

Franklin County Children's Task Force

December 2007

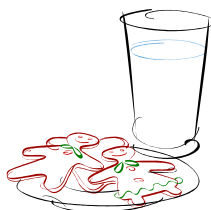


Franklin County Children's Task Force
113 Church Street
Farmington, Me 04938
778-6960
www.fctcf.org — email fctcf@fctcf.org



Holiday Open House

The 2007 Franklin County Children's Task Force Holiday Open House will take place Saturday December 8th from 9a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year's event will be a winter wonderland event with the joining of the Tri-Valley United Way hosting pictures with Santa in the United Way office on Broadway. Follow the reindeer pathway up to Church St. for a Sleigh ride around town ending back at the Children's Task Force. You can then warm up with fresh baked holiday cookies and hot cocoa and cider. All children will leave with hats and mittens and a small gift. This event is hosted by the Franklin County Children's Task Force, The Tri-Valley United Way and sponsored by the Downtown Business and Professional Association.



Pajama Project



Once again the Franklin County Children's Task Force is partnering with the Farmington Rotary Club and the Pierce House for the Pajama Project. The Rotarians and the Task Force will be collecting pajamas, or monetary donations for the UMF Interact group to purchase pajamas for area children who may need them for the upcoming winter. This has become a yearly project for these organizations to get together and help Operation Santa Claus. We are fortunate to have the women at the Pierce House wrap the presents and make them appealing for the children. If you would like to donate to this project feel free to call the Franklin County Children's Task Force for more information at 778-6960 or catch up with a local Rotarian. The deadline for dropping off pajamas is December the 10th at 4:30 p.m.



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On going.....

Parent Support and Parent Education

at the Trinity Methodist Church

Parent Education

Wild and Wonderful

Story time and Playgroup:

Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon.

Openings Available



From the Executive Directors Desk:

As we close out 2007 I would like to take this opportunity to reflect back on that has happened this past year. When I started out 2007 I was new to this position and excited to do so much that I sometimes made my head swim. Now that the year is coming to an end I am happy we exceeded our expectations. Our annual Children’s Festival was a huge success with over 1000 children spending the day doing hands on activities, singing, dancing and munching on snacks with their loved ones. This years Father/Daughter dance brought about the realization that we have finally outgrown our old location. This year we will be in the Livermore Falls Middle School which will offer more seating and a bigger dance floor. Child Abuse Prevention Month, in April took us to the state capital and a pancake breakfast with State Trooper Matt Cavanaugh at Sweat-Winter Day Care Center. Our summer was very busy and in August we spent a wonderful summers evening with friends and colleagues celebrating the beginning of our 30th Year. The rest of our time this summer was spent preparing for the kick-off of the school year with Bullying Prevention on our minds and once it got here we hit the ground running.

The last week of October was named Home Visiting Week this year and the Children’s Task Force celebrated with Mrs. Spider’s Tea Party. Over fifty parents and children joined us for a tea party, songs, games and a story by Mrs. Spider. Staff from Franklin Memorial Hospital and the Franklin County Children’s Task Force dressed in silly hats for the occasion and look forward to another successful party next year. The 2007-2008 school years began with Strong Elementary School’s great A.B.O.U.T group encouraging positive violence free interactions between students, and a consistent message with teachers and administrators in their school. Good Work Strong Elementary School! In closing, on behalf of the Franklin County Children’s Task Force staff, board of directors and volunteers we wish you and your family a happy, healthy 2008 and we remind everyone to hug their child today.

Sincerely,

Renee Blanchet

“MAKE TRACKS FOR KIDS”

The Old Crow Band kicked off the excitement on Saturday October 20th at the Gazebo in Meeting House Park for the Franklin County Children’s Task Force annual Make Tracks for Kids walk-a-thon. Twenty teams with a total of ninety-three walkers could be seen walking the 2.5 mile loop this year. This event is sponsored annually by Franklin Savings Bank who also has a very active team of walkers. We will be presenting a plaque to Mellisa Clawson’s UMF Rocks team for “Out standing Community Leader” to be displayed at the University of Maine in Farmington. Make Tracks for Kids is a yearly event for community members to support the programming of the Franklin County Children’s Task Force, which provides programs to strengthen families and reduce child abuse and neglect in Franklin County.

The top Five teams were:

Franklin County Children’s Task Force would like to say a special thank you to all of our sponsors:

Pine Tree Pediatrics

Franklin Savings Bank

Franklin Savings Bank

Coca Cola of Farmington

Aramark

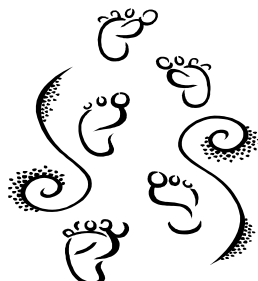
Dunkin Donuts of Farmington

Early Childhood Education

Hannaford

Camden National

Old Crow Band



SAVE THE DATE!

Children's Festival February 16th, 2008 from 11 to 3 at UMF's Student Olsen

Come celebrate 25 years of the Franklin County Children's Festival. We will have all the old favorites, Bill Reid and his banjo, Karaoke, the wii, plus some new things, an eco theater, a magician Dennis Labbe. We will also have our famous cookie decorating table along with our low cost food court. Then there is the Hands on Room with lots of activities for children to use their artistic imagination. For those kids who just like to move we have the gross motor room with active activities. Where would we be without McGruff on hand to shake hands with all the children.



E-Mail Newsletter?

If you are interested in receiving your newsletter in this manner please email us



Parenting Tips

Another way to say Good Job!

The old theory about human behavior told us that praising children built self-esteem and praising good behavior would encourage more of it. New research shows that praise and approval do not build self-worth or self-esteem or motivate children to do better. Children need appreciation and encouragement. When your programming wants you to encourage by saying "good girl", "good boy" or "good job", try noticing, appreciating and describing instead. Examples:

- when we say "You picked up your toys. Thank you for the help" the child hears "I am helpful".
- when we say "You left your muddy boots outside. Thank you for remembering" the child hears "I have a good memory"
- when we say "You put gas in the car before you brought it back. Thanks for taking responsibility for that" the child hears "I am responsible"

Interrupting our old "tapes" and learning respectful speaking and listening skills help build connection. The way we speak to our children is how they will speak to us and others.

Excerpts from Connection Parenting by Pam Leo

We now have our winter clothes out!

Clothing Exchange

Sizes Newborn to 4T

Bring in a bag of gently worn clothing and exchange it. First-time parents and expectant moms, no exchange is needed for 1st free bag of clothes. Limited maternity items available.

Call ahead as the space is sometimes unavailable

Hours of Operation 9:00am-4:00 pm M-Thurs

9:00am-1pm Friday.

Call: 778-6960 or 1-888-429-6960

113 Church St. Farmington, ME

We are now accepting donations for winter clothes.

We need your help!

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children in Franklin County!



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

- Please make my gift in memory of _____
- Please make my gift anonymous

Please make your tax deductible check payable to:
FCCTF, 113 Church St., Farmington, Maine 04938



Parent Education & Parent Support

Next session will be in January 5:30pm –7:30pm

At Trinity Methodist Church on the Farmington Falls Road, Farmington.

Childcare available, please call to register 778-6960



**Volunteers!
Hooray!**



We have been so lucky to have volunteers, learning service students, practicum students and interns from the University of Maine at Farmington, along with volunteers from the community. We would not be able to do all the different activities and programs we do with out them. We would like to say a

Big Thank You this semester to:

Valerie Pinkham a University of Maine at Farmington student.

And

Rachelle Peck a community volunteer

If you would like to volunteer please call us at 778-6960



Growing Healthy Families Corner

We celebrated Home Visiting Week with a tea party and a clothes line highlighting home visits with parents of young children. On Nov. 1 more than 50 people enjoyed 'tea', fruit, muffins, story and songs. Parents and children were joined by nurses and staff from Franklin Memorial Hospital, Community Concepts and FCCTF. Home visitors from the Growing Healthy Families program and Head Start joined in the fun.



FMH Bass room was perfect for stretching out, having fun and listening to a Miss Spider's Tea



Party. We are looking forward to doing it next year with more music and dancing.