



Center FOR
Eating Disorders

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Laura Collins Lyster-Mensh, Executive Director
Families Empowered and Supporting Treatment of Eating Disorders
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September 5, 2011

Dear Laura and Members of the F.E.A.S.T. Board of Directors;

I write this letter as a member of the F.E.A.S.T. Professional Advisory Panel and on behalf of my colleagues at the Center for Eating Disorders in Ann Arbor, Michigan to congratulate you and the members of the F.E.A.S.T. Board of Directors on your upcoming conference, "The Map Ahead" to be held in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, November 3-4, 2011. This groundbreaking event is the first of its kind, an international conference for families by families, to partner with the research and clinical community to advance eating disorder treatment, advocacy, and education initiatives.

This event stands out because it marks a sea change in the role of families in the eating disorder field; where once parents of people with eating disorders were silenced, shamed and blamed, they now stand as critical contributors to our understanding of eating disorder treatment and as wise council in guiding the course of future eating disorder research. It is only through the close collaboration and partnership of families, those who have suffered from eating disorders, clinicians, and researchers that the field of eating disorder can move in a direction that will truly improve our treatment, research, advocacy, and education. This conference heralds the genuine empowerment of families to take their invaluable "seat at the table" in the eating disorder field.

Your unwavering conviction and dedication has brought about this momentous occasion. Again, warmest congratulations to all involved in the realization of this exciting vision!

Sincerely,

Judith Banker

Judith Banker, MA, LLP, FAED
Founder and Executive Director
Center for Eating Disorders
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Member, F.E.A.S.T. Professional Advisory Panel
Past President, Academy for Eating Disorders