

FAN / *summary*

2008-09 Overview

By any measure – attendance, audience satisfaction, market penetration, speaker quality, Township profile, school collaborations – FAN has had **a vigorous, successful year.**

FAN conceived and produced **four positive, “must see” programs**, featuring high-profile speakers, for parents and education professionals in New Trier Township. To do so, we partnered financially with other top-notch programming bodies in the Township, which made big-name speakers affordable. We maximized our attendance by blending FAN’s marketing experience and reach with our partners’ own efforts, resulting in very large turnouts.

FAN helped several individual PTA/PTOs with financing, structuring and marketing their own in-house programs, **connecting local schools with local experts**, and using our resources to grow these “homegrown” events into all-Township events. FAN’s synergistic approach to working with the Township schools has been fruitful and dynamic.

FAN **communicates** to parents through our excellent relationships with school newsletters, our web site, a monthly email to 550+ people, close collaboration with the **Parent Education Consortium Calendar (www.peccalendar.org)**, and flyers posted in schools and local businesses. FAN’s Co-Chairs and Programming Chair regularly meet face-to-face with a wide variety of PTA/PTOs, social service agencies and providers, local government councils and committees, faith-based organizations, and parent groups, soliciting feedback and offering our services.

FAN **achieved its goal** of reducing cash-on-hand to an annual carryover amount of \$5,000.00; as of 09-10, all annual contributions from donor schools and organizations go directly into same-year programming.

FAN’s focus on **engaging, intelligent programming** and dedication to **collaborative ventures** has had a documented effect within the community. Parents look to FAN for leadership on important issues; schools seek out FAN for programming counsel and services; and the local helping professionals and social service agencies and organizations are buoyed by our commitment and enthusiasm. The ultimate beneficiaries, of course, are Township students of all ages – informed, confident, connected parents are better equipped to manage family, school and community life.

08-09 FAN Programming Summary

- **“Bounce Back! Childhood Resilience and the Positive Life.” Suniya Luthar, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychology and Education, Columbia University Teachers College. Dr. Luthar’s research fueled psychologist Madeline Levine’s bestseller, *The Price of Privilege*. 100 people attended the evening lecture; the following day, 100 members of the New Trier Community Response Network participated in a workshop with Dr. Luthar. **Partner:** New Trier High School Social Work Department. September 2008.
- **“The Happiness Revolution: The Science of Success.” Tal Ben-Shahar, Ph.D.**, enormously popular Harvard lecturer in positive psychology, and author of *Happier! Finding Pleasure*,

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Meaning and Life's Ultimate Currency. Dr. Ben-Shahar spoke on recent scientific research into success and well-being. **Partner:** Glencoe PTO. Attendance: 375. October 2008.

- **“The Power of Play.”** David Elkind, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Child Development, Tufts University, and author of *The Hurried Child*. **Partners:** North Shore Country Day School and The Winnetka Alliance for Early Childhood. Attendance: 288. February 2008.
- **“Re-Thinking The Drinking Age: Is 21 Working? Is 18 the Answer?”** A debate between representatives of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the National Youth Rights Association. The debate is inspired by The Amethyst Initiative, a call by 134 college presidents for a review of alcohol policies and for new ideas about preparing young adults for responsible alcohol use. The Leagues of Women Voters of New Trier Township will co-sponsor and moderate this event. Attendance: TBD. April 2009.

08-09 FAN-Supported Programming Summary

- **Barbara Monier, LCSW**, on bullying awareness. **Lead School:** The Joseph Sears School, Kenilworth. November 2008.
- **Gary Marx**, education futurist, on *“Sixteen Trends: Their Profound Impact on Our Future.”* **Lead School:** The Joseph Sears School, Kenilworth. February 2008
- Psychiatrist **Dr. Dan Haycraft** and his wife **Meg Haycraft, LCSW**, columnists for the Pioneer Press, on *“Take Back Your Family Life.”* **Lead School:** Harper Elementary, Wilmette. February 2008.
- **Aaron Cooper, Ph.D.**, clinical psychologist at Northwestern’s Family Institute, on his new book, *“I Just Want My Kids To Be Happy: Why You Shouldn’t Say It, Why You Shouldn’t Think It, What You Should Embrace Instead.”* **Lead School:** McKenzie Elementary, Wilmette. April 2009.

08-09 Budget Summary

In April 2008 the FAN Board voted to reduce its cash balance of approx. \$15,000.00 to more closely align same-year donations with same-year programming. We were successful in achieving our target balance of \$5,000.00. **All contributions for 2009-10 will be spent for parent programming in 2009-2010.**

FAN actively solicits funds from PTO/PTA organizations and other granting organizations. All programs this year have been **free and open to the public**. The in-kind contributions of the school districts for meeting rooms, videotaping and other supports are invaluable to FAN’s operations, and we are deeply appreciative.

2009-10 Plans

FAN will continue two efforts: **positive programming and four major “must see” presentations**. We believe that our formula of combining large **“macro-programming”** with smaller, local **“micro-programming”** is both forward-thinking and cross-pollinating. This approach allows FAN to take a lead position thematically in the Township through its macro-programming, while remaining responsive to

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and supportive of the concerns and interests of the local schools' micro-programming. Many schools and organizations wish to partner with us in 09-10, perceiving FAN to be the most creative, effective, relevant programming organization in the Township. We are also experiencing early, broad interest from individual parents eager to join FAN as either school liaisons or as Board members. Both of these developments point to our health and success as an organization.

To start our 09-10 season, on October 29, **Howard Gardner, Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at Harvard's Graduate School of Education**, will do an evening presentation at (likely) NTHS/Northfield. Partnering schools/organization, TBD. We anticipate extremely high interest in Dr. Gardner among parents and education professionals, and the program will be heavily marketed. Other speakers under serious consideration include: 1) Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Ph.D.; 2) William Damon, Ph.D.; 3) Dr. Robert Coles; 4) Barry Schwartz, Ph.D.; 5) Wendy Mogel, Ph.D.; 6) Robert Sternberg, Ph.D.; 7) Ellen Langer, Ph.D.; 8) Martin Marty, Ph.D.; 9) Jean Decety, Ph.D.; 10) Marty Seligman, Ph.D.; 11) John Cacioppo, Ph.D.; 12) Ed Diener, Ph.D.; 12) Steven Pinker, Ph.D.; 13) Daniel Siegel, Ph.D.

FAN plans to create and promote a local **speaker's bureau** to formalize an activity we already engage in: marrying local schools to local helping professionals. In partnership with the PEC Calendar, we will develop a searchable database of area LCSWs, Ph.D.s, MSWs, etc., who wish to be considered for speaking engagements in the Township. Clearly, this will provide **a great service** to those professionals, and will be **an excellent resource** for local schools for finding a speaker. The response to this concept among professionals and school leaders has been extremely positive.

FAN will also inaugurate **an Advisory Council** in 09-10, comprised of parents, professionals and community leaders to help guide our development. Current thinking is to convene the Council twice a year to have a wide-ranging discussion of the Township's needs and FAN's performance and goals.

FAN intends to make a major push to obtain **foundation and corporate funding**, and we have recently secured the volunteer services of an experienced grant writer. We are sensitive to the economic climate, and wish to bolster our resources; in addition, we wish to significantly increase our operating budget so that we may move forward with other ambitious plans. FAN also wishes to diversify its funding sources.

History

FAN was founded **27 years ago** as Parent Alliance for Drug and Alcohol Awareness (PADA), in conjunction with the New Trier Parents' Association, to address youth drug and alcohol use in the community. In 1999, the organization was re-named Family Awareness Network of New Trier Township Schools with a broadened mission to **"build confidence and connections"** among parents. FAN has an all-volunteer board and works through liaisons identified at almost all of the schools (public, private and parochial) in the Township. FAN is a tax-exempt 501(c3) corporation. (A longer history of FAN's programs is available on our website, www.fan-ntts.org).