.

Region 4 (Kenton County) ~ Youngest Page Heads to Frankfort

by Melody Simms, Coordinator, Kenton Elementary FRC

Independence (KY) • Ethan Beatty went to Frankfort to work alongside the most powerful lawmakers in Kentucky. Although he’s just 10 years old, he rubbed elbows with the commonwealth's political elite as he took part in the legislative process.

The Kenton Elementary School fifth-grader from Independence is one of 156 students statewide and the only one from the Kenton County School District selected this year as a Family Resource and Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky (FRYSCKy) legislative page.

He and his mother, Rosanne, traveled to the Capitol for a tour and for him to perform his duties as a page when legislators began their session, which typically begins at 2 p.m., adjourning three or four hours later.

He ran errands, delivered paperwork, and fetched refreshments for Sen. Damon Thayer, R-Georgetown, Senate Majority Floor Leader, as he watched government in action.

"He's kind of like the school celebrity because nobody in the school has ever done it before," Rosanne said. "Just watching the pride that it gives him knowing that he's accomplished something nobody else has done has been fun and exciting for us to watch."

Ethan's fifth grade teacher, Lisa Reynolds, chose the honor student who is also 4-H class president, to apply to the FRYSCKy page program.
"I just knew that he kind of had this spark for social studies and you never know where it may lead," said Reynolds. "I thought it would be really exciting because a student from Kenton has never been selected."

According to Reynolds, who has been a teacher for 28 years, the page program will not only further his knowledge of government and political science, but can also offer other opportunities down the road.

"Mrs. Reynolds said it would be good on a college application and I would get to go back to Frankfort," said Ethan, who took a class trip to the Capitol in January. "I would also get to miss a day of school on Feb. 26."

Rosanne said while her son has exceptional leadership skills, she was unaware of his knack for social studies, but credits Reynolds for that.

"He hasn't had a whole lot of exposure to social studies in previous grades, but she has just made everything come to life for him," Rosanne said. "When he comes home from school it's, 'Guess what we learned today,' and, 'Mom, did you know this and did you know that?' and I think it's really because of Mrs. Reynolds and the way that she teaches that got him excited about that kind of thing."

The page program is sponsored by FRYSCKy, a nonprofit organization, which provides legislative advocacy, training and support for Family Resource and Youth Services Centers Coordinators and their staff statewide.

Ethan's picture illustrated an family resource program at Kenton in which a student receives a Food For Thought bag at school. These bags, filled with nutritious food and snacks, are typically distributed on Friday to children who may otherwise go hungry over the weekend.

While Ethan's family has never benefitted from the Food For Thought program, one of Ethan's friends does, so Ethan recognizes the need for the family resource center and its programs at his school.

"It's an important part of school," Ethan said.

Krista Campisano, FRYSCKy legislative page chair, said it's significant not only to offer students the unique opportunity to be up close and personal with state legislature proceedings and to show off the students to the legislators, but also to demonstrate to legislators the good work the state-funded Family Resource and Youth Service Centers do.

"We're definitely the bridge between the community and the school bringing things together to make sure kids get what they need to make sure they're successful," said Campisano, who is also the Indian Trail Elementary Family Resource Center Coordinator in Louisville.

Kenton Elementary Family Resource Center Coordinator Melody Simms said it can be difficult to see how the decisions made by legislators affect daily life.

"However, when you tie something like the Family Resource Centers, which our students see at work all the time, to decisions made in our government, it brings it much closer to home. Helping our families find basic need resources such as food, is made possible because of the decisions made in Frankfort," Simms said. "I know Ethan will be able to see this connection serving as a page in Frankfort, and he will make Kenton Elementary so very proud."

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Region 7 (Martin County) ~ Operation Game

by Denise Stepp, Coordinator, WPRT FRC

Warfield (KY) • The WPRT Family Resource Center built a life size Operation Game. Through collaboration with community and the use of Coal Severance money we were able build this game. The game is used for incentives for good behavior, achieving goals in the classroom, KPREP Games, Martin County Extension Office (FCS Eugenia Wilson). Denise Stepp (coordinator painted “STU” on the board. Amanda Stepp (Asst. Coordinator) help paint the body parts. We connected all the metal tape together and had help with electrical by Dakota Stepp and Roy Endicott. Mayor Ronald Workman and Daniel Kazee built the frame around “STU”. We are working on our “Hard Work Café” and this game will be a part of this activity.

Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ College and Career Readiness: Senior Interview Program

by Sharon Collins, Coordinator, Allen Central HS YSC

Eastern (KY) • College and Career Readiness- Two weeks this school year has been dedicated to programs to help students be college and career ready upon graduation. The first week, earlier this fall, all seniors had to participate in the Senior Interview Program. Each student participated in several ready to work programs focusing on interview techniques, dressing for success, hand shaking, how to write a cover letter, resume, “thank you” note and how to prepare for the interview. Students then are paired with a community member that is working in the field the student’s plans to pursue and must go through a mock interview. The volunteers are provided with the student’s cover letter and resume before the interview. A set of questions has been prepared that all students are asked. At the end of the interview, the interviewers offer valuable suggestions for the students to use in an actual interview. The second week was dedicated for sophomores during Operation Preparation. Each sophomore sat down and had the opportunity to talk to someone in the field they are interested in. Both programs are very valuable in helping our students determine which direction they chose for a career. Many of the same volunteers help with both programs. All together 33 volunteer for a total of 45 hours helped with these two programs.
Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ African-American Read-In Brings New Voices to Breckinridge

by Tammy Lane, Public Information Officer, Fayette County Public Schools

Lexington (KY) • Breckinridge Elementary has bookmarked February for an African-American Read-In in observance of Black History Month (BHM). “It’s important we focus on literacy, and this is a way to highlight books by or about African-Americans,” said Sandra Ballew-Barnes, coordinator of the school’s Family Resource Center.

The weekly read-in, which is sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English, has brought a variety of guests to Breckinridge. For instance, author and educator Frank X Walker shared a little of his childhood aspirations and sources of inspiration.

“When I was in third grade, I didn’t want to talk much at all, but my teacher made me read out loud,” Walker recalled. Now he teaches poetry, film and literature at the University of Kentucky, writes books, and travels around speaking to groups small and large. He also recalled wanting to grow up to drive the library’s bookmobile. “When I was a kid, I fell in love with books,” he told the students. But when he asked where were the books with people who looked like him, the librarian challenged him to write them. And so he does.

The Breckinridge librarian had gathered armloads of BHM-themed books for the Read-In guests to choose from; some have brought along their own favorites. Each week, the students have not only met new people but also seen examples of different career paths. As Walker read a book about boxer Jack Johnson to a class of third-graders, musician DeBraun Thomas read to others about jazz great Duke Ellington and civil rights activist Ruby Bridges, and the Rev. Kenneth Golphin read to another group about the Underground Railroad.

“The kids get to hear a fresh voice so it perhaps reinforces what is taught by their teachers,” said Golphin of Quinn Chapel AME Church, who has volunteered for at least three years. This time he chose “The Price of Freedom,” the true story of a pair of runaway slaves, which makes children stop and think. “I hope the kids are intrigued to find out the reality of history,” Golphin said.

Thomas, who works at WUKY and at the Boys & Girls Club, grew up in the San Francisco Bay area with few resources but recalls people influencing him in school. “Somebody did it for me, and now it’s my turn,” he said of stepping up for the Read-In at Breckinridge. “If we don’t put our energy into helping build our community, we won’t move progressively as a population.”

To see photos, visit http://www.fcps.net/news/features/2014-15/readin

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Region 6 (Russell County) ~ Hometown Celebration Raises $27,000 for FRYSCs

by Derek Aaron, Managing Editor, Times Journal/Russell County News-Register

Russell Springs (KY) • More than $27,500 was raised Saturday night at the second annual Kevin Williams’ Hometown Celebration concert at the First Baptist Church in Russell Springs to benefit the Russell County Family Resource and Youth Service Centers.

The musical benefit packed the church to capacity with more than 750 people in attendance, who heard a variety of groups and musical acts, highlighted by a special appearance by well-known Gaither musician Buddy Greene. Greene is a mainstay on the Gaither Homecoming TV Series, a multiple Dove award winner and co-writer of "Mary, Did You Know?" with Mark Lowry.

“I was blown away with the way the whole community came through for these kids," Williams said following the event. “Over $27,000 from people who know how to plant seeds for our future generations. Little by little, we are making a difference in the lives of these kids. They are going to have a fighting chance because of the caring people of this community.”

Williams said when he was growing up here, he saw how people took care of one another.

“That's all this is,” he said. “I think everyone walked out of that building with increased joy and happiness after that concert. When you get outside yourself and give, that's what happens.”

Williams said when he spoke to his good friend, Buddy Greene, about performing at the benefit he said, "Let me know the date, I'll be there.”

He said it was hard keeping Greene a secret, and everyone’s face lit up when he walked through the door. Greene wowed the crowd with his world-class harmonica playing and touched them with his smash hit.

Phil Carney, the coordinator of the Russell Springs and Salem Family Resource Center, said the money raised would help out many children of the Russell County School District in the months to come.

“It is amazing and I don't know how you put it into words,” Carney said. “Sometimes when you have these fundraisers you wonder how it is going to turn out but this is beyond my wildest expectations.”

Carney credited Williams and all of the sponsors for such a great night as well as those who turned out to give to the cause, as well as enjoy the evening’s entertainment.

“What a wonderful place we live here in Russell County," he said. “It was fantastic.”

Carney will be retiring at the end of the school year but vowed to remain involved in the annual benefit concert each spring.

Russell County Schools Superintendent Michael Ford said the youth service center and family resource centers in Russell County are all about reducing barriers and having a direct impact on student achievement.
“The centers stand in good stead for some of our most vulnerable students,” Ford said. “The annual benefit concert that Kevin Williams provides for our youth and family resource centers directly helps those most in need. I can't put into words what Kevin Williams means to Russell County Schools and we certainly appreciate him, Russell Springs First Baptist Church and everyone that makes this annual event so meaningful for our students.”

Williams wished to thank all his musical guests for the evening, Buddy Greene, Kevin Moore, Larry Beasley, Crossroads Quartet, Noblemen, and all his Russell County friends he has had the pleasure of making music with from his youth.

“A special thanks to the folks at the First Baptist Church,” Williams added “They've been so supportive of this cause from day one.”

The corporate sponsors for the benefit were: Gold sponsors-$1,000+: Stephens Pipe and Steel, First National Bank, Monticello Banking Company, Jim Grant, Kevin Williams, Key Village Shopping Center, Ellen Harkness and Air Evac, Silver sponsors-$500: Marshall Loy, Superior Battery, Hubbard's Building Supply, Smith family and Terry Wilson, Bronze sponsors-$250: Bennett's Carpets, Phillip Gaskin, Grider Insurance, McDonald's, Morgan Sanitation, Duo County Telephone, Montgomery Furniture and the Russell Springs Christian Church.

As for next year's concert, Williams was definitive with his answer. “Oh yes, I'm already planning,” he said.
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Phone Number: __________________ Fax Number: __________

Email Address: __________________________________________

Please attach a brief narrative (LIMIT 2 PAGES; NO SMALLER THAN 12 PT. FONT) that addresses ONE of the three criteria attached. Please note if you are nominating a Non-Profit, For-Profit, or Individual Best Partner for the Bridges Over Barriers Award.

Please submit all applications to: FRYSCKy, Inc.
Attn: Michael Jones
2220 Nicholasville Road, Suite 110-333
Lexington, KY 40503
Email: frysckycoalition@me.com
Fax: 888.282.8549

Applications may be submitted at anytime during the year.
Applications will be reviewed in early-September of each year for award presentation at the Fall Institute.
BRIDGES OVER BARRIERS
BEST PARTNER AWARD
CRITERIA

1. **Non-Profit Organization**
   - Nominee must be a Non-Profit Organization defined as an incorporated organization which exists for educational or charitable reasons and from which it shareholders or trustees do not benefit financially.
   - Describe how the organization has made a significant impact in the FRYSC by providing on-going support in helping the center meet one or more core(optional) components. This on-going support may include but is not limited to the donation of time, money, or resources.
   - Describe how your students/families have benefited from this Best Partner’s involvement with your Family Resource and Youth Services Center.
   - A Best Partner may be nominated by more than one center.

2. **For-Profit Organization**
   - Nominee must be a For-Profit Business defined as an organization that exists primarily to generate a profit, that is, to take in more money than it spends.
   - Describe how the organization has made a significant impact in the FRYSC by providing on-going support in helping the center meet one or more core(optional) components. This on-going support may include but is not limited to the donation of time, money, or resources.
   - Describe how your students/families have benefited from this Best Partner’s involvement with your Family Resource and Youth Services Center.
   - A Best Partner may be nominated by more than one center.

3. **Individual**
   - Nominee must be an individual who donates time, money or resources. The individual can be affiliated with a For-Profit or Non-Profit organization but must go above and beyond their job descriptions with in that organization.
   - Describe how the individual has made a significant impact in the FRYSC by providing on-going support in helping the center meet one or more core(optional) components. This on-going support may include but is not limited to the donation of time, money, or resources.
   - Describe how your students/families have benefited from this Best Partner’s involvement with your Family Resource and Youth Services Center.
   - A Best Partner may be nominated by more than one center.

*Please note, if your nominee is a winner, you MAY be asked to submit 2-3 pictures electronically within one week of notification.*
FACES ACROSS KENTUCKY

Snapshots from the FRYSCKY Legislative Page Days

Michael A. Jones • Editor
fryscycoalition@ms.com

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