Welcome

We are excited to share with you our Fall 2022 Newsletter. Families and Communities Together (FaCT) is a platform of 16 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) strengthening families in Orange County. We are incorporating more in-person events and services for our families and our FRCs continue to reach out to their communities to serve families in need.

Please save the date for our 2023 FaCT Annual Conference on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at Great Wolf Lodge in Garden Grove!

2022 Youth Action Council Conference

Over 50 youth joined us for our annual 2022 FaCT Youth Action Council Conference themed “Building Our Future One Piece at A Time”. The event was held at our beautiful Tustin Family Resource Center where we welcomed inspiring guest speakers. Monique and Jaime Flores, from Western High School encouraged our youth to find and become mentors, showing them the difference that one person can make. We also had guest speaker, Monica Estrada Nunez, Senior Manager of Community Engagement from Southern California Edison, who spoke about the importance of courage, self-advocacy, and decision-making on one’s path to adulthood. The youth participated in breakout sessions that focused on building their futures through goal setting, money management and writing letters to their future selves.

We enjoyed breakfast, lunch, and offered gift cards and a chromebook through opportunity drawings thanks to our FRCs who donated and our special event sponsor, Hope for Healing Foundation. We look forward to another great conference in 2023! To learn more about and get involved with the Youth Action Council Conference email info@factoc.org.
Westminster Family Resource Center Celebrates Latino Heritage Month

Westminster Family Resource Center (FRC) kicked off Latino Heritage Month with their Fiestas Patrias event. The FRC was decorated with traditional Latin decorations such as tissue paper flowers, banderitas (flags), and colorful abanicos (fans). Families had snacks, partook in crafts that celebrated their Latin American Country, and Las Tapatillas de Westminster, a local folklórico group, performed at the event.

Family Resource Centers Fall Celebrations

Find upcoming Family Resource Center events at www.factoc.org/calendar.
**Annual Differential Response (DR) Celebration**

In September, we hosted our Annual Differential Response (DR) Celebration at Downtown Family Resource Center (FRC). DR provides a pathway for families to participate in FRC core services, instead of weaving through the court system. We were joined by FRC Coordinators, Family Support Advocates, and Children and Family Services staff, including DR Senior Social Workers and supervisors from the Family Maintenance Collaborative Service program. In true celebration, a previous client, Leo came to share his experience with the DR program at the Oak View FRC. Overall, participants expressed their positive experience during the celebration.

To learn more about our core services, contact info@factoc.org.

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**Success Story Highlighting Differential Response**

A Mexican family was referred to Downtown Family Resource Center through the Differential Response program. The mother was having supervision issues, leaving her child home alone. The parents have been separated for over two years and share custody of their 5-year-old daughter. They also have different parenting techniques.

Father is more conservative and does not always agree with mother's parenting, and the two have difficulties communicating effectively. They utilized a parenting app as their only form of communication and Father was persistent in attempting to get a response from Mother if he has safety concerns for his child. Mother feels this is imposing on her child and feels stalked by Father who does come to the home when mother does not respond. Father has contacted Law Enforcement for assistance and sought legal counsel to go through family law court to outline custody agreements.

Counseling for the child was identified as a need, to allow a third party mandated reporter to work without parent involvement. The Father shared that he would like to be able to enjoy his time with his daughter and know that she's safe.

Father was also open to counseling for himself. He is an army reservist having served 2-3 deployments and he expressed concerns that he may suffer from PTSD. FRC staff identified that he would benefit with linkages made to Strong Families, Strong Children.

Father is currently renting a room with friends and shared that he is interested in finding a home more conducive for visitation with his daughter. As a result of the Differential Response referral, Father completed Active Parenting course, was linked to counseling for himself and his daughter, received legal support, and housing.

Father was thankful for all the support he received and remarked that he can better connect with his daughter because he feels healthier.
The United States remains a top receiving country for refugees with California being in the top three states for resettlement. An estimated 700-900 refugees arrive in Orange County each year.

FaCT hosted a training focused on Understanding and Serving the Refugee Populations in Orange County. It was presented by Nahla Kayali, Access California Services Founder & Executive Director, and SH. Yassir Fazaga, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and Mental Health Services Advisor. The training covered the refugee experience, differences and similarities between refugees and immigrants, and what service providers can expect when interacting with refugees.

To learn more about FaCT Trainings, please email jennifer.lopez@factoc.org.

Reach out to AccessCal at 714-917-0440 or www.accesscal.org

Family Resource Centers in Action

Welcome New FaCT Staff

Claudia Juarez  
FaCT Administrative Manager I, SSA

Linda Bui  
Information & Referral Specialist, Westminster FRC

Catia Rivera  
Information & Referral Specialist, CHEC FRC

Suki Martinez  
Family Support Advocate, Friendly Center Orange

Cheryl Dohlin  
FaCT Program Manager, Charitable Ventures

Hilda Santana Heredia  
FRC Coordinator, CHEC FRC

Jenny Salcedo  
Family Support Advocate, Stanton FRC

Luis Estrada  
Family Support Advocate, Friendly Center Orange
FaCT Holiday Gift Drive

We are entering the most wonderful time of year! Each year FaCT hosts a Holiday Gift Drive, we have received donations from bikes to backpacks and distribute to all 16 FRCs. Each FRC receives gifts to make our families holiday season brighter and merrier. This year, you or your business can participate by hosting your own Holiday Gift Drive on behalf of FaCT. We will be accepting toys until Friday, December 9, 2022.

If you or your business is interested in hosting, please contact Jennifer Lopez at jennifer.lopez@factoc.org

FaCT Sponsorship Opportunities

The support of our community can elevate and make our FaCT events truly special for our families. FaCT has two upcoming sponsorship opportunities for our community to get involved.

Each year all FaCT FRCs hold events in the month of April for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness. All FRC staff wear a t-shirt designed by children at the FRCs. We invite you to be part of all the events throughout Orange County. Please visit www.factoc.org/blue-ribbon-month for more event and sponsorship information.

We are also hosting our 2023 Annual Conference and have various sponsorship opportunities available: factoc.org/factconference.

To learn more about sponsorships, contact Cheryll Dahlin at cheryll.dahlin@factoc.org.

Thank you to our Sponsor: CalAssist

Did you know that millions of Californians are eligible to receive no-cost, life changing benefits today? CalAssist is a FREE service that matches community members to benefits covered by their health plan. This may include 12 weeks of no-cost healthy food delivered to your doorstep, caregiving services, and more. Visit these links to get started:

www.calassist.org
https://espanol.calassist.org

Serving the community

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.

To find your nearest Family Resource Center visit: www.factoc.org/locations.