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**Summer Feeding and
 Work Experience Program**
Community Action Partnership

This year the ALPI Child Development and Family Services Division and ALPI Community Services and Economic Development Division came together, in partnership with the Polk County School Board, to provide services to the community of Frostproof, Florida through a Summer Feeding and Work Experience Program. The program was located at the ALPI owned Lakeview Community Center and ran from June 13 to August 3, 2012, providing breakfast and lunch to children in the community. Through this much anticipated community program, over 75 children were provided nutritious meals. Head Start/Early Head Start staff supervised and coordinated fun and educational activities in between meals and throughout the day. Activities included sports, arts and crafts, and presentations from community providers.



CEO's CORNER

Responsibility vs. Accountability

Recently, ALPI management was confronted with a few unfavorable external monitoring findings that led to a thorough review of program and department management. This review helped to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable regulatory guidelines and enforcement of agency policies and procedures. Even though the findings have been addressed, an ongoing question still remains, who was responsible and who should be held accountable?

Clearly, defining responsibilities is certainly essential, but encouraging people to go a step further and take personal accountability will secure better results every time. Responsibility can be given or received, even assumed, but that doesn't automatically guarantee that personal accountability will be taken. When people take accountability for results, not just doing their jobs, they take ownership for making sure the ball does not get dropped.

The ALPI management and Board of Directors are moving forward and working together in unison to address the findings and stand ready to do "Whatever It Takes" to ensure that all management cylinders are moving in the right direction. ALPI strongly believes that when people take accountability, they are more likely to invest their hearts and minds in getting things done, allowing the organization to achieve results that often exceed expectations.

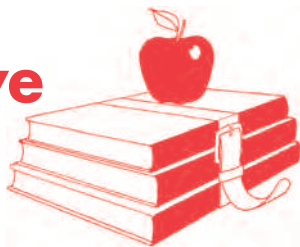
Deloris Johnson
 Chief Executive Officer & Editor



Through the Summer Feeding and Work Experience Program ALPI was able to employ youths to assist with feeding the children and activities at the center. The youths were given the opportunity to develop skills in mentorship of children and coordination of activities.

This program was especially significant because of the financial challenges many families are being faced with and the assistance that they so desperately need. The program provided summer activities in a safe environment, nutritious meals, and employment for young people who may not otherwise have had an income over the summer. Through this exceptional program, ALPI was able to touch the lives of many individual children, teenagers, and their families.

ALPI'S Comprehensive Educational Approach

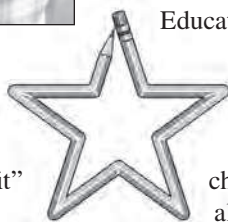


Working in small groups is a key element in classrooms. The teaching team (Teacher/Teacher Assistant) works with a small group of children or one-on-one on a specific domain area. The Head Start children, 3 to 5 years old, are expected to progress



in all the areas of child development and early learning, as outlined by the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. Each domain includes **Domain Elements** that are more

specifically defined by its components. For example, the domain of Science Knowledge and Skills is composed of two domain elements: Scientific Skills and Method and Conceptual Knowledge of the Natural and Physical World. Teaching is intentional and focuses on how children learn. Investigation and exploration; purposeful, engaged play; and intentional, scaffolded instruction based on the developmental level of each child are essential elements also used. Teaching staff conduct ongoing child assessments throughout the year to determine if instructional strategies need to be adapted to meet children's specific needs and changes are then made accordingly – helping to insure a true “custom fit” in the education of our children.



Congratulations, ATEC Grads!

ALPI Technical Education Center (ATEC) 2012 Graduation

Established in 2004 and located in Deland, Florida, the ALPI Technical Education Center's philosophy is that all individuals should have an opportunity made available to them for developing and reaching their career educational goals. The school's objective is to provide a State approved program to assist individuals in becoming certified and eligible for employment in the healthcare field, including Home Health Aid and Phlebotomy. Additionally, through the Department of Education WIA-167 program, ATEC also provides vocational training courses to farm workers in Volusia County. This graduation class of 15 had 13 students find immediate employment (in their specific field of study) upon graduation – an incredible accomplishment in today's challenging economic environment. Congratulations to all the ATEC graduates!

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

This summer was an exciting and busy one for ALPI staff. In preparation for the 2012-2013 school year, Management staff worked very hard and diligently in order to have all ALPI Head Start Centers ready to “Welcome” the returning and newly enrolled children. August 20, 2012 marked the first day of school. It was a successful start to the new school year, with an average attendance of 82%. Transportation services were also started on the first day of school in order

to assist those families who had expressed the need for transportation services. Right out of the gate, classroom staff began working with children on different areas of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, in conjunction with the Creative Curriculum, VPK Standards, HMH Curriculum and Materials, etc. ALPI Centers are off to a great start and look forward to keeping that momentum growing throughout the school year.



ALPI LIHEAP/Community Services

Director Speaks at Neighborhood Service Center in Winter Haven, FL

Cheryl Burnham, LIHEAP/Community Services Director, recently spoke at the Neighborhood Service Center in Winter Haven, where Mrs. Glenda Jones (ALPI Board Member) serves as Executive Director. Information was distributed to seniors about the LIHEAP Program. The Neighborhood Service Center will now be serving (on an "as needed" basis) as an ALPI service delivery site for seniors in need of utility payment assistance, but find it difficult or even impossible to travel outside of their neighborhood to apply for the critical assistance.

LIHEAP is a Federally funded block grant program



operating since 1982. Grantees, such as ALPI, serve low-income households who seek assistance for their home energy bills. Some forms of assistance available to low income households through State LIHEAP programs include: financial assistance towards a household's energy bill, emergency assistance if a household's home energy service is shut off or about to be shut off, and a range of other energy-related services that States may

choose to offer, such as weatherization improvements, utility equipment repair and replacement, budgeting counseling and so forth.

ALPI Staff Improves Knowledge and Skills

ALPI's Pre-Service Training took a different approach this year as they followed ALPI's approved 2012-2013 Training and Technical Assistance Plan for the Child Development and Family Services Division. Pre-Service Training and Staff Development was held from August 13 thru August 17, 2012 and included over 200 staff members from St. Lucie and Polk Counties, as well as ALPI contracted centers. The week-long event was specifically designed to improve staff knowledge and skills, as well as to better communicate services expectations and current federal and state regulations. ALPI was able to engage the best consultants in the fields of Early Childhood Development, Infants and Toddlers Growth and Development, Eligibility Recruitment and Selection of Children, Etc. Participants included: Mary Huffstetter, Ph.D., BCBA, Early Childhood Coordinator for School Board/HMH; Debbie Hillman, Early Childhood Consultant; Maria

Russell, Infants/Toddlers Consultant; Diana Josue, Transportation Consultant; Helga Snure, Health Department - Health Education Program Director; HS University, etc. Many topics were covered during the four day training, including:

- Child Abuse Laws and Regulations
- Health and Safety Rules and Regulations Updates
- Early Childhood Development
- Infants and Toddlers Lesson Planning and Curriculum
- ERSEA
- Dual Language Learners
- CCFP Requirements
- Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework
- Development Screenings
- VPK Staff Development

ALPI strongly believes that a solid teaching foundation includes having successful Pre-Service training and that development of staff in an ever changing environment is critical as we continue to provide quality services to our valued children and families.



ALPI Annual Health Fair St. Lucie County



The Annual Health Fair was conducted on July 11 and 12, 2012. Several community partners assisted in providing information to families and conducted medical screenings to newly enrolled children. Over 120 visitors participated in the yearly event. Community partners included: Healthy Start, WIC, IRSC, Keiser University, Hands Dental Clinic of St. Lucie, SLC Health Department, etc.

Offered screenings included: vision, hearing, height/weight, blood pressure, developmental delay, dental, etc. In addition, families were referred to and/or provided information on the Healthy Start Program, WIC (for nutritional assessment) and KidCare (Medicaid enrollment).



ALPI's 1st Annual Polk County Health Fair



Prior to the start of the school year, the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. hosted its 1st Annual Polk County Head Start/Early Head Start Health Fair at the Frostproof Child Development Center on July 19,

2012. This event was facilitated and coordinated by lead personnel (Amarilis Garcia, Health Services Manager) and management staff from the Head Start/Early Head Start program in Polk County. The focus of the event was to partner with community resources providers in order to present a more effective and efficient delivery of services to our children and families entering the Head Start/Early Head Start program. The ALPI Health Fair gave our community partners a public forum and educated families regarding the many resources/services available. The event also allowed for pre-screening of children through health, developmental, and behavioral screenings, including: height and weight, hearing and vision, dental, blood pressure, and speech and language.

Some of the community partners participating in the event included: Central Florida Health Care, Polk County School Board, WIC, Early Steps Bay Area USF/IYC, St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa, Lake Wales Health Department, Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, and Winter Haven Hospital, Inc. - Behavioral Health Division. Overall, the 1st Annual Polk County Health Fair was a very well-attended, successful and informative event.

Frostproof Energy Fair



The Frostproof Energy Fair was held on September 5 and 6, 2012 at the Lakeview Park Community Center. A total of 160 low-income families received LIHEAP assistance.

Special thanks to Mrs. Katie Clark and Ms. Terry Wellington (ALPI Board Members and Southern Regional Advisory Council Members) and Mrs. Bernice Lopez and Mrs. Noemi Cruz (SRAC Members) for their tremendous help and support during the two-day event. ALPI wishes to acknowledge the continued support of ALPI Board member, Mr. Vernon McQueen (of Progress Energy), for all his help during our Energy Fairs. Mr.



McQueen distributed Progress Energy tote bags filled with essential energy education information and gardening tools.

Clewiston Energy Fair



The Clewiston Energy Fair was held on July 11 and 12, 2012 at the Harlem Gardens Civic Center. A total of 271 low-income families received LIHEAP assistance in Hendry County. A special "thank you" to Commissioner Janet Taylor (ALPI's newest Board Member) for her assistance in securing the location and assisting families with completing the application.

Auburndale Energy Fair

The Auburndale Energy Fair was held at the Auburndale Community Center on August 17 and 24, 2012. A total of 330 low-income families received LIHEAP assistance. Mr. Willie Escalante of Tampa Electric (TECO) shared valuable information on TECO's various programs, including the weatherization component. ALPI wishes to thank the Central Region Advisory Council for their support in distributing Flyers about the event.



ALPI provides
\$243,000
to 761 Low-Income Families

The ALPI LIHEAP/Community Services Department staff wish to extend a sincere thanks to the ALPI Board of Directors and Regional Advisory Council Members for your dedicated and steadfast support of all our Energy Fairs.
We appreciate you!

Collaboration Towards School Readiness:

Camp Ready!



The ALPI Frostproof Child Development Center once again partnered with the Learning Resource Center of Polk County to offer a school readiness program for preschoolers entering kindergarten. The program was named “Camp Ready” since it was geared towards children going into kindergarten for the upcoming school year of 2012-2013. This program not only included all the children in ALPI’s Polk County Head Start program that were transitioning to kindergarten, but also children in the community that attended local child care centers.

Camp Ready helped prepare the children for entrance into kindergarten and enhanced their skills with remedial activities to make the transition even more successful. The four week program ran from July 16 through August 10, 2012. Certified kindergarten teachers were utilized to instruct in the classrooms.

Parent engagement was encouraged through volunteering in the classroom, weekly family newsletters with activities for both children and parents, and a grand finale ceremony for children and families.



Best Wishes for a **Happy Retirement!**



Mr. Ronald Hill retired on August 31, 2012 after 23 years of dedicated service to the ALPI organization and the Community Services Department. At an agency farewell gathering, ALPI staff extended best wishes for a happy and long retirement.



Ms. Norris Ann Roland, Finance Director, retired on July 9, 2012 after 15 years of dedicated service. Ms. Roland joined ALPI in 1997 as a Senior Accountant. She was selected as Finance Director several years ago and has served ALPI well in helping to lead Agency finances. Her contributions continue to have an enduring and positive impact on the Agency.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer, Deputies and Department Directors, as well as all staff, ALPI extends a heart-felt “thank you” to Ms. Roland for her commitment to keeping the Agency’s mission at the forefront during her tenure.

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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

SAVE THE DATE!
45th Annual Corporate Meeting & Luncheon
January 26, 2013
Rosen Centre Hotel - Orlando, FL
Look for your invitation in the mail during the month of December.

The ALPI Newsletter is Published by The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. 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 fax (refer to Contact Information).
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