Embarking on Another Year Together

2017 was a year of both success and transition for FaCT. Promotional opportunities and changing career paths led to some significant staffing changes for FaCT. Many would expect this to cause some disruption; however, the County of Orange Social Services Agency’s (SSA) commitment to FaCT as an integral piece of child abuse prevention made forming a new team a priority.

As a result, FaCT continued moving forward with record turn-out at the annual conference; the introduction of a new training series focusing on serving diverse communities; and a large investment of time and resources dedicated to centralizing data collection practices and improving the quality of our data integrity.

We are thankful to all of our staff and partners for their contributions to 2017. We look forward to embarking on another year of serving Orange County families, together.

EMBRACE: The 2018 FaCT Annual Conference

Over the last two years, FaCT has been working to deliver a comprehensive conference with the goal of exploring critical challenges facing our families and communities and how we as providers, social workers, and leaders can work to better align our services and systems to create a family strengthening field that is responsive and impactful. In 2018, we hope to dive deep into how we can fully embrace underserved and hard to reach communities including teens, fathers, and LGBTQ+. In addition, we will explore successful promising and effective programs.
Spooktacular!

In October, Oak View Family Resource Center hosted its 8th Annual Spooktacular Events featuring their very first Trunk or Treat that was made possible through Mariners Church and the Oak View Parent Teacher Organization. With the help of Children's Bureau's Staff, Young Professionals of Orange County (YPOC), the Halloween Committee, and dedicated volunteers, the FRC was once again transformed overnight into the “Twilight Zone Haunted House” for youth 5th grade and older. Outside of the FRC, a plethora of fun family activities were enjoyed including live dance performances, costume contests, cake walks, and face painters. The size and scope of this event was made possible through Oak View collaborative partners as well as the generosity of community partners, agencies, and businesses.

Orange County District Attorney's Office 19th Annual Adopt-A-Family

On December 9th, the Orange County District Attorney’s Office (OCDA) “adopted” 50 families in their 19th Annual Adopt-a-Family Event. Forty families and more than 125 children were identified and invited to participate in the event by the Westminster Family Resource Center! The celebration included arts and crafts, baked goods, and photos with Santa. Each family received special gifts from OCDA staff, friends, and family.

Families were invited by the staff of the Family Resource Center and partner agencies demonstrating the success and strength of the Westminster Family Resource Center collaborative partnership!

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Through a generous donation from Trish Hurley and her family, Sean Canova, and his patrons at T-Zone Fitness, FaCT distributed over 90 bikes, helmets, and locks to our 15 Family Resource Centers that were gifted to families that receive services at their sites during the holidays! These generous gifts go a long way for the families of our FRCs.

For teens, a bike means autonomy and opportunity and for younger children it represents fun, health, and friendship.

Special thank you to Walmart Supercenter Irvine for providing space and refreshments.
The California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) is designed to put money back in the pockets of California’s low-income families and individuals. This initiative has mobilized community and public agencies.

The County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) formed the CalEITC Awareness Workgroup in 2015, resulting in an annual awareness campaign targeted at informing SSA staff and partner agencies on how CalEITC can benefit their clients. Additionally in 2017, SSA partnered with United Way to launch a pilot program at the Santa Ana Regional Center to provide free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

The FRCs have also joined the EITC effort as many were designated VITA sites. For over 15 years, the El Modena Family Resource Center (FRC) has also been a VITA site, through a partnership with Orange County United Way, where volunteers are approved by the Internal Revenue Service to prepare tax returns. In the last two years, the El Modena FRC has also focused its efforts, lead by El Modena’s lead agency Community Action Partnership of Orange County, on educating clients on the CalEITC. Maribel Reyes, FRC Coordinator of the El Modena Family Resource Center, informed us that:

“Our Family Resource Center is focused on prevention and family stability. We like to take a holistic approach to prevention. Our partnership with Orange County United Way, that allows us to be a VITA site, gives us much more than the opportunity to provide our community with a free service. We take the time to walk our clients through their taxes and the kinds of deductions they may or may not qualify for and why. This conversation not only makes them feel empowered and in control of their own finances but also helps us dive into a deeper conversation of financial health and stability. We often encourage our clients to use the Federal and California EITC benefits to start their first bank account. This encourages them to start a path of financial responsibility and growth. Beyond that, these conversations allow us to see what other kinds of services we may be able to offer. For us, it adds an additional layer to prevention by being able to strengthen families who may not necessarily be in crisis or seeking services but could use help in reinforcing the foundation that props them up.”

The CalEITC is entering its third year and is expanding its reach and influence. Beginning with the 2017 tax year, families earning up to $22,300 may qualify for CalEITC and those who earned self-employment income may now qualify as well. In 2018, SSA will continue its partnership with Orange County United Way to expand upon the success of its pilot program at Santa Ana Regional Center.

Additional information on other Orange County VITA sites is available at: unitedwayoc.org/free-tax-preparation

For more information on CalEITC visit: caleitc4me.org

To learn more about the work of the El Modena Family Resource Center and Community Action Partnership of Orange County visit: capoc.org/tax
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 2017-2018 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

---

**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.