Greetings and Salutations: Advocacy Never Sleeps – Relentless

by Leslie S. Hall, President, FRYSCKy, Inc.

Hardin County (KY) • Welcome 2017!!!! We are now on our way into the next 25 years of success and we must be Relentless in our advocacy efforts, because ADVOCACY NEVER SLEEPS! Thank you for the time and effort it takes to be an advocate for families and children. Thank you for the added time you spend educating legislators, community members, school boards and school personnel (just to name a few). You are the quintessential advocate in every aspect of your position and I urge you to be Relentless.

It is with great faith that I know we are all called to a purpose, a purpose to educate and empower children and families, a purpose to ease suffering and help create a successful learning environment for all, and a purpose to make our communities a better place. Some of us are called through our faith, some through our passions; some are called through our unique abilities, however you are called to be Relentless.

I would like to urge each of you to please remember that ADVOCACY NEVER SLEEPS! Together, we are a great team! In 2016, we DID make a difference! We know that we continually make a difference in the lives of children, families and our communities; however, we also made a difference in Frankfort. We made ourselves heard…we made ourselves visible…we stood strong! The bipartisan legislative support was felt as we received the news that our funding would not be cut. We must not lose this momentum. If I could charge you with any task it would be for you to be Relentless - know your legislators and be sure they know you. We have 27 new legislators this session. They need to be educated about Family Resource and Youth Services Centers and the best person to do that educating is YOU! Communicate with them often and invite them into your schools. Be RELENTLESS! Why? Because ADVOCACY NEVER SLEEPS!

If you need to contact me, I can be reached at leslie.hall@hardin.kyschools.us or at 270-268-5485 and I’m always glad to hear from you.

Prayers for happiness, strength, blessings and favor! God be with you all!
Region 7 Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of FRYSC

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

Morehead (KY) • The Region 7 FRYSC 25th celebration was held in Morehead on November 1 at the Morehead Conference Center with over 300 people attending this special event. Sponsors making the evening possible were from the regional community businesses and partnerships. The program honored coordinators and staff past and present, advisory council members, community partners as well as the superintendents, teachers and administrators for their support of the FRYSC mission. A memory table with photos and lighted candles paid tribute to the deceased former coordinators. In addition, the program included presentations from veteran coordinators Geri Willis and Jody Justice.

"FRYSC by the Numbers" revealed highlighted interventions from the 2015 Region 7 Infinite Campus information. The various categories from the status report numbers were reproduced and held high by 20 coordinators on the stage.

Legislators were recognized and each spoke with pride and congratulatory comments to the coordinators who" made them look good" and noted the support of the school districts, regional administration and the FRYSCKy Coalition. House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins along with each of the State Representatives and State Senators joined together to present a framed citation on behalf of the legislature which was accepted by Doug Jones.

The highlight of the evening was a moving personal testimonial from Erika Cordle MSU senior Social Worker major and president of Delta Gamma sorority. Ms. Cordle was privileged to have experienced "whatever it takes" from the Fairview FRYSC for her educational experience throughout twelve grades. She became the first in her family to graduate from high school and will graduate in four years with a BSW from MSU this Spring. The entire audience celebrated with and for her and the FRYSC mission with a standing ovation as the grand finale.
FRYSCKy Corporate Sponsors

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicaid is a FRYSCKy Platinum Corporate Sponsor. Their funds are used to cover a range of training opportunities and advocacy efforts for FRYSIC staff throughout the year. For more information on Anthem's programs, including Medicaid and KCHIP benefits, please visit their booth in the exhibit hall.

WellCare Health Plans is a FRYSCKy Silver Corporate Sponsor. Their funds are used to support the keynote speakers and workshop expenses for the 2016 Fall Institute. WellCare has developed a full complement of expertise in three major areas of government-sponsored health care: Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. For more information, please visit their booth in the exhibit hall.

CareSource, a leading nonprofit health plan, is a FRYSCKy Platinum Corporate Sponsor. Their funds are used to support coordinator scholarship program both for Fall Institute and throughout the year with the mini-grant program. CareSource understands the challenges consumers face navigating the health system and works to put health care in reach for those it serves. Learn more about their plans including Medicaid and CareSource Just4Me™ by talking to their representatives in the exhibit hall.

thankyou
Region 9 (Whitley County) ~ New Beginnings Grandparent Support Group

by Tammy H. Stephens, Coordinator, Williamsburg Independent FRYSC

Williamsburg (KY) • The New Beginnings Grandparent Support Group was established March 2009 by the Whitley Central/Intermediate FRC and the Whitley North Elementary FRC. In the early days, there were only 3-4 grandparents in attendance. As years passed, more and more centers in the area, as well as other agencies, became involved in sponsoring the support group. Over time, the numbers grew as well. We now have 30 active grandparents participating.

Together, the group has laughed, shared anger and happiness, as well as suffered heartbreak and loss. Over time, the group has become a family. Each member brings his or her own experience and knowledge to the table. The grandparents are all at different stages of their journey of raising their grandchildren, and a lot can be learned from someone who shares in your struggles.

Originally, the meetings were held monthly from September through June. After a few years, the grandparents expressed their interest in meeting more often. Our group now meets September through July. We host two family activities in the summer, one each month. They truly enjoy the fellowship with one another.

One of the original members of the support group shared a little bit about their journey below.

“The group has helped us in more ways than I can say. I really don’t know how to put it in words. When we first started, I did not realize that there were others in the same shape we were in. I couldn’t wait to get to the meetings. I was among people that were having the same kinds of problems. You see, she (my daughter) was a Beta Club member, a cheerleader and an above average kid. She knew better than to do drugs. She hated smoking, let alone anyone drinking. We had so much pride and felt we were above the drug thing. We met people who were just like us (at the meetings). The FRC teams brought people in to talk to us and help us. We learned from each other to hold up our heads again and that we were not alone.”

Because the grandparents' struggles are real, and their burdens are heavy, the community partners in Whitley County will certainly continue to provide the group meetings to help support the grandparents raising grandchildren for years to come.

Visit www.fryscky.org

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Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Betsy Layne Elementary Making a Difference: Food Drive for Senior Citizens Center

by Brian H. Akers, Coordinator, Betsy Layne FRYSC

Betsy Layne (KY) • Betsy Layne Elementary FRYSC AmeriCorps member Lora Boyd along with the FRYSC collected Beef Stew to give to the local Senior Citizens Center to assist with meals during the winter months. Lora asks for donations from our students and received almost 100 cans that will be used at the Betsy Layne Senior Citizens Center.

While Lora’s primary goal in being an AmeriCorps worker is to promote literacy and help tutor at school she also is helpful in the community and school doing many other activities. She works with Brian H. Akers the coordinator at Betsy Layne Elementary FRYSC and together they help students and their community with other projects. Next month they will be collecting can foods and other items to make up Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Boyd will be working with Brian H. Akers, coordinator for the Betsy Layne Elementary Family Resource and Youth Services Center from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31, 2017. The FRYSC Corps is a Kentucky AmeriCorps Program. There are twelve programs in the state at this time. These programs serve senior citizens, the homeless, homeland defense and students from Kindergarten through grade twelve.


Region 9 (Bell County) ~ “Cram the Cruiser”: Lessons in Giving and Helping

by Linda Partin, Coordinator, Frakes FRYSC

Frakes (KY) • Bell County FRYSC collaborated with Kentucky State Police for the first time this year for a can food drive called “Cram the Cruiser”. Frakes FRYSC (Linda Partin) and Parent Liaison (Jana Caruso) provided “Cram the Cruiser” boxes in each classroom. Mr. Terry Wilson, Principal encouraged students daily and provided a pizza party as an incentive for classroom competition. The students also learned that giving and helping others is a valuable lesson. 1st grade and 5th grade were the winners and could not wait to help the State Police Cram the food into the Cruiser. They were elated to see the officers, have pictures taken and to help load over 300 cans (what their classes collected) into the cruiser. A school total of 11 large boxes were collected for the food drive. There were so many boxes it took not one cruiser but two. Way to go Frakes students!!!!
Region 10 (Pikeville Independent) ~ The Snowmen at Night Story Walk and Tree Lighting

by Dawn Rowe, Coordinator, Pikeville Independent FRYSC

Pikeville (KY) • On Saturday, November 26, 2016 Pikeville Independent FRYSC along with community partners kicked off the Christmas Season by hosting The Snowmen at Night Story Walk and Tree lighting ceremony. About 250 people gathered in downtown Pikeville to participate in events including a 1 mile Santa Dash with prizes, a Santa letter writing station, Snowmen at Night Story Walk with ingredients gathered along the way from local store owners for Snowman Soup (hot chocolate), Hot Chocolate counter, Carolers from the Pikeville Elementary and High School Chorus, and finally a tree lighting ceremony. The event combined community partnerships, reading, fitness and whole lot of fun.

Without community partnerships this event would not have been a success. Our partners included Pikeville Main Street Program, The City of Pikeville, Food City, Pikeville High and Elementary Choral Programs, Dusty Layne Photography and many main street businesses who kept their door open a little later for shopping and giving treats to our participants.

Please find the link below for the story completed by WYMT.


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Region 6 (Pulaski County) ~ “Bliss from Blessings” Program: 1,000 Bikes Donated

by Irma Ashley, Asst. Coordinator FRC/ Parent Educator/ Character Ed. Coach/ PR, Southern Elementary

Somerset (KY) • On Saturday November 12th there was a steady stream of children at Somerset Christian School choosing from a sea of 1,000 bicycles donated through the first “Bliss from Blessings” event hosted by “Keepin It Movin” Steve Ping charitable organization. They collaborated with the local Pulaski County FRYSC and churches to identify children for the bikes. He plans to make this a yearly event.
Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ GEMS and GIRLS: Mentoring Programs

by Carla Jackson, Coordinator, Athens-Chilesburg FRC

Lexington (KY) • The Picadome FRC and the Lafayette High School (LHS) YSC teamed up during the fall of 2016 to provide a mentoring program for 3rd-5th grade girls. The Picadome G.E.M.S. walked .5 miles once a week to their feeder high school to visit with the LHS G.I.R.L.S. Upon arrival, different LHS G.I.R.L.S. provided a 30-minute lesson based on the Dove Self Esteem Project. The lessons focused on positive self-esteem, healthy eating, powerful poses, and body image. Activities included trying a variety of new healthy foods, strutting on the Confident Catwalk, and writing thank you notes to individuals who made a difference in their lives. The final meeting was a celebration with food and team building activities provided by Re-Mix Education.

The LHS G.I.R.L.S. reported feeling important and responsible for imparting their knowledge to the “little girls.” 11th grader, Olivia Rose stated, “GIRLS means more to the leaders than the little girls. It brightens your day instantly and really impacts how you act in daily life.” 9th grader, Mallory said, “Being able to mentor younger girls is a blessing. I look forward to our Wednesday meetings each week!”

The G.E.M.S./G.I.R.L.S. collaboration required minimal financial resources from the two centers but was an invaluable experience for both groups. The younger girls seek out the high school students to talk about their feelings. Fourth grader Maddie explains, “They are there for us when we need them and they treat us kind.”

When G.E.M.S. arrives at LHS they are greeted with smiles and hugs from the high schoolers. “It is always fun when we go to Lafayette, I like that the mentors always listen to us and make us feel special,” said Brooklyn, another fourth grade student.

Ms. Brown notes the strong bond developed among the girls in the after school-mentoring program while Ms. Chastain is proud of her GIRLS for stepping up as leaders to motivate the younger students.

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Region 9 (Whitley County) ~ From Cradle to School

by Sherry Paul, Coordinator, Whitley North FRC

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

Designed to touch base with parents and children on a monthly basis, Cradle School provides information on topics such as early dental care, speech development, fine motor skills, and Kindergarten readiness. The group meets at the local Whitley County Extension Office where the parents as well as the children can engage with others to learn and share experiences and information.

Pictured (above) is Riley enjoying one of the educational toys and Kyndal (below) making a sock snowman with her mother. Initial providers Sherry Paul (WCNE FRC), Tammy Stephens (Williamsburg City FRYSC), and Cheryl Owens (Whitley County Extension Office (EFNEP Assistant) look forward to seeing the program grow.
Region 6 (Casey County) ~ Casey FRYSCs Focused on Programs & Advocacy

by Jennifer Godbey, Coordinator, East Casey FRC

Liberty (KY) • East Casey County FRC/Liberty Elementary was awarded a Born Learning Academy Grant funded through Race to the Top. The FRC is in the process of conducting a series of 6 family workshops at the school. Through fun parent-child activities, videos, and articles parents are learning what to expect at every stage of their child’s development.

Casey County FRC’s childcare center “KidsTeam” was awarded a classroom makeover through the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Race to the Top grant funding. Marilyn Coffey the original FRC Coordinator opened the center September 1991 based upon the need in the community. KidsTeam serves pre k and school age children in a full day full year program. The center has remained a vital part of the community in an effort to prepare kids to be school ready and also provide a safe nurturing environment for school age children. Kidsteam was a pilot site for STARS rating system in 2000 and has consistently remained a level 3 center. The center is a pilot site for the new KY ALL STARS.

In an effort to raise awareness, support, celebrate, honor and most importantly say Thank You to our First Responders for the difficult job they do every day by putting their lives on the line to protect and enhance our country and way of life, the East Casey County FRYSC Corp organized a First Responders appreciation event with coffee and donuts served.

Casey County Family Resource and Youth Services Centers met with legislators to discuss topics of concern. Senator Jimmy Higdon and Representative Daniel Elliott are always willing to listen to the concerns of the community.
Belfry
Blackberry/Southside
FRC
Elementary Schools

5th Grade Students visit Gov. Bevin!

Red Ribbon Week fun!

Students will praised for good attendance and good behavior receive tickets from the Masonic Stone Lodge of Belfry KY.

Summer Art Camp!

Students enjoy visits from Senator Jones and State Representative Harris.

With its Magic Starts sponsor students for Christmas.
Belfry FRC ~ Blackberry / Southside Elementary Schools

Community Partners ARH doing the Fitness Fair at Southside Elementary. Screenings such as Vision, hearing, scoliosis, BMI are a few of the activities that take place during the fair.

DOME Theatre – STEM Program
Parent Night ➔

Safe Night Out
←Parent, Student Tea

Veteran’s Day Program
Our students Love Veterans and they show it!

Pike County Extension Office teaching our students about honey bees

Belfry FRC (Blackberry/Southside Elementary Schools) located in Region 10 (Pike County), Eugenia Whitt, Coordinator
Region 10 (Fayette County) ~ Winburn’s “Bountiful Blessings Food Basket Project”

In an effort to “fight the war on hunger”, Winburn Middle School will participate in the 8th Annual “Bountiful Blessings Food Basket,” community service project. Winburn is answering the call to serve our community by blessing families with a food basket during the holiday season. More families are struggling to put food on the table in today’s rough economy. We ask Winburn and the Lexington Community to join us in this fight to be a “Bountiful Blessing!” to families in need. In 2015 with the help and support of the community and God’s Pantry we provided 98 food baskets, serving 269 children, plus baskets serving 3 senior citizen households. In 2016 our goal is to provide 75 families with food baskets for the holidays. With the support of God’s Pantry, Passport Health Plan, Winburn PTSA and the Winburn Neighborhood Association we are able to provide 75 families with “Bountiful Blessing Food Baskets” including serving a military family, several displaced families and 10 and 10 senior citizen households. Students, teacher, our school principal and community volunteers participated in the BBFB Packing Party. We pack baskets with food based on family size and were blessed to include household products with each basket. Thanks to all for your support!
Region 10 (Pike County) • The Shelby Valley High School YSC offers programs and resources for drug education, community service projects and student enhancement opportunities. Shannon Kiser, Coordinator
Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Respect Society

by Michelle Keathley, Coordinator, Adams Middle School YSC

Prestonsburg (KY) • This club was developed to teach girls about the importance of having self-esteem and about the importance of making good decisions and the option of Abstinence. The program was originally developed by a local hospital and has changed a little over the years but basically is an 8-session curriculum focusing on Male/Female Anatomy, Being a Teen Parent, STD’s, Budgeting as a Single Parent, Diet and Exercise, Communication and Careers. The program also uses Baby Think It Over simulators to allow students to experience the hardships of being a teen parent.

Pictured are members of the Adams Middle School Youth Services Center Fall Respect Society following a pizza party and celebration.

Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Student Christmas Cards for Community Service Providers

by Sharon Collins, Coordinator, Allen Central High School YSC

Eastern (KY) • As part of the Advisor/Advisee program at Allen Central High School, the students made Christmas cards for various community agencies thanking them for their service to the community. The students made cards that were given to the Garrett, Maytown and Martin Fire Departments, Kentucky State Police, Floyd County Sheriff’s Department, Golden Years Nursing Home, Riverview Nursing Home, Prestonsburg Nursing Home, Veterans Administration Clinic and other veteran organizations. The students had a lot of fun and did a great job with their artwork.
Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Betsy Layne Elementary Making a Difference: FRYSC AmeriCorps Distributes Baked Good to Local First Responders

by Brian H. Akers, Coordinator, Betsy Layne FRYSC

Betsy Layne (KY) • Betsy Layne Elementary FRYSC AmeriCorps member Lora Boyd’s first service to her school and community was to collect baked goods and give to our local first responders. Lora went to the faculty and staff and asked for donations. She was able to collect baked goods from over 55 different individuals including our faculty, staff and students. Lora was hoping to be able to have enough baked goods to give to 3 different fire and police stations. However with the outpouring of donations she was able to give boxes of baked good to over 6 different stations that included: Betsy Layne Volunteer Fire Dept., Kentucky State Police, Prestonsburg City Fire Dept., Allen Fire Department, Mud Creek Volunteer Fire Department and Floyd County Sheriff’s Department.

FRYSC Corps members wish to honor our local heroes who risk their lives for the safety of others and in remembrance of the sacrifices made on 9-11.

The FRYSC CORPS is partnership of the Division of Family Resource and Youth Service Centers and the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC). The Corporation of National Community Service (CNCS) is the federal organization that leads AmeriCorps while the Kentucky Commission for Community and Volunteer Service (KCCVS) monitors the grant in Kentucky.

Twelve AmeriCorps programs currently serve the Commonwealth. These programs assist senior citizens, the homeless, and homeland defense and students from Kindergarten through grade twelve. These diverse programs work together to support Kentucky communities and help our citizens connect with volunteering.

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members serve through more than 2,100 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations. They tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, and help communities respond to disasters. Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees Senior Corps. Together these programs engage more than 2 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year.

Lora Boyd will be working with Brian H. Akers who is the Coordinator for the Betsy Layne Elementary Family Resource and Youth Services Center from September 1, 2016 through August 31st 2017.
Region 6 (Madison County) ~ Kit Carson “Crams the Cruiser”

*by Stephanie Beard, Coordinator, Kit Carson FRC*

**Richmond (KY)** • Kit Carson FRC teamed up with the Kentucky State Police at Christmas to “Cram the Cruiser”. The object was to cram as much food into a cruiser as possible for our community food bank. The generosity of students and families was apparent as we watched the mounds of food accumulating on the stage each day. Many families went to the store just to purchase groceries for this cause.

The total food drive collection was 2,363 items. On the day of pick up the Cruiser was full, they also filled up the Humvee, then a truck! Officer Robert Purdy commended the students on the largest donation he had ever picked up. It took officers, our WatchDOG for the day, and 30 Madison Middle School Beta Club students to carry all the boxes outside.

Not only was the excitement of Christmas in the air, the joy of giving was warming the hearts of all involved. Providing food for families in our community during the holiday season was a big lesson for students in grades 1-5.

Region 10 (Floyd County) ~ Dinner and FAFSA Night

*by Sharon Collins, Coordinator, Allen Central High School YSC*

**Eastern (KY)** • On October 5, 2016, seniors and their parents were invited to attend a program to help parents fill out the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) and talk to representatives with KHEAA to discuss how to go to college as cheap as possible. A dinner was provided for those in attendance. After a question and answer session parents then went to the computers to fill out the FAFSA forms. It was helpful to parents to have someone to help them with filling it out and answering their questions. Twenty one parents with their children attended. This was a collaborative effort between the Allen Central High School Counselor, Lisa Tackett, the Allen Central Youth Services Center, Sharon Collins, and KHEAA, Amanda Keller.
Region 10 (Pike County) ~ KinderCamp Helps with Student Transition to School

by Eugenia Whitt, Coordinator, Belfry FRC

Belfry (KY) • Belfry FRC collaborated with faculty and staff at Southside Elementary to plan their annual KinderCamp for incoming kindergarten students and their parents on August 2nd. The purpose for the KinderCamp is to help students make a smoother transition into kindergarten by meeting teachers, and learning about routines and procedures of the school. Administration, teachers and other staff members met with the parents to discuss a variety of topics and services offered at the school, and to answer any questions or concerns of the parents.

The theme for the day was "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?"

While parents were learning about the procedures, the students had fun participating in story telling, singing, crafts and got to meet "Brown Bear"! Students also received a goodie bag from the Belfry FRC which included, the book, "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?", Gummy Bears, Teddy Grahams, Bear stickers, Brown Bear themed bubbles and pencils. Crafts were provided also by Belfry FRC, lunch was provided by the Pike County School Food Service.

Region 9 (Rockcastle County) ~ Rockcastle County Middle School Helps with Local Hunger Walk

by Angie Payne, Coordinator, Rockcastle County Middle School YSC

Mt. Vernon (KY) • Students on the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade RCMS Leadership Team collected non-perishable food items for the CAP Grateful Bread Food Pantry and joined the 5th annual Hunger Walk through Mt. Vernon on September 14th to promote hunger awareness in our community and world. The keynote speaker for the event was 8th grader Kerrigan Medley, who also helped lead the Hunger Walk.
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Take advantage of the Southbank Trolley. It will take you to the Newport Levee, across the river and back all for a buck-a-ride. And if you’re feeling energetic, Cincy RedBike is also a great way to explore NKY!

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• Ride the Ducks
• Braxton Brewing Company
• BB Riverboats
• Mainstrasse Village
• National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
• The Banks & Smale Park
• Hofbrauhaus Newport
• Cincinnati Museum Center
• Creation Museum & The Ark Encounter
• The New Riff Distillery
• Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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Who’s Who?

Traditionalists    Born before 1943
Highly influenced by the results of living between the two World Wars and a Great Depression. Key historical events include Pearl Harbor, two massive World Wars. Key invention is the radio. Key trait is loyalty.

Baby Boomers    Born between 1944 and 1960
Grew up in a prosperous and high achievement-oriented “You Can Do Anything” America. Key historical event is the murder of JFK. Key invention is the television. Key trait is being idealistic.

Generation-X    Born between 1961 and 1980
Have lived through the most profound economic changes since the Great Depression. Key historical event is the Challenger Explosion. Key invention is the personal computer. Key trait is being skeptical.

Have come of age in an era of instantaneous global communication, media saturation, and material excess. Key historical event is the Columbine school shooting. Key invention is the Internet. Key trait is being hopeful.

Generation Next    Born between 2001 and Now
Grew up (or growing up) in an era of global terrorism, economic decline (The Great Recession), and giant technology advances. Key historical event is 9/11. Key invention (so far) is the iPhone (or similar devices).