Get Reacquainted with Family

Reflecting on the past holiday season, we were challenged to find ways to create new traditions while looking forward to returning to our normal activities. Halloween and Thanksgiving might have looked different for some of us, but that did not mean we could not have fun and celebrate! Those of us in the FaCT Network took advantage of the extra time we have had with those in our household to better acquainted with each other, and hope you did too!

FaCT FRCs have continued to display their creativity and passion by offering essential services without sacrificing safety. Orange County families can take comfort in knowing food drives will still be available at our FRCs. We are grateful for our partners and the staff at each FRC for their dedication to strengthening families and preventing child abuse.

FaCT 2019-2020 Annual Report

Our vision is that all children should be able to grow up in stable, nurturing families and in safe, supportive communities that provide opportunities for everyone to grow and thrive. What separates the work of FaCT from other family-focused programs is our mission to protect children and strengthen families before abuse occurs. We depend on our community partners to help make Orange County a safe place for our children to grow and thrive.

Learn how FaCT and our FRCs help to prevent child abuse and neglect in Orange County. The fiscal year 2019-2020 Annual Report highlights how FaCT leads the way.
This is no trick, but Minnie Street Family Resource Center was able treat their youngest (and the young at heart) clients to a socially distant trick-or-treat event. Twenty-two families, approximately 77 individuals, were greeted by a ferocious and friendly tyrannosaurs rex. Everyone in attendance received face masks and hand sanitizers. Then children were able to visit booths where they received candy and other tasty treats. Participants also received information and fliers for future Minnie Street events, local school events, and other community partner activities.

**Personal Empowerment Program (PEP) Success Story**

Melissa* had been in an abusive relationship for over five years. She is the mother of three daughters and had experienced an unhealthy and unsafe living environment. In the latest incident, both the police and social services became involved. With a restraining order issued, Melissa was encouraged to take PEP, Parenting, and begin family therapy for both her and her daughters. Melissa received a referral to Manzanita Park Family Resource Center and eventually Women’s Transitional Living Center for services.

When Melissa began PEP classes, she was not very receptive to services. She stated she was only taking PEP in order to comply with her case plan. Melissa did not participate or share much of her experiences that brought her to class. After a couple of weeks, Melissa began to understand the gravity of her situation. During PEP 4 – Effects of Domestic Violence on Children, Melissa became emotional and upset. She shared with the group that she had no idea how much she was hurting her girls by staying in her relationships. Melissa shared that her youngest daughter was starting to exhibit unhealthy behaviors toward her sisters and at school. For the rest of the program, Melissa became proactive and began participating more in the activities and discussions in class. She shared stories and asked questions, expressing that she wanted to absorb as much information as possible. She asked about other classes and programs that would help her learn more about empowerment and parenting skills. Melissa successfully completed both her PEP and Parenting classes and continues attending therapy to better herself. She has also noticed an improvement in her daughters’ behaviors since beginning therapy.

*name changed to protect the anonymity of the client
CEAC Success Story

There are many reasons why someone may become a part of the Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC) at the La Habra FRC, better known as the La Habra Action Council (LAC). Some are looking to continue their community activism; others are parents looking to make their community a better place for their children, while others come to the group seeking refuge and friendship. Overall, one mission unites them and that is to see positive and equitable change in La Habra and the Northern Orange County community.

As part of the La Habra Action Council’s community activism, the group decided that the U.S. Census 2020 was on the top of the group’s priorities. The LAC practiced their activism, first through training to be as prepared as possible to answer questions and debunk myths. Although many of the large community activities were canceled due to COVID-19, the group persisted. They distributed census materials to essential businesses such as grocery stores, laundromats, and restaurants throughout the community. As trusted members in their community, LAC members donned PPE and conducted door-to-door Census education in their neighborhoods. All of the efforts of the LAC to motivate and assist individuals to respond to the Census will have long lasting positive impact on the community. By helping to reach our underserved communities, our community is more likely to receive the appropriate funding needed for schools, roads, health, and community programs.

Case Management Team (CMT) Success Story

Jane*, Michael*, and their three children were encouraged to visit the Downtown Family Resource Center by a Latino Health Access Promotor. The family described experiencing a series of financial hardships and feelings of distress. Some of the stressors included COVID-19 and the impact it has had on them; especially on Michael since he was the breadwinner. The pandemic has caused them to feel fearful about the unknowns and uncertainties about the future.

Furthermore, while Jane was managing many different responsibilities at home including assisting her children with distance learning, maintaining the household, and childrearing, she has been struggling in her career. Jane did not realize that she needed mental health support and that it could provide her with the tools and resources she needed to navigate the challenges she was facing.

The case management/family support services provided by the FRC, has met and exceeded Jane’s expectations. After providing Jane with community resources on financial assistance, the FRC encouraged her to make the calls herself. She followed through with the case plan developed collaboratively with the Case Management Team, and she reached out to several community agencies that eventually assisted her with rental and utility assistance. Jane has been able to pay off some of her past-owed rent. Additionally, the entire family has benefited from food resources provided to them. Jane is learning about local food banks that are accessible to, which are helping her budget.

After working with Jane for a few weeks, she started to take the initiative in looking for other community resources and programs that may benefit her family. She became more comfortable calling and asking questions. Jane is interested and motivated to pursue the resources that are available in her community. She also acknowledges that having a clear and stable mind, she is more motivated and aspires to put herself in a better situation. Jane confided in us that it is difficult for her to balance all of her responsibilities, in addition to being a wife and mother of three children. The FRC enrolled her into parenting classes that will help strengthen her skills as a parent.

After receiving several individual counseling sessions, Jane’s emotional, mental, and overall well-being has improved. CMT staff recently checked in with Jane to see how she was doing. She said that she could not have pictured herself being happier and feeling more confident, particularly knowing that she can count on her local FRC for social support. As she said in her own words, “Muchas gracias. Si no fuera por usted, senor, no sabria de esta gran ayuda que hay. De adeveras, muchas gracias.” (Translation: “Thank you so much. If it were not for you, I would not have found out about all of the help that is out there. Really, thank you so much.”)

*name changed to protect the anonymity of the client
Families and Communities Together (FaCT) is a network of 16 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 2020-2021 fiscal year, we are proud to be supporting the following FRCs:

**ANAHEIM**
Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center
Manzanita Park Family Resource Center

**COSTA MESA**
Newport Mesa Family Resource Center

**GARDEN GROVE**
Magnolia Park Family Resource Center

**HUNTINGTON BEACH**
Oak View Family Resource Center

**LA HABRA**
La Habra Family Resource Center

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

**SANTA ANA**
Corbin Family Resource Center
Downtown Family Resource Center
Minnie Street Family Resource Center

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

**STANTON**
Stanton Family Resource Center

**TUSTIN**
Tustin Family Resource Center

**WESTMINSTER**
Westminster Family Resource Center

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### 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.