



The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.  
Helping People. Changing Lives.

# community **Action** PARTNERSHIP **QUARTERLY Newsletter**

AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

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## From the Desk of the Editor

### 2010 Census: It's About Us

April 1 marked National Census Day, when community organizations like the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI) donned 2010 Census t-shirts to raise awareness, emphasize the importance of a complete count, and remind Florida residents to fill out their questionnaires and send it back!

As a 2010 Census Partner, ALPI is busy spreading the Census message to our many clients including low-income families, farmworkers and community partners throughout the State of Florida. The ALPI Complete Count Committee, including the ALPI's Board of Directors, Regional Advisory Councils, Employees, Head Start/Early Head Policy Council and Head Start Policy Committee, have all been very busy sponsoring Census activities, distributing fliers and monitoring the returns. All these efforts help to make sure communities receive their share of the \$400 billion in federal funds to be allocated based on Census data.

As a Community Action Agency, ALPI strives to improve the lives and welfare of people in the community who are experiencing hardships related to economic status, language fluency or disabilities. By partnering with the 2010 Census, ALPI is finding yet another way to improve the quality of life in the community, helping to ensure that even the hardest to count can be accurately represented.

As always, the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. has stepped up to the plate to ensure a seat at the table for Florida's economically and socially challenged children and families and it is our belief that ...all questionnaires returned will be counted and ... it is in ALL our Hands.

**Deloris Johnson**  
Chief Executive  
Officer & Editor

Mistress of Ceremonies, Dr. Barbara Kelly Bentley

2010

## Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon



Board Installation by William A. Sweat, Esq.

The 2010 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon was held Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Chain O' Lakes Complex in Winter Haven, Florida. This year's meeting celebrated 42 years of service to socially and economically disadvantaged children and families throughout the State of Florida.

Over 325 Corporate, Board Members, and guests attended the ALPI's largest annual event. The theme for this year's event was "A Change Has Come: ALPI an Organizing Force for the Future." Mistress of Ceremonies for the luncheon was Dr. Barbara Kelly Bentley. Presentation of Colors was performed by the American Legion Post #201 of Winter Haven, FL. This year's musical selections were beautifully performed by Mr. Maxie Hunter and Ms. Carolyn Scott, both of Winter Haven, FL. Steven M. Hunicutt, City Commissioner of Winter Haven, FL extended greetings and Minister Michael Monfiston gave words of inspiration. ALPI Board Member, Mrs. Josephine Howard, gave a very warm

welcome to everyone and explained the significance of the occasion to all those gathered. ALPI Chief Executive Officer, Deloris Johnson, introduced the Keynote Speaker, Barbara S. Talley, a nationally renowned speaker, poet, author and publisher.

Mrs. Talley's moving message addressed the personal challenges she and many others have had to rise above in order to succeed in a very complex society. She noted that when the going gets tough, the tough learn new strategies. "We must unite, help others, demonstrate integrity, and demand excellence from ourselves and others if we are to survive individually and collectively." Learning to look for the lessons in adversity, character development, and an openness to consider different perspectives are just a few of the strategies she discussed for surviving in non-nurturing environments. Some of those strategies included channeling one's fear into productive action; considering different perspectives with an open mind; and, turning adversity into stepping stones. Mrs. Talley concluded by stressing the importance of vision, values, and virtues to one's own survival and personal growth.

# Awards Presentation

The following awards were handed out by ALPI's Chief Executive Officer, Deloris Johnson, during the 2010 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon.

**Robert Bryant, Jr. Award**  
**WILLIAM HOLT**

**Corporate Support Award**  
**ATTORNEY LINNES FINNEY, ESQ.**

**Recognition and Outstanding  
Services and Dedication**  
**GRACIELA MUNOZ**  
**PHILLIP HOWARD**  
**CYNTHIA SMITH**  
**WILLIAM HOLT**

**2010 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon  
Program Participation**  
**DR. BARBARA**  
**KELLY BENTLEY**  
**BARBARA S. TALLEY**

**Community Service Award**  
**JOSEPHINE HOWARD**  
**The Links, Incorporated**  
**Altamonte Springs Chapter**  
**MARION MATTHEWS**  
**International Longshoreman  
Association**

**Chairperson's Award**  
**DELORIS JOHNSON**

## ALPI Recognizes Employee Service

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Years of Service Award 2009-2010. Your continued support of and commitment to the ALPI is greatly appreciated.

### YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

#### FIVE YEARS

Jacqueline Allard, Sheila Armstead, Keilier Brown,  
Linda Coleman, Tawanna Kitchen, Sandra Roberts,  
LaTonya Robinson

#### TEN YEARS

Germain Louis, Sherry McGahee, Delores Parker

#### FIFTEEN YEARS

Myrna Rodriguez

#### TWENTY YEARS

Roger Brackett, Crystal Dames, Ronald Hill, Arlene Mechanic

#### THIRTY YEARS

Mary Brunson

## ALPI Awarded \$67,000 Technology Grant



The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as "E-Rate," is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and provides discounts (via grants) to assist some schools and Head Start agencies in the United States obtain technology resources, equipment, software, professional development and other elements necessary to utilize connectivity. Since ALPI was awarded its second eRate Grant for telecommunications this past funding period, the Agency qualified to submit a Technology Plan and Grant Application for consideration. The Technology Plan filed by the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (and approved by the State of Florida) was for a period of three-years (only 1 year is required).

ALPI has taken a proactive approach in the re-engineering of infrastructure for future requirements. Additionally, there must be strong connections between the proposed physical infrastructure of the information technology and the plan for professional development. The plan must have a professional development strategy to ensure that staff know how to use these new technologies to make overall improvements. This is constantly being worked on via email training, live training, and/or remote training.

Although ALPI's previous Wide-Area-Network was state-of-the-art when it was installed, this NEW completely re-engineered network system has been developed with "growth, speed, and efficiency" in mind. With large room to grow into, these new superior servers include two main HP ProLiant DL380 G6 series units, which will serve as the Main Server and Data Server. Three more of these same units will serve as terminal servers for staff outside of the Lake Alfred Administration Office.

Barracuda Backup Service has been deployed as an affordable, integrated local and offsite data backup and disaster recovery solution. Barracuda Web Firewall 310 has also been implemented and integrated, as well as Barracuda Antivirus/Anti-Spam software. Windows Server 2008, Exchange Server 2007, and Office Professional 2007 have been deployed on all the servers. ALPI anticipates upgrading to Version 2010 of all Microsoft products when it is released (Summer 2010).

All these upgrades and changes will help the Agency continue to move technologically forward in a business environment that is continually raising the bar and demanding more and more of Agencies that provide much needed critical services to those it serves in the local community.





## ALPI proudly presents the 2010 Board of Directors



**William Holt**  
*Chairperson*



**David Walker**  
*Vice  
Chairperson*



**Josephine  
Howard**  
*Secretary*



**Christine  
Samuel**  
*Treasurer*



**Mark Thomas**  
*Parliamentarian*



**Nancy Daley**



**Kay Fields**



**Patricia Gamble**



**Marjorie Gaskin**



**Marva Hawkins**



**Al J. Hinson**



**Chester  
McNorton**



**Vernon McQueen**



**Lester Roberts**



**Terry Wellington**

PICTURE UNAVAILABLE FOR

**Dorothy Curry**

**Earnestine Davis**

**Pricilla Smith**



**Grace Miller**  
*Board Emeritus*



**Arabell Wiggins**  
*Board Emeritus*



## 2010 Annual Conference Speaker

### Barbara Talley

ALPI's 2010 Annual Conference Luncheon Speaker was Barbara S. Talley. Mrs. Talley is a Keynote Speaker, Poet, Author, and Publisher who speaks on the themes of Vision, Values, and Virtues. Her much sought after programs focus on human potential, the value of each day, the preciousness of every human life, and the need to respect our unique human diversity.

She has spoken before many thousands of people and has been working with adult audiences for over 30 years. Many have described her as high-energy, genuine, and spiritual. Her books, keynotes, and workshops focus on how to live a more purposeful, balanced, and harmonious life through clarity of one's personal vision, value-system, and virtues.

Barbara Talley is the creator of TalleyUP, a value-based time management program, CrossWorlds an interactive Diversity game that teaches appreciation and understanding of different cultural styles of communication, and the "In Search of Radiance Virtues Education Project," a mentoring program designed to unite society in the collective raising of morally responsible youth.



# Highlights from ALPI's Regional Advisory Councils

**SOUTHERN REGION** 2009 continued the momentum gained in the previous year for the SRAC. Members attended the 2009 Annual Board/Policy Council Governance Training in Winter Haven, FL. SRAC also partnered with the Lakeview Park Homeowners Association in the delivery of both meals and indoor and outdoor recreational activities to approximately 100 young people via the Summer Youth Feeding Program. Services were rendered by Council Members Katie Clarke and Betty Cobb, in addition to other community volunteers. The Southern Region Advisory Council held its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 31, 2009 in Frostproof, FL. The Guest Speaker was Gary Lewis (Raven Media Group), a native of the Frostproof community. The theme was "A Change Has Come ...Let's Make a Difference". Twila Smith, Staff Liaison, began the election process by reviewing the election procedures and validating all corporate members via the Corporate Membership Roster.



**NORTHERN REGION** The Council announced that ALPI Technical Education Center (ATEC) was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education (CIE) for the provision of occupational training in Volusia County. The NRAC became a member of PSP (Partner Support Program) for the United States CENSUS 2010. The Northern Regional Advisory Council members collectively donated a total of 12,913 volunteer hours with Youth, Adults and the Elderly during the year. NRAC held its Annual Meeting November 14, 2009 in Orlando, FL. The theme was: 'Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude'. Larry K. Williams, Founder/Executive Director of Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men, Inc., Orlando, FL was Guest Speaker. Shirley A. Rivers, Partnership Specialist, US CENSUS 2010, shared the Census Application and answered impromptu questions from the audience. Grace Miller was honored as the longest serving member of the Council and the outgoing Chair, as she passed the Chairperson's gavel to Evelyn Seabrook. Cheryl Burnham, ALPI Staff Liaison, conducted the election process.



**CENTRAL REGION** The Council hosted the ALPI Board of Directors Annual Picnic in July. Ms. Patricia Gamble, Special Events Committee Chair, spearheaded the event, with responsibility for the budget, youth and adult activities, vendor contacts, and security. Several Council members made this event a spectacular affair considered one of the best picnics ever. The event was held at the Blue Heron Pavilion, Lake Parker, in Lakeland. A Fundraising Project was motioned by Christine Samuel to raise money for an Educational Scholarship in the name of Honorary Member Arabell Wiggins. The motion was carried unanimously. The Council has contributed \$120.00 toward this project. The Council will continue to focus on the Arabell Wiggins Scholarship Fund, Voter Registration Project, and HIV/AIDS in Polk County in the next term. Ms. Deloris Johnson, CEO, installed the 2009-2010 Central Region Advisory Council (CRAC) Membership.

**EASTERN REGION** The Eastern Region Advisory Council began its 2009 operational year with quite a few goals, among them increasing membership on the council, increased communication with corporate members in the region, and increased fundraising toward the Arie Lou Perkins Scholarship Fund. Among the many outcomes were two scholarships that were awarded at the Advisory Council's Annual Meeting Luncheon on October 17, 2009 in Ft. Pierce, Florida. The annual meeting theme was "Building a Strong Foundation for Children and Families." The Keynote Speaker for the Annual Meeting was Minister William Shelly of Vero Beach, Florida. Children enrolled in ALPI Head Start participated in the program. The recipients of the Arie Lou Perkins Scholarship awards were Chaka D. Smith and Tracnesha L. Lundy. Elizabeth Young, Staff Liaison, conducted the elections.



## Message from the Chairperson

I would like to thank the entire ALPI family for the tremendous job that has been done over the past year. As we move forward to further enhance the principles of this great organization, I would like to recognize the outstanding job the ALPI Board of Directors has been doing. The Board's continued efforts help ensure that the ALPI Mission is carried out daily.

The ALPI Board of Directors has approved policies that will make sure the Agency and its employees are protected against legal recourse when legal situations arise in dealing with the integrity and direction of the ALPI Program. The LIHEAP Interim Contract recently submitted to DCA for Highland/Hardee counties is just another example of the efficiency with which ALPI's Chief Executive Officer, Deloris Johnson, is operating. This is the last newsletter before

school is out and I therefore encourage each staff member to make a personal commitment and serious effort to enjoy the summer, enjoy their families and come back to work with a mind made up to be even better than before. We can all enhance our personal self-worth by rededicating ourselves with a new sense of determination. A special thanks to the entire ALPI family for the continued concerted effort to make ALPI the best it can be!





# 2010 Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award

## William Holt

Congratulations to the ALPI's 2010 Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award Recipient, Mr. William Holt.

This very prestigious award, which is named after longtime Board Member Robert J. Bryant, Jr., who passed away in 1990, is given to one member of the ALPI Board who exemplifies the leadership qualities displayed by Mr. Bryant during his tenure. Mr. Holt is the 21st recipient of the award, since it was first introduced in 1989.

William Holt was born in Port Gibson, Mississippi, one of 10 children (two sisters and seven brothers). He was raised in an era where radio was the primary means of communications. His family's three room home housed twelve people off and on. They had no bathtub and had to heat water on the top of the stove and place it in a tin tub. Clothes were washed in a big black pot, under which a fire burned. There were no inside bathrooms and practically no modern conveniences at all. Money was always short, but the family was extremely close and made due with what was available. William Holt became engaged in helping others because of his mother's compassion for those struggling and suffering in her community. By age 20 he was trying to make a difference in his own community by delivering food to the elderly, volunteering to paint homes for the elderly, assisting during emergencies by purchasing what he could for those in desperate need, etc. "My mother has always been my inspiration and my hero. It was her example that led me to have the heart of a volunteer. I take her favorite saying with me always ... don't shine your light, let your light shine!"

William Holt is currently Chairperson of the ALPI Board of Directors, Chairperson of the Florida Association for Community Action, Vice-Chairperson for the Florida Head Start Association, and Member of the Region IV Head Start Association. Past Chair positions include, but are not limited to, the Indian River County School Board Redistricting Board, Gifford Economic Development Board, and the Indian River County Black Caucus.



*William Holt (ALPI Board Chairperson) presented with Robert Bryant, Jr. Award by ALPI CEO, Deloris Johnson.*

Mr. Holt's long history of community involvement and commitment has resulted in many awards being bestowed upon him, including the Mississippi Black Businessman Award, Bethune Cookman Alumni Association Award, Democratic of the Year Award, FACA Volunteer of the Year Award, Florida Head Start Association - V.P. Award, and many others. He attended Alcorn State University, graduated from Webster University with a B.S. in Accounting and an A.S. in Computer Data Processing. He was drafted into the military, worked over 15 years as sales representative and manager at American General Insurance Company, and thereafter began working for Helseth Financial Mortgage Banking as a loan officer (he was later promoted to executive 2nd Vice President of Casino Investments). He is a member and Trustee of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

William Holt has served on the ALPI Executive Board for many years. His support of the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. has remained constant, even in the face of great challenges and economic and political changes. Throughout the years his leadership skills and strength have helped guide the ALPI through some tough times and for this reason, among others, the ALPI is proud to award him the 2010 Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award.

## ALPI PARTNERS WITH THE 2010 CENSUS

Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community. Better infrastructure. More services. A brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects, and emergency services.



*ALPI staff proudly display their 2010 Census forms.*



*ALPI Receptionist, Marnita Johnson, prepares to mail out 2010 Census forms.*

United States™  
**Census  
2010**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### Child Development & Early Head Start Services

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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

## Mission Statement

*The mission of The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.,  
is to propose, implement, and advocate  
developmental and human service delivery programs  
for the socially and economically disadvantaged;  
children and families; and farmworkers.*

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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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