In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, our network of 15 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) provided services to over 15,000 residents in Orange County, made 50,803 referrals to community partners, and helped 1,948 families navigate crises and services through the support of our Family Support Specialists. These achievements showcase the effects that the power of collaboration can have on families and communities. As we look forward to ways we can leverage, align, connect, and grow we continue to build and strengthen our partnerships, explore how issues like mental health and substance abuse are tied together, and arm our FRCs with the strategies and knowledge to deliver effective services to our families.

FaCT and RDM Resource Fair

Families and Communities Together (FaCT) and Resource Development Management (RDM) hosted a joint resource fair for social workers on November 11th. Despite the unusual heat, we had over 200 Orange County Social Services Agency social workers and employees join us for a day of learning, connecting, and growing!

FaCT and RDM are both committed to delivering services to children and families in Orange County and we look forward to continuing our strong relationship.

Arming Our Network With Knowledge

FaCT is dedicated to arming our FRC staff with the knowledge and resources that allow them to deliver high quality services to their families. We work hard to partner with experts in each of our training topics to ensure that our FRC staff are the most current information that can be utilized in their role at their FRC. The chart on the right shows some of our upcoming and past training topics for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
FaCT spread holiday cheer this year through generous donations from Trish Hurley and her family, Sean Canova and his patrons at T-Zone Fitness, and Francisco Yanez. This year we distributed over 200 pairs of children’s shoes, over 60 bikes, and a box full of backpacks and toys for the children and families of our FRCs. To these families, these gifts can go a long way. For some it means the ability to provide gifts for their children for the holidays, or a method of transportation to and from work or school.  

Special thanks to Mary Ann Soden for her help in coordinating these donations.

The caring and trained professionals that work at FaCT FRCs see the challenges facing families in Orange County communities every day. Here are just a few examples of the critical work being done by our FRC staff.

**CHEC FRC**

The Community Health Enrichment Collaborative (CHEC) Family Resource Center hosted our first Christmas Family Fun Event with 175 individuals in attendance! Thanks to our volunteers from our Youth Action Council (YAC) and Community Engagement Advisory Council (CEAC) groups, Mission Hospital, and local community partners we were able to create an exciting day of holiday cheer that included pictures with Santa, face painting, refreshments, cookie decorating, and crafts. We were fortunate enough to receive a generous amount of toys through the efforts of Human Options’ toy drive and Toys for Tots. In total, 300 toys were donated to our event which enabled us to provide every child in attendance with gifts for the holidays! Thanks to FaCT and Mission Hospital, we were also able to raffle off a bike, kindle, and Xbox. One of our participants shared with us, “We had nowhere to go this Christmas, and thanks to the center my kids and I were able to have a fun together and were provided with gifts.” This event was a great example of the result of great outreach and collaboration of resources.

**Oak View FRC**

Elena came to the Oak View FRC seeking counseling services for her 15 and 12 year-old sons. Her youngest had recently been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and had periods of depression, and her oldest recently began taking medication for anxiety but had not been able to see a counselor. The costs associated with her youngest son’s condition began to pose a financial burden on her family including medication and a bi-annual trip to San Francisco to see her son’s pediatric multiple sclerosis specialist. Elena began working with our family support specialist and completed crisis counseling. She currently actively participates in a women’s relaxation group and both of her sons have highly benefited from receiving counseling services. In addition, our family support specialist was able to refer Elena to the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America which was able to provide a cooling vest that provided relief for her youngest son. She shared with us that she is proud of the accomplishments her family has made through the support of our FRC.

**El Modena FRC**

Dinora began her work experience program through CalWORKs in 2014 with the assistance of our Family Stabilization Family Support Specialist. She was very motivated and eager to learn and began enveloping herself in the full benefits of the program. After she completed the program, she became a member of our CEAC group and began to flourish as a team member and leader, eventually becoming a peer instructor. Dinora also became involved in the Champion’s for Change Movement as a Champion for Change Advocate for her community. Joining the movement allowed her the opportunity and resources to learn about healthy eating and active and positive lifestyles. She began her work as a Champion for Change Advocate and CEAC peer instructor to benefit her community. In April 2016, Dinora became a certified Zumba instructor with the intention of providing free classes to our community members. Through her work she was recently named the 2016 Orange County Champion for Change. We are very proud of Dinora and her accomplishments and thankful for her dedication to her community and FRC!
We want to wish Gene Howard sincere congratulations on his formal retirement! Gene will be leaving his role as Executive Director of the Orange County Alliance for Children and Families, a partner of the FaCT Coalition, in January. Gene has devoted over 40 years to improving and expanding the field of services for abused and neglected children. His work spans public and private agencies, large and small organizations, policy level and grass roots work. Gene has been crucial in the development of the FaCT network, previously through his role as the Executive Director of both the Orangewood Foundation and more recently through the Orange County Alliance for Children and Families. “My passion has always been to improve the lives of children who have no one to stand up for them,” he says. In his role as a vital part of the FaCT Coalition, Gene graciously lent his knowledge, experience, kindness, and support to our network’s development and helped us to push our network in new directions. Gene has been committed to protecting the children of Orange County who need it the most and to the FaCT network and we thank him for his work and contributions to child abuse prevention. Gene, we will miss you!

A Look at Differential Response

FaCT recently completed its 2015-2016 fiscal year annual report which included a unique look at our Differential Response (DR) program. DR is an innovative solution to the problems presented by the traditional model in the investigation of child abuse. It is based on the premise that child safety should be shared by the family, the community, and child welfare agencies. DR is utilized when a report of child maltreatment meets statutory definitions of abuse and neglect and an in-person assessment completed by a Children and Family Services (CFS) social worker indicates 1) the risk of maltreatment to the child is low to moderate and 2) with targeted services, a family is willing and likely to make needed changes to improve the child's safety. Currently, five FaCT FRC locations spread across the county provide services to families identified by CFS as needing Differential Response. The charts to the right show the dramatic impact of DR services for families who receive them.

Bon Voyage, Gene Howard!

We want to wish Gene Howard sincere congratulations on his formal retirement! Gene will be leaving his role as Executive Director of the Orange County Alliance for Children and Families, a partner of the FaCT Coalition, in January. Gene has devoted over 40 years to improving and expanding the field of services for abused and neglected children. His work spans public and private agencies, large and small organizations, policy level and grass roots work. Gene has been crucial in the development of the FaCT network, previously through his role as the Executive Director of both the Orangewood Foundation and more recently through the Orange County Alliance for Children and Families. “My passion has always been to improve the lives of children who have no one to stand up for them,” he says. In his role as a vital part of the FaCT Coalition, Gene graciously lent his knowledge, experience, kindness, and support to our network’s development and helped us to push our network in new directions. Gene has been committed to protecting the children of Orange County who need it the most and to the FaCT network and we thank him for his work and contributions to child abuse prevention. Gene, we will miss you!
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 2016-2017 fiscal year, we are proud to be supporting the following FRCs:

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

**COSTA MESA**
Costa 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**
Friendly Center – Orange Family Resource Center
El Modena Family Resource Center

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

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

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

**STANTON**
Stanton 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.

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**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

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