



FRYSCKy BUSINESS

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

Winter 2015

Spring Forward

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

Betsy Layne (KY) – Spring brings changes! The time changes, the season changes, another Legislative session has begun and before you know it this school year will be over. This year will be a big change for our family. Our youngest son, McKenzie will be graduating from high school and leaves our home to pursue his college career. We are facing an empty nest for the first time in almost 30 years. I am thankful for the joy that my three children have given my wife, DiAnne, and me. Now we will have to reinvent who we are as a couple. I have been parent, fan, chauffeur, coach, sponsor, booster club member, concession stand worker, chili making, and fundraising king for 30 years. What am I suppose to do now? It's time to change, move forward and keep on staying busy with our mission to promote FRYSCkY, so we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our students.

As we prepare to leave this school year, we need to think about the services that we provide. I learned so much during the Fall Institute this year, mostly about the importance of evaluating my programs. I started evaluating them to see if they were successful and not just something we have done for the last 15 years because it worked before. We need to continue to make an impact on our students and families, and we need to learn to change as well. We want our students to know that they don't have to settle! They don't have to settle with a high school diploma, they don't have to settle working for minimum wage; they don't have to settle knowing that the only way to make it, is to be on an assistance program. We have the privilege to make a difference by helping them be college and career ready. So hopefully they will be the first in their family to continue their education, to break the cycle of poverty.

I know working for the FRYSCs has changed my life. I've been able to spend the time with my children and see them as they attended my school. I watched them graduate from elementary school and from high school. Our two oldest children are now married and have families of their own, giving us 3 wonderful grandchildren. I want to encourage each of you to not let the months, seasons and years pass without taking advantage of spending time with your families. Before you know it, you too will have an empty nest! God Bless you for making a difference in the life of a child!

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.

VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE

*July 13-14
Galt House Hotel - Louisville*

*Mark Your Calendars for 2015
Join Us*

FALL INSTITUTE

*November 11-13
Lexington Convention Ctr.*

FRYSCKy Legislative Page Days Schedule

Day	Region	Mtg. Room #
2/10	6 & 10E	154
2/11	2 & 7	149
2/12	8 & 11	149
2/24	3 & 5	154
2/25	9 & 10F	149
2/26	4 & 1	149

For more information or if you have questions,
contact Krista Campisano.
(krista.campisano@jefferson.kyschools.us)

IN MEMORY

Wendell H. Ford

1924-2015

Started as House Page...

...Became Governor & U.S. Senator





IN MEMORY

James Underwood Smith

1952-2014

Beloved Friend and FRYSC Coordinator

The following words were spoken by Leslie Hall, Coordinator, North Hardin HS YSC, at Mr. Smith's funeral service...

I am here to celebrate the life my friend James. We met as Youth Service Center Coordinators in Hardin County Schools years ago. I try to look back and see when a co-worker became a friend, but I can't put my finger on an exact date or event. Becoming James' friend was a smooth and elegant transition, much like James himself, very smooth, very elegant.

We enjoyed working together. Working in the social services field you sometimes develop a very sick sense of humor to cope. James and I are similar in this area and man how we could laugh.

He was my meeting pal. He saved me a seat...I never had to worry about being late (which I was often) because I had a chair right beside him. We teased him about his harem of women since he was 1 of only 2 men that worked in our field at the time and was surrounded by women quite often. He said he was used to it growing up with so many sisters.

I smile thinking of how many times in a meeting he shook his finger at me and told me to stop being bad. He kept me awake with the whistling noise from his coffee mug and I wrote snide comments on the agendas that made him laugh.

He was a gentleman at all times and always made me feel like a lady. I am not used to having doors held for me, chairs pulled out or having a man rise to greet me. But these things were second nature to James. He would frown and scold me when I opened the door for myself and whether at work or in public, he always greeted me with a hug and a kiss and we never left each other's presence without a hug and kiss goodbye. Precious memories!

He just constantly impressed me! I used to ask him all the time if his wife knew how lucky she was. He would always reply that they were stuck together because no one could put up with him and no one could afford her. But then in a split second something amazing would happen...the sweetest smile and gleam in his eyes would come he would pat his chest and say..."I'm the lucky one." It was his response EVERY time.

His love for his wife and daughter were evident in every part of him and that same look would come over his face every time he spoke of them. I always admired the picture of Toni on the horse that he kept on his desk. I thank him for his gift of friendship that he left for Toni and me to continue...he blessed me once again!

He had so much love to go around and found an outlet being a Youth Services Coordinator. Man, no one could love those middle schoolers like James. These are the un years...they are unable to be just a kid, unable to be an adult, un-understanding...just un..... but he un - derstood and was unbelievable at communicating with HIS kids. He wanted all young men to learn to be gentlemen and each girl to learn to act and expect to be treated like a lady. That is a legacy he will leave with each boy and girl that went through our Young Ladies and Young Gentleman Club and each student whose life was touched by his presence in this world.

I loved co-sponsoring these clubs with James. Our first set of club members from Woodland Elementary are now Juniors in high school. Time sure does fly. I hope they will always remember the lessons this man taught and carry them on to teach others. James didn't just teach the lessons of being a young gentleman, HE LIVED IT.

I can hear him telling the boys, "Speak correctly so people will listen, look folks in the eye and shake hands like you mean it and pull those pants up...no one wants to see all that...have some respect for yourself". If he didn't have a belt...he had zip ties to fix the pants situation. But he had a way about him that the students responded to no matter what he was saying to them. They were drawn to Mr. Smith. It was his light that drew them in and the warmth of his love that kept them there.

I will close my comments with one of his favorite sayings about his students...These are all my children....they are young and restless....and as their world turns....I want them to grow up to be bold and beautiful.

James, you will be missed. I celebrate you today, your life and beautiful contribution to making this world a better place....and I rejoice because I know I will see you again in heaven...save me a seat my friend!

Featured Article

Champions for Kids 2015: SIMPLE Giving and SIMPLE Service

by Aaron Weatherford, Program Officer, Champions for Kids

Fayetteville (AR) ~ SIMPLE Giving is a Champions for Kids program that makes it simple for you to donate items to help kids in your community. You can purchase items at your local Walmart and drop them in the donation bins after checkout. All of the donations go to children in the community where the Walmart store is located.

Donations from our first SIMPLE Giving program, which launched in 24 Walmart stores in the spring of 2013, provided over 20,000 children with new toothbrushes and toothpaste. Since then, SIMPLE Giving has generated over 1 million more donations--and counting--to help kids in local schools!

FRYSCs, school nurses, social workers, homeless student liaisons, and other community champions distribute the donated items to children in the school district or community where each Walmart store is located. To see a list of participating stores, [click here](#).

Additionally, Champions for Kids will provide a total of up to \$45,000 in awards to the schools or organizations receiving the top donation totals from a single store. These awards can be used to provide nutrition education and nutrition services for children in need. Check back soon for full terms & conditions.

In addition to our SIMPLE Giving, Champions for Kids also has developed SIMPLE Service. SIMPLE Service is a service project. Many times, this is something already being done in the community. The projects range from a coat drive for the school to a canned food drive for a local pantry. The great part about SIMPLE Service is – there are opportunities each month for monetary or product donations!

FRYSC Coordinators are strongly encouraged to contact the Champions for Kids program office, Aaron Weatherford, for more information and to get involved. Direct: 479-439-8117 * Cell: 479-249-5972 * Toll-Free: 888-727-1094; aaron@championsforkids.org; www.championsforkids.org



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Regional Roundup



Region 9 (Rockcastle County) ~ Being Drug Free Makes Cents

by Angie Payne, Coordinator, Rockcastle Co. Middle YSC

Mt. Vernon (KY) • During Red Ribbon Week, RCMS showed that "Being Drug Free Makes Cents" on Tuesday. The students brought in \$600 worth of spare change to donate to Pennies for Patients and help patients with blood cancers like Leukemia and Lymphoma. RCMS 7th grader and cancer survivor, Caitlin Newcomb, helped head up the efforts and presented the \$600 check.

Region 6 (Taylor County) ~ Student Lighthouse

by Ann DeSimone Mattingly, MAEd., MSW, Coordinator, Taylor County FRC

Campbellsville (KY) • This year the Taylor County Family Resource Center used Taylor County Elementary School's *Student Lighthouse Team* members (part of the school's *Leader in Me* initiative) to help load buses with nearly 200 students' angel tree gifts. The FRC had so many gifts to disseminate that the gifts had to be moved to a larger distribution facility. Pictured are the *TCES Student Lighthouse Team* members after loading one of the buses.



Region 11 (Barren County) ~ Lighting Up Christmas

by Emily Davis, Coordinator, North Eastern FRC

Glasgow (KY) • The Farmer's Rural Electric Co-op in Barren County held a special campaign this Christmas season called "Lighting Up Christmas". They donated several toys along with over \$1,200 to the North Eastern Family Resource Center.

Region 9 (Harlan County) ~ Family Reading Night and Holiday Festivities

by Cathy York, Coordinator, Cawood FRYSC

Cawood (KY) • Recently Cawood Elementary FRYSC held Family Reading Night. The students and parents made Christmas cookies. Afterwards Santa and Mrs. clause made an appearance and read Christmas stories with the children. The activity had over 100 in attendance.



Region 9 (Harlan County) ~ Christmas Program Attracts Community to School

by Cathy York, Coordinator, Cawood FRYSC



Cawood (KY) • On December 16, 2014, over 200 family members filled the gym to watch as all classes participated in Cawood Elementary's Annual Christmas program. Students performed various skits, poems, and songs. The Jr. High drama class also preformed the play "Do You Believe?" Mrs. Jackie Hensley's kindergarten class ended the program with the song, *Silent Night*.

Pictured... Julie Roberts 2nd grade class performing *Frosty the Snowman*



VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE
July 13-14, 2015

Galt House Hotel & Suites
Louisville, KY



Region 9 (Bell County) ~ Volunteer Supports Frakes School



Pictured are 4th grade students under the direction of Mrs. J. demonstrating the use of balance/symmetry in their creation of masks.

by Linda Partin, Coordinator, Frakes FRYSC

Frakes (KY) • Ms. Lisl Jackson is a retired teacher who visits Frakes School in Bell County on a regular basis to provide Art with the Intermediate students 4th-8th grade. The fascinating thing about “Mrs. J.” as the students call her is that she lives in Chattanooga, Tn. with her husband Paul. She makes the commute (4 hours one way) to Frakes School sometimes twice a week, sometimes every 2 weeks, on rare

occasion once a month and has done so for 6 years. “Mrs. J. is part of our school family and I always look forward to her visit” says Mrs. Linda, FRYSC Coordinator at Frakes School. The students always get excited when she visits because she teaches them about art and they get to participate in neat art projects.

Mrs. J. brings all the art supplies the students need to do an art project. For several years she has had a big part of the annual Grandparents Celebration (in Sept.) by helping the students make art projects for their grandparents.

Mrs. J. is quoted as saying “Although the commute is long, I love teaching at Frakes. The students are kind and considerate and seem to enjoy the art lessons. Beverly Wylie, Carol Anderson, Terry Wilson (Teachers) and Linda Partin (FRYSC) have been instrumental in organizing their day around my art program and I am thankful for that. After teaching for the day, I’m energized and the drive to Chattanooga seems a short distance away”!

Needless to say, Mrs. J. is someone to be admired and appreciated. She not only teaches Art at Frakes, but is very involved in the church that sponsors every child at Christmas in Frakes School. She has done a book drive for Frakes School, is part of a group that donates items to our school nurse, is on the committee that has provided monetary donations to FRYSC and the library at Frakes.

“All I can say is she is phenomenal” Mrs. Linda stated”!

Region 11 (Barren County) ~ Angels in Need

by Emily Davis, Coordinator, North Eastern FRC

Glasgow (KY) • STLP students at Eastern Elementary in Barren County are shown with the toys that were collected school wide for their Angels in Need project. All toys collected were donated to the family resource center and were used to make a students Christmas extra special.



Region 6 (Lincoln County) ~ Parent Academy

by Mindy Stevens, Coordinator, Lincoln County YSC

Stanford (KY) • The Lincoln County Youth Service Center and Families First Youth Service Center in collaboration with Lincoln County 21st Century After School Program sponsored our first annual Parent Academy on September 18, 2014. The event kicked off with a Chili Supper provided by the high school cafeteria staff at 5:00. Parents in attendance could then choose between the following sessions: College/Scholarship Information, this session was presented by Keith Ritchie with KHEAA, Parent Portal & Homework Resources presented by Jeannie Cooper LCHS Counselor, Cell Phone and Internet Safety presented by Kristen Jenkins with Kentucky Kids First, and Drug and Alcohol Awareness presented by William Kilby with Bluegrass Prevention Center. Time allowed for parents to attend two of the sessions scheduled. 45 high school and middle school parents attended the information packed evening and the event ended with door prizes and parent surveys at 7:00. Surveys of parents were so positive we plan to make this an annual event with another one offered in the spring with different session topics.



Region 11 (Barren County) ~ Ready, Set, Grow University

by Penny Huffman, Coordinator, Western Barren FRC



Shown is Marla Ford, Mary Wood Weldon Public Library, reading a story to the some of the children and their parents at our introductory session of Ready, Set, Grow University.

Glasgow (KY) • The Barren County and Glasgow Family Resource Centers have recently teamed together to provide Ready, Set, Grow University for parents of children ages 0-4. Ready, Set, Grow University is a series of four family workshops incorporating *Active Parenting: 1, 2, 3, 4 Parents* and *Darkness to Light's - Stewards of Children*. The Family Resource Centers are partnering with Community Action of Southern KY to provide the workshops. Parents have the opportunity to learn how to prepare their children for school, beginning when they are born. A light dinner is being provided for families, with parent and/or child sessions following. Childcare and door prizes are also provided. As a follow-up to the workshops, home visits are made to the participants between sessions.

Region 6 (Cumberland County) ~ Drug Free Night at the Ballgame

by Priscilla Schwartz, Coordinator, Cumberland County FRYSC



Burkesville (KY) • Cumberland County FRYSC (Priscilla Schwartz, Coordinator) and Clinton County YSC (Tonya Thrasher, Coordinator, in collaboration with community partners including: KY-ASAP Board, Drug Court, Lake Cumberland Health Department, Adanta Regional Prevention Center, 4-H, Extension Homemaker, B & C Logging, Champions, TATU Team, etc. hosted a Drug Prevention Awareness Night when the Cumberland County Panthers hosted their neighboring county rivals the Clinton County Bulldogs. While fans supported their teams from the stands, attendants had a chance to acquire critical information and resources pertaining to Alcohol and Drug Prevention for youth. Both Youth Service Centers were represented to bring awareness

for our students and families. Our goal was to provide alcohol, tobacco and other drugs prevention to measures that stop or delay the uptake of drug use and protect against progression to more frequent or regular use. The partners provided information along with enticing goodies for children and adults. The Adanta Regional Prevention Center provided over 150 seat cushions for the fans. Students enjoyed the pencils, rulers, hand sanitizer, etc. B & C logging provided \$200.00 for cash prizes for those who visited the booths and put their name in for the drawings. Cumberland County KY-ASAP & Champions YES Grant provided 100 tickets for Cumberland County students and 600 bags of free popcorn for all the fans. Despite facing off for a barn-burning game, the final outcome was a solid victory for all participants. It was clearly "everybody's game"! An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!



Afterschool Community Service Project in Lincoln County (Region 6)

Submitted by Susan Miller, Coordinator, Families First YSC



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!

Contact:
Red Basket, Inc.
1700 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68102
Toll Free: 877-969-7378

www.redbasket.org

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Emily Koesters: Believe

“Because of the 57 generous donations made on Red Basket our family has had a few months of better quality of life not having to stress quite as much as usual knowing we had the money for some bills and her medical needs.”



Katelyn’s Hopes & Dreams

**Katelyn met her \$12,000 goal
in just 15 days!**

“We are crying tears of joy and our hearts are singing for we have witnessed true love and compassion and generosity first hand. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!”

FACES ACROSS KENTUCKY

• *Snapshots from the Kentucky Legislative Session*



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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