Spring Into Resilience

Spring represents renewal and rebirth. Nature awakens from the dormancy of winter. At FaCT, the Spring is traditionally our busiest season. Although COVID-19 has altered our activities, the quality and heart of our FRCs are unflappable. With each obstacle, all of you rose to the challenge to ensure our clients received unwavering services in such creative ways. This includes tele-health counseling, PEP and parenting classes conducted through Zoom and other virtual platforms, as well as in person, by appointment emergency assistance providing families with food and other basic need items. FaCT is grateful for your continued support and commitment to strengthening families in Orange County, even during challenging and uncertain times.

This newsletter will highlight the activities and updates from the Spring quarter, which includes success stories from our FRCs and Blue Ribbon Month.

Blue Ribbon Month

No Excuse For Child Abuse!

April is Blue Ribbon/Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each year we try to incorporate the creativity of every FRC into one unified poster. This year, we decided to create one large ribbon and have the FRCs design one piece of the ribbon. That would yield 15 unique pieces that all advance our vision of child abuse prevention. Once all the pieces were completed, FaCT staff collected and affixed them to our larger poster. The pieces submitted included representation of a variety of art mediums, including 3-D blue pinwheels, colored pencil artwork, photos of FRC staff, and even real leaves from a tree!
FaCT also decided to try something new to expand their presence in the community while also increasing awareness of Child Abuse Prevention/Blue Ribbon Month. This year, FaCT partnered with Bruster’s Real Ice Cream, a national chain that prides itself on serving fresh, premium ice cream and other frozen treats in a variety of flavors and has a reputation for being active in their local communities. Leslie Oliver, the owner of the location in Garden Grove, expressed excitement at collaborating with FaCT. FaCT Manager Candice Staples shared, “Ms. Oliver was gracious enough to feature their Blue Pop flavor of Italian ice and provide 500 free scoop vouchers for youth at our Family Resource Centers. Ice cream and sunny California go hand in hand for a sweet family bonding experience.”

A family experiencing homelessness came to Minnie Street as a referral from SSA. The family had a history of domestic violence, were candidates for counseling, and requested basic need items. The mother was in crisis. She displayed signs of sadness, anger, disappointment, and exhaustion. The mother felt she had nowhere to turn and was concerned about securing safe housing for her daughter. After one week of working with our Family Stabilization staff, there were noticeable and positive changes in the mother’s demeanor. She smiled more and was able to communicate with her daughter more effectively. The daughter also arrived at the FRC with a big smile. They participated in multiple Family Fun Nights and other services and events.

A few weeks later, Minnie Street FRC staff was able to place this family in a transitional shelter. Even though the FRC Family Stabilization program closed for the pandemic, the family continued to participate in FRC activities. Both mother and daughter continue to show tremendous progress.

Our FRCs provide counseling services to individuals, children, families, and groups. This service is offered with the goal of improving family functioning, increasing social support, teaching problem solving, reducing the effects of trauma, and to strengthen coping skills.
Six youth arrived to our center by referral from a partner agency because they expressed interest in being community leaders. We provided them information on our Youth Action Council. All members who join the Youth Action Council have the drive to make a positive impact in their community by volunteering in community engagement activities or promoting awareness and information about the resources we offer at Family Oasis Resource Center. The Youth Action Council members are role models, activists, and community stakeholders.

Traditionally every year in the month of April at Family Oasis, the Youth Action Council (YAC) and Family Oasis Resource Center hosts an Annual Blue Ribbon event where more than 150 community members partake in. Due to COVID – 19, we canceled our event. The pandemic did not create a barrier for the Youth Action Council. During our Zoom meeting, we discussed the importance of Child Abuse Awareness and how we could continue to actively engage in April's Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since all our outreach events and activities are in person, telecommuting was a new experience for most of our youth volunteers. In an effort to practice social distancing, we decided to take a group photo wearing the color blue via Zoom. As a result, the Children’s Bureau all staff email featured us. The Youth were excited and could not wait to start having our weekly meetings at Family Oasis.

Success Story: CHEC  FRC

A woman came into the FRC seeking domestic violence services. She suffered over 20 years of emotional, physical, and verbal abuse and recently separated from her perpetrator in December 2019. She is now a single mother of four with no support system or knowledge of community programs or resources. Our Family Stabilization Service connected her to Personal Empowerment Program, parenting, Out of School Time, mental health services and case management services. The client states that since she connected to the FRC, there has been a positive change in her family. Together the Family Stabilization Specialist, Social Worker, and client were able to set reasonable goals and a plan to execute them. She has completed Personal Empowerment Program, legal services, case management and Out of School Time classes for the children. The client is aware of local food banks, employment assistance services and is aware she can connect with the FRC’s Information and Referral specialist as needed. She continues to attend parenting classes and weekly therapy via Zoom. She has made positive connections inside and outside of the FRC and understands there are still many hurdles to jump over but she is no longer alone.
Families and Communities Together (FaCT) is a network of 15 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) located throughout Orange County’s highest-risk communities providing essential family support services, education, and resources. Each FRC is a family-friendly, community-based site that provides access to comprehensive prevention and treatment-oriented social, educational, and health services for all families, including birth, blended, kinship, adoptive, and foster families. FRCs serve as vehicles for engaging local residents and community organizations in the identification and resolution of community concerns related to raising healthy children. Every FRC is unique to its community; services are offered by multicultural and multilingual staff that reflect the surrounding neighborhoods and the families they serve.

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we are proud to be supporting the following FRCs:

**ANAHEIM**
Anaheim Harbor Family Resource Center
Family Oasis Family Resource Center

**GARDEN GROVE**
Magnolia Park Family Resource Center

**HUNTINGTON BEACH**
Oak View Family Resource Center

**LA HABRA**
La Habra Family Resource Center

**NEWPORT BEACH**
Newport Mesa Family Resource Center

**ORANGE**
Friendly Center – Orange Family Resource Center

**PLACENTIA**
Friendly Center – Placentia Family Resource Center

**SANTA ANA**
Corbin Family Resource Center

**SOUTH COUNTY**
South Orange County Family Resource Center (SOC)
Community Health Enrichment Collaborative (CHEC) Family Resource Center

**STANTON**
Stanton Family Resource Center

**WESTMINSTER**
Westminster Family Resource Center

**Core FRC Services**
*Offered at all FRCs*

- Counseling
- Parenting Education
- Family Support Services
- Domestic Violence Personal Empowerment Program
- Information and Referral Services
- Comprehensive Case Management Team Services
- Out of School Time Youth Programs
- Time-Limited Family Reunification Family Fun Activities
- Adoption & Promotion Services

**Additional FRC Services**
*Offered at participating FRCs*

- Family Health & Wellness
- Family Economics & Self-Sufficiency
- Child Development Activities
- Emergency Assistance
- Family Literacy & Education
- Child Development Activities
- Emergency Assistance
- Family Literacy & Education

---

**Our Vision**
is that all our children grow up in stable, nurturing families and safe, supportive communities which promote healthy development and provide opportunities for children, youth, and adults to achieve their full potential as caring, responsible, and productive members of society.

**Our Mission**
is to identify and promote promising and best practices, train, fund, and advocate for Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to be Orange County’s community-based platform for prevention activities and family support services.