



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

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

AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

MARCH 2011 • SPRING ISSUE

In This Issue

Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon	1
ALPI Awards	2
2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade	2
Board of Directors	2
Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award.....	3
Regional Advisory Councils.....	4
Message from the Chairperson.....	5
Keynote Speaker Dr. Fairest Hill.....	5

From the Desk of the Editor

Community Action ... A PROVEN COMMUNITY LIFE LINE ... 45 YEARS AND COUNTING

In 1964, The Great Society, as envisioned by President Lyndon Johnson, was a sweeping plan to improve the lives of all Americans, regardless of their circumstances. Some 45 years later and due to economic circumstances beyond the control of many low-income citizens, the CSBG funding that funds the Community Action Agency network programs and service delivery efforts continues to serve as a "Community Life Line" for many low-income children, families and rural communities.

In my opinion, a reduction in funding to the current CSBG service delivery network would be extremely detrimental to an already strained unemployment compensation market, the local Community Action Service delivery network, the small business network and other service delivery organizations that are collectively pooling limited resources to provide goods and services to address the needs of the nation's most vulnerable citizens, our low-income children and families. Rising costs for health care, housing, food, and utilities are only increasing the need for client services, thereby making any support reductions to the local Community Action Network unwise.

Community Action is an important safety net for many low-income individuals, children and families and we must **"Do Whatever It Takes"** to ensure that the Community Action Service Delivery Network remains intact to continue efforts to address the ongoing root effects of poverty and to, ultimately, move families and individuals toward self-sufficiency. FUNDING REDUCTION... NOT NOW...

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive
Officer & Editor

Mistress of Ceremony, Dr. Barbara Kirby-Bentley

2011

Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon



William Holt at 2011
Annual Corporate Meeting
and Luncheon



The 2011 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon was held on Saturday, January 22 at The Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This year's meeting celebrated 43 years of service to socially and economically disadvantaged children and families throughout the State of Florida. Over 350 Corporate, Board Members, and guests attended the ALPI's largest annual event. The theme for this year's event was: Accepting the Challenge of Economic Change: Helping People ... Changing Lives.

Mistress of Ceremony for the luncheon this year was Dr. Barbara Kirby-Bentley of Sanford, FL. Presentation of Colors was performed by the American Legion Post #201 of Winter Haven, FL. This year's musical selections were beautifully performed by Yvonne Grey (Soloist), with piano accompaniment by William Tillman. Christine Samuel (ALPI Board Treasurer) of Winter Haven and Reginald McGill (Representing the City of Orlando, Mayor's Office), extended greetings to all those gathered. Following the message from ALPI Board Chair-

person, William Holt of Vero Beach, FL, Dorothy Curry (ALPI Board Member) of Sanford, FL presented the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Fairest Hill, of Tampa, FL. Dr. Fairest Hill is an international motivational speaker and recording artist.

Dr. Hill's upbeat and dynamic message addressed being able to turn one's life around upon making a personal decision and commitment to "change the attitude." He noted that nothing in your life will ever change until your attitude changes first. Having overcome some incredible personal challenges in his own life, Dr. Hill stated that "your outlook determines your outcome." Having a real vision and setting high goals for yourself are just two of the many strategies he discussed for not only surviving in challenging and desperate situations, but coming out ahead in the end. Other strategies included taking one day at a time and not letting things bother you, remembering that the rest of your life is the best of your life, and realizing that "every problem has an expiration date." From the inspirational words to the wonderful music shared with the crowd, the heartfelt applause indicated just how much everyone truly enjoyed Dr. Hill's presentation.



ALPI's 2011 Awards Recipients

The following were awarded during the 2011 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon.

CEO Recognition Award
DELORIS JOHNSON

The Board of Directors Chairperson's Award
WILLIAM HOLT

The Board Chairperson's Award
TWILA SMITH

Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award
MARVA HAWKINS
JOSEPHINE HOWARD

Housing Board Chairperson Award
PHILLIP HOWARD

Head Start / Early Head Start Policy Council Chairperson Award
MONTAVIOUS MCGILL, SR.

Head Start Policy Committee Award
TRACY MALOY

Community Services Award
MRS. MARIE DANIELS
DR. CHRISTINE TAYLOR
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY
SENIORS ON THE MOVE

Corporate Support Award
LAKE ALFRED POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thank You Award
DR. BARBARA KIRBY-BENTLEY
DR. FAIREST HILL

Certificate of Appreciation
AMERICAN LEGION POST #201
WINTER HAVEN, FL

ALPI proudly presents the 2011 Board of Directors



William Holt
Chairperson



David Walker
Vice Chairperson



Josephine Howard
Secretary



Christine Samuel
Treasurer



Mark Thomas
Parliamentarian



Katie Clarke



Nancy Daley



Earnestine Davis



Patricia Gamble



Marjorie Gaskin



Marva Hawkins



Chester McNorton



Vernon McQueen



Terry Wellington



Grace Miller
Board Emeritus

PICTURE UNAVAILABLE FOR

Dorothy Curry

Beverly Richardson

Jonathan Thiele



Arabell Wiggins
Board Emeritus

2011 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE

St. Lucie County: Children's art work, collected from eight ALPI Head Start Centers, was used to decorate the ALPI bus driven in this year's parade. Kevin Singletary and Germaine Louis, ALPI Family Services Support Coordinators, coordinated the parade plans by recruiting parents, children and staff. Thanks to all for your efforts and hard work!



2011 Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award

Marva Yvonne Hawkins & Josephine Howard

This very prestigious award, which is named after longtime Board Member Robert J. Bryant, Jr. (who passed away in 1990), is usually given to one member of the ALPI Board who exemplifies the leadership qualities displayed by Mr. Bryant during his tenure. This year however, the award has been given to two individuals who both possess these exemplary qualities: Marva Hawkins and Josephine Howard.



MARVA YVONNE HAWKINS was born September 24, 1936 in Sanford, Florida to Mr. Anderson D. Hawkins and Bessie Nutall Hawkins. She attended local public school and graduated from Crooms Academy in 1954. Ms. Hawkins also completed and attended Seminole County Vocational School. Further

education was received with emphasis on finances and accounting and in the medical field.

Ms. Hawkins was an agent for the American Life Insurance Company for 7 years and a community worker with the Seminole County Community Action, Inc. for 5 years. She also worked for the Seminole County Health Department and Seminole County Migrant Health Clinic for 11 years, was a State of Florida Foster Care/Children and Family Services Specialist for 12 years, and a correspondent for 45 years for the Sanford Herald Newspaper as a part-time columnist.

A long history of community involvement includes the following: Volunteer for the Supervisor of Elections, Volunteer and Office Manager for the Goldsboro Front Porch, Inc., State of Florida Governor's Project, Secretary/Treasurer for the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (including Chairman of the Special Events Committee), Member of the City of Sanford Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee, and Member of the Concerned Citizens Committee. Past member of the American Business Women Association (ABWA) and President of the Seminole African American Academy of Arts.

Honors bestowed upon Ms. Hawkins are numerous and include the following: Recipient of the International Black Women Congress-Central Florida Chapter Volunteer Award, Proclamation from Mayor Brady Lessard (City of Sanford) for Marva Hawkins Day, Heritage Jubilee Distinguished Service Award from the Black Faculty and the African American Cultural Forum (Seminole Community College), Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Sanford Community from the Office of Congress of the United State - House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. (Corrine Brown, District Three), and Letter of Accomplishment and Gratitude for Years of Steadfast Commitment to Social Services from Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida.



JOSEPHINE M. HOWARD is the oldest of six daughters born to the late Rev. Oscar McKnight and Mrs. Crizell H. McKnight in Orlando, Florida. She has been married to Phillip D. Howard, Sr. for 44 years and has two children and three grandchildren. Mrs. Howard holds three degrees: Florida Memorial College (St. Augustine, FL) - B.S. in Elementary Education (Cum Laude); University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL) - Master's of Education (Magna Cum Laude); and, Nova University (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) - Education Specialist (Summa Cum Laude). She also completed further studies at the University of South Florida (Tampa, FL) - Certification in Administration and Supervision.

Mrs. Howard was employed by the Polk County School Board for almost 38 years, during which she served as: classroom teacher, Human Relations Specialist, Title I Reading Resource Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal. Following her retirement, Mrs. Howard opened her own business: Josephine Howard's Apparel.

In addition to running a successful apparel business, Mrs. Howard always manages to find time for community involvement. She currently holds the seat of Secretary on ALPI's Executive Committee and Board of Directors (she has served on the Board for 24 years). Additionally, she serves as Treasurer of the Horizon Housing Board, Financial Secretary of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Polk County Chapter, Inc., Secretary of the ALPI Central Region Advisory Council, Auxiliary Volunteer at the Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center, Member of the Polk County Minority Achievement Committee, and numerous other positions. She formerly served on the State Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Advisory Council, is a former member of the Toastmasters of the Villa and former member of the Heart of Florida Optimist Club.

Josephine Howard is a Lifetime Member of the NAACP #5150 in Haines City, Florida, where she is a member of the Board of Directors. She is a member of the FMU Alumni Association, recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award, Polk County Teacher of the Year for Roosevelt School, recognized by the Elementary Guidance Counselors as Principal of the Year and recipient of the Progress Energy Efficiency Advocate Award.

Mrs. Howard has received many certificates, awards and other commendations during her lifetime. She is a public speaker and advocate for children and senior citizens. She is a people person and is always ready to roll up her sleeves and serve others.

Both recipients have served on the ALPI Executive Board for many years. Their dynamic and engaged participation, along with a sustained commitment to meeting community needs, have all served as an example to others of true activism. Ms. Hawkins and Mrs. Howard continue to demonstrate and utilize unique and creative approaches to help the ALPI develop and grow as a Community Action Agency. For these reasons, among many others, the ALPI is proud to award the 2011 Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award to Marva Yvonne Hawkins and Josephine Howard



HIGHLIGHTS FROM ALPI'S Regional Advisory Councils

SOUTHERN REGION The Southern Region Advisory Council participated in the following Agency sponsored activities: Annual Corporate Meeting & Luncheon, Shared Governance Orientation, Its in Our Hands Census Count, Annual Family Picnic, and 1st Florida Symposium on Poverty. Services provided in the Council's service areas of Avon Park, Bowling Green, Frostproof, Lake Placid, Sebring, Wauchula, and Zolfo Springs included: Summer jobs provided to five youth to assist with the Summer Discovery and Summer Feeding Programs; LIHEAP and CSBG assistance provided to 2,242 clients; Head Start services to 54 clients; and Early Head Start Services to 39 clients. The Council partnered with the ALPI CSBG Department in delivering meals via the Summer Youth Feeding Program and indoor and outdoor recreational activities via the Youth Discovery Program to approximately 100 youth. The SRAC ended its year with the distribution of ten holiday gift cards to needy families in the local surrounding communities. Officers elected: Terry Wellington, Chairperson; Katie Clarke, Vice Chairperson; Annie Robinson, Secretary; and Sharonda Dunlap, Treasurer.



Southern Region Council Members with Holiday Gift Card Recipients

EASTERN REGION The Eastern Region Advisory Council focused on the Scholarship Program as its major project for this year. Applications were received and screened by the Advisory Council Scholarship Committee and a selection was made. The scholarship award amount is \$500.00 and is named for the Late Arie L. Perkins of Indiantown, Florida. Ms. Perkins was employed by ALPI for a number of years as Director of the ALPI Indiantown Child Development Center and the Thelma Waters Infant Care Center serving the Booker Park Community in Indiantown. The Advisory Council Annual Meeting Luncheon was held on October 16, 2010 in Ft. Pierce. The Theme for the meeting was "Reflecting on the Past ... Moving Through the Present ... and Molding Our Children for the Future". Queen Townsend, retired Assistant Superintendent of St. Lucie County School Board, was the speaker. The election process was facilitated by staff liaison. Corporate members were identified, ballots were handed out, and the membership voting was completed. The membership roster is on file at ALPI Corporate Office. The highlight of the day was the Advisory Council's recognition of the late Mary Jones, Head Start Director. Ms. Jones was recognized for her outstanding service in the position of Head Start Director for more than 30 years. The awards were facilitated by Marjorie Gaskin and Bobby Byrd. Commissioner Reginald B. Sessions received the Council's Community Service Award for outstanding support to the ALPI Eastern Region Advisory Council. Officers elected: William Holt, Chairperson; Constance Griffin, Vice Chairperson; Marjorie Gaskin, Treasurer; Gena Spivey, Secretary.

CENTRAL REGION The Council met six times throughout the year and focused on Census Participation, the Arabell Wiggins Scholarship, and AIDS/HIV Discussion & Training. Census Participation consisted of developing strategies for encouraging 2010 Census participation in local communities. It was proposed by Christine Samuel that a scholarship be established in Honor of Arabell Wiggins, specifically for a life-time of contributions to the community-at-large. After a training session on the increasing numbers of HIV and AIDS cases in Polk County, members were encouraged to go back to their local communities and actively share the information learned with others. Officers elected: Johnnie McNair, Chairman; Christine Samuel, Vice Chairman; Josephine Howard, Secretary; Truman McGill, Assistant Secretary; Glenda Jones, Treasurer; Clarence Grier, Parliamentarian.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

NORTHERN REGION The ALPI Technical Education Center (ATEC) continues to be licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education (CIE) for the provision of occupational training in Volusia County. In 2010 Home Health Aide and Phlebotomy were added to the curriculum, which includes Nursing Assistant. Two Nursing Assistant classes were offered, with a total combined of 23 students in attendance. Three Home Health Aide classes and one Phlebotomy class were also offered. ATEC is also a training facility for the provision of CNA test preparation. Additionally, the facility has internet access and a bank of six computers which allow clients, students, and the local community to apply for services with other agencies and conducting job searches. As a member of the PSP (Partner Support Program) for the United States CENSUS 2010, the Council provided outreach in their local communities reaching out to the Hard To Count (HTC) population. Approximately 500 Census t-shirts were distributed in 7 Cities, including Orlando. The Council also partnered with the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity to distribute ninety Thanksgiving baskets to low-income families in the community. Altogether, the Council volunteered over 17,000 hours. Officers elected: Evelyn Seabrook, Chairperson; Donald Tillman, Vice-Chairperson; Constance Anderson, Secretary; Marva Hawkins, Treasurer; Sylvia Bodison, Special Events Coordinator; and, Charles Harris, Parliamentarian.



Northern Region Council Members





Message from the Chairperson

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO MARY JONES

This is the first Spring in decades that the ALPI program is moving forward without the services of

our own brilliant Head Start Director – Mary Jones. Mary Jones, who retired in 2010, has left behind a legacy that will forever be etched in our hearts. This newsletter is dedicated to her sincere dedication to the thousands of children she inspired through her actions and mentored with her perseverance. She proved herself to be a true role model with a strong work ethic. The job became her beacon for those who were less fortunate. She committed herself to a lifetime of forging partnerships, adding classrooms and securing funding to enrich thousands upon thousands of lives. She made a difference and was a difference to so many because of her unwavering quest to educate and empower people. She was effectively a “major” force in the field of Childhood Education in the State of Florida and in

this great nation.

Because of her tireless efforts and service to humanity, her “Vision” for the future of the children of Florida will be emulated, but never duplicated. On behalf of the ALPI Board Of Directors – “Thank You Mary Jones” for your important decision to have chosen ALPI as the vehicle to display your magnificent individual leadership for the Head Start Program. History will show your signature on the many children and families you touched, now and in the future - for many decades to come. Your leadership is engraved into thousands of lives.

Enjoy your retirement but know that you are always a part of this great organization that you helped to build. Without you yesterday, I am afraid to think of where we would have been, but because of you I know where we are today. I salute you for a job well done. We wish you the very best and

please know that “pioneers” are great individuals who are never forgotten.

-- William Holt



Standing (l-r): Elizabeth Young, Deloris Johnson, William Holt Sitting: Mary Jones

Note: It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Mrs. Mary Jones since the writing of this article. Please look for a tribute to Mrs. Jones in the next newsletter.

2011 Annual Conference Speaker

DR. FAIREST HILL



Dr. Fairest Hill is an international motivational speaker and recording artist who resides in Tampa Bay, Florida. Dr. Fairest Hill was born and raised in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan. He was labeled “functionally illiterate” and was failing in school until the intervention of a caring, committed teacher and his gift for music

changed his life. At an early age, Dr. Hill made a commitment to be a success in life, no matter what the cost.

After graduating from Central High School with honors, Dr. Hill continued his education at the Detroit College of Business and Golden Pacific University where he earned his Master’s Degree in Business Administration. While he was working on his education he was also employed at the Children’s Hospital in Detroit, MI. During his seven year tenure there, Dr. Hill rose from Maintenance to Admittance then on to the Credit Department. He later received a Master’s and Doctoral Degree of Divinity

from Friends International University.

During his career, Dr. Hill has collaborated and performed with a variety of national recording artists. He is the Founder/Director of Youth On The Move, USA, Inc. and Life Without Limits International, Inc. as well as the CEO of Vision Productions and Publishing company. Dr. Fairest Hill is also the author of, “Daddy Talk” and “Yes You Can Win.” He has also developed a curriculum targeted for at-risk students called “Project 2020: Building Leaders for the 21st Century,” and has recently released his fifth CD, “Unfinished Business”.

Dr. Fairest Hill’s speaking career has involved training for over 1 million youth across the United States and abroad. Organizations from Trinidad, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Canada and South America have all engaged him to provide motivational training.

Dr. Fairest Hill’s message is simply, “Yes, You Can Win, with a POSITIVE ATTITUDE.”



Keynote Speaker, Dr. Fairest Hill

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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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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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