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From the Desk of the Editor

Volunteer and Community Partnerships are the foundations that support the overall success of The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.'s service delivery activities. The ALPI organization, just like many other nonprofit organizations, evolved from the actions of a small group of founding and dedicated volunteers. According to Susan J. Ellis, in her article that appeared as an "On Volunteers" column in The Nonprofit Times, "The signs of the prophets are written on the subway walls" and new visionaries are out there agitating for innovation and change. This quarterly newsletter highlights just a few of the volunteer and community partnership activities that have enabled us to continue efforts to explore new opportunities and projects.

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive
Officer & Editor

*"Whatever
it Takes"*

City National Bank Selects ALPI's Frontline for Kids, Inc. on Community Appreciation Day

As part of a nationwide partnership with the United Way, the National City Bank created "Community Appreciation Day." Eighteen branches in St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River counties all closed their lobbies on Community Appreciation Day so 250 employees could serve community organizations from 1 to 5 p.m. This took place at more than 100 locations on Florida's east coast. One of those locations was Frontline for Kids, Inc.

"It's an exciting thing," said Hal Roberts, National City's market president for the Central and Northeast region of Florida. Mr. Roberts was also one of the volunteers helping to make a difference on Community Appreciation Day. A total of forty employees from National City Bank painted the Frontline for Kids home (the paint was donated by Sherwin Williams in Ft. Pierce, FL). National City Bank also donated a new sign for the front of the home. The sign was created and installed by Universal Signs, also out of Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Frontline for Kids, Inc. is an after-school and summer prevention program of activities for children ages 9 through 18 (4th through 12th grade) whose focus is on: educational enrichment, recreation, leadership development, positive decision making

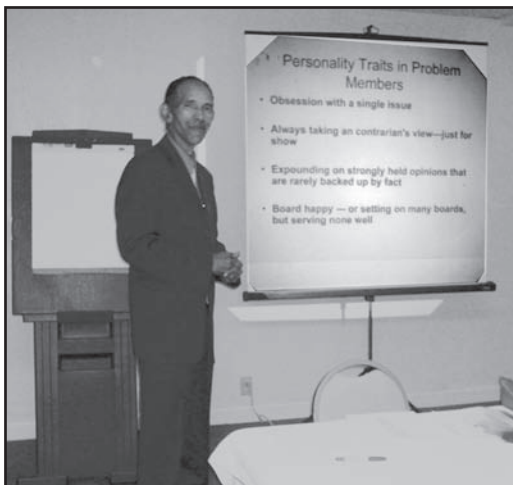


and career exploration. Frontline originally partnered with The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. in 2005. By 2006, the collaboration between both ALPI and Frontline allowed services to be provided to children ranging in age from birth to 18 years.

Frontline promotes school success and healthy lifestyles year-round, after-school and during school breaks. A variety of structured activities are used to improve the students' success in school, their attendance, and helping to redirect negative behavior using Reality Therapy.

The Mission of the Frontline for Kids, Inc. program is to provide leadership, direction, and support to ensure that all adolescents have an equal opportunity to succeed, follow their own right path and become an asset to their community. For more information, please contact Jerome Gayman, Executive Director, at jgayman@alpi.org.





Russell Johnson
Result Management and Associates

ALPI Head Start/ Early Head Start Policy Council & Board of Directors Orientation

ALPI's Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children

and families. Both programs also promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. places great emphasis on the involvement of its Head Start/Early Head Start parents and as such, parents can participate in policy making and/or in other decisions about the programs through the ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council.

At the recent Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council and Board Orientation, Elizabeth Young, Child Development/Early Head Start Director and Myrna Rodriguez, Program Operations Manager on behalf of the CEO and Head Start Director, greeted and welcomed participants. Russell Johnson, facilitator from the Results Management and Associates, Tuskegee, Alabama, also welcomed the participants, which included parents and management staff.

Parents were engaged in the presentation and discussion. Participants reviewed the Head Start Performance Standards to include Appendix A – Program Governance. The discussion included shared decisions for policies related to:

- Board Roles and Responsibilities.
- Policy Council Roles and Responsibilities
- Parent Committee Roles and Responsibilities
- What is Policy?
- Creating an Effective Policy Council
- Characteristics of a Successful Member
- Personality Traits in Problem Members
- Revised Head Start Act
- Members' Code of Ethics

The parents were able to discuss their thoughts, suggestions and any concerns in an open forum that was geared toward the betterment of their children and their families as a whole unit. In closing, Mary Jones (Head Start Director) thanked all the members for their continued commitment and participation.



Frostproof CDC/ Head Start Policy Committee

Frostproof CDC is proud to announce their funded enrollment capacity of (54) children was met in mid-August, at the start of this school year!

The Frostproof CDC Parent Committee has been organized and officers were elected and Representatives to the Head Start Policy Committee selected. Fifty-one percent of the Head Start Policy Committee is made up of parents. There are three (3) community representatives in the following sectors: Health (Margaret Robinson); Education (Annie Robinson); and, Community-at-Large (Katie Clarke).

Eastern Region Advisory Council

EMPOWERING PARENTS: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Eastern Region Advisory Council held its Annual Meeting Luncheon on October 18, 2008 at Chester A. Moore Elementary School in Ft. Pierce, Florida. This year's Annual Theme was: Empowering Parents: Parental Involvement. Marjorie Gaskin produced the Program Booklet, which was used as a fundraiser for the scholarship fund through ads purchased by the local community.

Mistress of Ceremony was Vivian Mitchell. The Guest Speaker for the Annual Meeting was Attorney Fran O. Ross. Attorney Ross is a native of the Treasure Coast and currently practices in the area of Criminal Law.

As is the custom, the Election of the Advisory Council Members was held. Elizabeth Young (ALPI HS/EHS Director and Staff Liaison), conducted the election process. The voting ballot was presented and there was one nomination from the floor of a corporate member added to the voting ballot. The voting proceeded according to the election orders.

The Highlight of this year's Annual Meeting was the awarding of the Arie Lou Perkin's Memorial Scholarship to Ms. Ashley Gardner, an Education Major at Indian River State College in Ft. Pierce. Ms. Gardner was at the meeting and accepted the \$500 Scholarship Award with great enthusiasm. This scholarship was made possible through the vigorous fundraising efforts of the Eastern Region Advisory Council members.



Ashley Gardner (L) receiving award from
ALPI Board Chairperson, William Holt (center)

Central Region Advisory Council

40 YEARS OF PURPOSE

The Council's Annual Meeting was held recently to celebrate ALPI and its historical beginnings. This year's theme was: "40 Years of Purpose - Seeding, Sowing, Tending, Harvesting, and Sharing."

Approximately 250 members and guests attended the function held October 4th at the Winter Haven Recreational and Cultural Center. Christine Samuels was Mistress of Ceremony. Faye Alexander, a Nurse at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, was featured speaker. Central Region Council Members also participated throughout the event, including Clarence Grier, Mrs. Jacquelyn Rentz, and Mrs. Ruby Willix. Chairperson Johnnie McNair and Patricia Gamble distributed plaques to members in appreciation for services.

Highlights included greetings from Winter Haven's Mayor, Nathaniel Birdsong, one of ALPI's first Administrators. He administered "The Pledge to Service" for the 2009 Council. One of his key points was to emphasize the importance of having one of the hardest working original members of the Council still active - Ms. Arabelle Wiggins. Ms. Wiggins played a major role in the creation of ALPI in 1968. At age 101, Ms. Wiggins still remains active and vital in the community she has so faithfully served for over 40 years.



Northern Region Advisory Council

INVESTING IN YOUR COMMUNITY: A MUST

The Northern Region Advisory Council held its' 40th Annual Meeting/Luncheon on November 8, 2008 in Orlando at the Hal Marston Community Center. The theme for the celebration was, "Investing In Your Community: A MUST". The 2009 election process was held by Cheryl Burnham, ALPI Staff Liaison. Marva Hawkins, Nominating Committee Chair, presented recommendations for the following: Two (2) persons be added to the Council: Yvonne Gray and Irma Copper. Board of Directors Representative for 2008 - 2010 is Grace Miller and 2009 - 2011 is Marva Hawkins. The Committee also recommended that those holding offices for 2008 - 2009 remain the same. The Nominating Committee's report was adopted as read. Constance Anderson (Council Secretary) introduced the 2009 Council Members. Al Miller (pictured above), Community Services and Economic Division Deputy Director, had the honor of installing the 2009 NRAC Council Membership.

**2,554
VOLUNTEER
HOURS!**



Finally, Grace Miller (Chairperson) gave the 2008 Annual Report and commented on how much was accomplished and the overall success achieved throughout the year. Incredibly, the Northern Region Advisory members collectively donated a total of **2,554 volunteer hours** working with Youth, Adults and the Elderly during the period of only one year!

Mistress of Ceremony was Charlie Mae Wilder. Linda Medlock welcomed all the guests to the Luncheon and Evelyn Seabrook gave a historical perspective. Annie Harris a member of the Orgarlan Women's Club, Inc., introduced the guest speaker, Lillian Lancaster. Ms. Lancaster is a retired Orange County educator.



Southern Region Advisory Council

EMBRACING A POSITIVE CHANGE

The Southern Region Advisory Council held its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at the Lakeview Park Community Center in Frostproof, FL. The Guest Speaker was Jonas Henderson, who presented this year's theme: "Embracing a Positive Change."

The council had a very successful and productive year, maintaining a high profile in the community via different projects and outreach efforts. They provided assistance with ALPI's LIHEAP Program via intake and eligibility services to clients in the Frostproof community (special thanks to Council Member Bernice Lopez). Additionally, the council helped organize and participated in the 2008 ALPI Annual Family Picnic. By partnering with the Lakeview Park Homeowners Association, SRAC was able to deliver meals via the Summer Youth Feeding Program and indoor and outdoor

recreational activities via the Youth Discovery Program to approximately 100 youth (special thanks to Council Members Katie Clarke and Betty Cobb, as well as all the community volunteers who came out). SRAC also partnered with the Voter's Registered Drive and was successful in registering fifty-five (55) voters. The Council also distributed

Thanksgiving and Christmas gift cards to needy families in the surrounding communities.

The election process was led by Twila Smith, ALPI Staff Liaison. All expired members' and officers' seats were declared vacant. Through the Nominating Committee's slate, six (6) vacant seats were filled for 2008-2011: one (1) vacant seat was filled for 2007-2010 from the floor; all officers' seats were filled; and, one (1) board representative for 2009-2011 was selected. Mr. Al Miller, Deputy Director of the ALPI Community Services & Economic Development Division, installed the 2008-2009 SRAC Council Membership.



ALPI's Nurturing Fatherhood Program



Fathers Are Critical to Their Children's Success

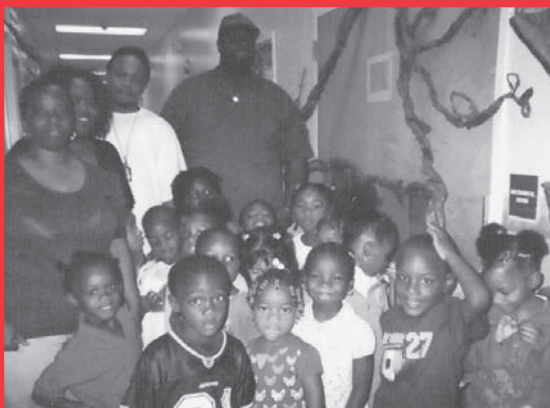
ALPI's Nurturing Fatherhood Program (NFP) is centered around the fact that when fathers assume a positive role in their child's education, students feel a positive impact. This new program year has brought with it a new "call to arms" for ALPI fathers. Beginning with the NFP Kickoff Breakfast Event held on September 27, 2008 at the ALPI Lincoln Park Head Start Center. Eric Seymour, Principal of Northport K-8 School, was the guest speaker. Principal Seymour spoke on the critical importance of fathers being involved in their child's educational process.

On October 11, 2008, the NFP sponsored its first Male Health Fair. Head Start and Early Head Start fathers had an opportunity to get free medical screenings. Also in October, all the ALPI Head Start Centers hosted "Reading Day with Dad." Fathers and positive adult male role models read to the students.

ALPI fathers in the NFP also assisted with food distribution during the Thanksgiving Food Drive held on November 24th and 25th. The fathers collected non-perishable food items from public schools, businesses, banks, and grocery stores. They later helped package the food items and finally handed out the packages to families in need.

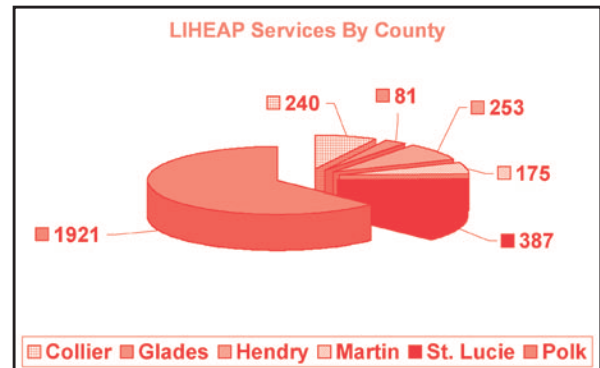
The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. is proud of its Nurturing Fatherhood Program and the positive impact that it has had on fathers, their children, and the community.

For more information on ALPI's Nurturing Fatherhood Program, please contact Kevin Singletary at ksingletary@alpi.org.



LIHEAP: Keeping the Lights On

LIHEAP is a Federally funded block grant program that is basically implemented at the State level. ALPI is strongly committed to helping those communities it serves via its LIHEAP Program. From April to September 2008, ALPI has provided 3,057 services, with 1,248 for Home Energy and 1,809 for Crisis assistance. Services provided within the six counties ALPI serves are as follows:



In October the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) announced a significant increase in federal funds for LIHEAP. More than \$100 million is being made available to those low income residents who need financial assistance to heat and cool their homes.

ALPI's contract for FY 2009-2010 will increase dramatically from \$1,507,122 to \$5,429,805. This contract will begin upon execution and will end March 31, 2010. ALPI will be able to increase its outreach efforts in its six (6) counties and provide a more efficient and effective mechanism for service delivery.

Temporary staff will be added to the ALPI Community Services Department to help facilitate outreach efforts in St. Lucie, Martin, and Polk Counties. This increase will help ALPI serve more than three times the families historically helped in the past, which is extremely good news and "right on time" in view of the current economic state.



ALPI's LIHEAP/Community Services Staff
(Cheryl Burnham, Director, pictured far left)



Social Security Announces 5.8 Percent Benefit Increase for 2009

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 5.8 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2009. The increase will begin with benefits that over 50 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2009. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on December 31.

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ALPI's Programs and Services are Funded in part by:



**Early Learning Coalition of Polk County, Lincoln Park Child Care, Inc.,
the Ft. Pierce Housing Authority, and the Polk County School Board**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

✓ January 24, 2009

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. will
be having its 41st Annual Meeting at the
Chain O' Lakes Complex in Winter Haven, Florida
on Saturday, January 24, 2009.

More information will be posted on
ALPI's website as it becomes available.

See you there!



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**Please notify ALPI of any
address changes or corrections.**

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The ALPI Newsletter is a quarterly publication designed
to inspire and inform all employees, volunteers, parents,
partners, and supporters of ALPI who have helped us
through the years to grow the organization into what it has
become today. We welcome your suggestions, comments,
and ideas. Have a question about a feature? Heard an
interesting story? Share it with us by phone, mail, or
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