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ALPI's Family Self-Sufficiency Program
 A Personal Success Story



Jared Lowe and ALPI Family Self-Sufficiency Program Case Manager, Sheila Armstead

Jared Lowe enrolled in the ALPI Family Self-Sufficiency Program in November 2010, after losing his job as the result of an on-the-job injury. Mr. Lowe suffered from a ruptured disc and his injury left him disabled and home bound for a year and a half. Married, and with three children, he knew he had to do more than rely on his disability income and his spouse's income to support his family. He decided he wanted to change his life and his career path to better provide for his family.

Mr. Lowe and his case manager, Sheila Armstead, worked diligently to enroll him into the Digital Graphic Design program at Ridge Career Center in Winter Haven, Florida. There were days that were very challenging for Mr. Lowe. With his chronic back pain and limited income to purchase materials needed for classes, he had doubts about completing the course. However, through assistance from ALPI's FSSP (Family Self-Sufficiency Program), he was able to reach his desired goal in completing the Digital Graphic Design course at Ridge Career Center, receiving his diploma in May 2012.

The persistency Mr. Lowe demonstrated in class helped him

to attain the skills to take part in the Region 3 Skill USA competition held at Ridge Career Center and, subsequently, the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) competition in Tampa, Florida. He did such an incredible job with both competitions that he came in second place for both. In May he attended the Skills USA State competition in Pensacola, and in June travelled to the National PBL competition in San Antonio, TX. Mr. Lowe was also honored at a ceremony held by the National Technical Honor Society. This honor is bestowed upon students who exhibit high qualities of Citizenship, Leadership, Workmanship, and Scholarship.

ALPI is proud to announce that Jared Lowe is now employed by Winter Haven Christian School and has also started his own graphic design business. The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. congratulates Mr. Jared Lowe on his amazing accomplishments and wishes him much success in all future endeavors.

"If it weren't for ALPI and my case manager, I would have jumped ship and not seen the light at the end of the tunnel."

CEO's CORNER

ALPI Scholarships Provide Opportunities for a Competitive Future

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI) believes that because our world has become more technical, as well as more competitive, a high school education is not sufficient to get a good job. The ALPI's service delivery communities, like all communities throughout the nation, needs an educated and skilled workforce to compete in today's global marketplace.

I am proud to report that several years ago, the ALPI Eastern Region Advisory Council established the Arie Lou Perkins Scholarship (presented each year to an eligible ALPI Eastern Region high school graduate). In 2010, the ALPI Central Region Advisory Council established the Arabell Wiggins Scholarship (presented each year to an eligible ALPI Central Region high school graduate). The purpose of each scholarship is to provide an opportunity for the recipient to take advantage of post education options to improve their chances of getting a good job and ultimately to secure and maintain self-sufficiency. I am also proud to announce that the ALPI Northern Region Advisory Council has begun the creation of another scholarship to be presented to an eligible Northern Region high school graduate. All scholarships are funded through donations and ad sponsorships.

The ALPI Regional Advisory Councils have partnered with the local high schools and other organizations in their regional network to identify eligible high school graduates. Please contact the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. corporate office at (863) 956-3491 for additional information, including eligibility, donations and ad sponsorship opportunities.

"Hats off" to ALPI's Regional Advisory Councils for stepping up to the plate to demonstrate with action the true meaning of "People Helping People to Help Themselves."

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive Officer & Editor



ALPI SPONSORS THE ANNUAL Treasure Coast Children's Conference

ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start was an instrumental partner in the planning and success of the Annual Treasure Coast Children's Conference "Fit and Fabulous by Five. Growing Up Healthy!" The conference was sponsored by Florida Association for the Education of Young Children on April 28, 2012. Focused training sessions were on early childhood obesity prevention. Other sponsors included: Kaplan, Lakeshore, St. Lucie County Health Department, Florida Department of Children and Families and St. Lucie County Diabetes Coalition.



ALPI FROSTPROOF CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Polk County Head Start Policy Committee

ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start is a family focused program with operating principles of parent involvement and empowerment. Parent involvement at all of our centers continues to be a corner stone for our program. ALPI parents are a vital part of our operations and the education of our children. ALPI supports families by empowering parents to have the knowledge, skills, and resources available to become self sufficient.

Parents at ALPI's Frostproof Child Development Center have made themselves readily available to volunteer in classroom activities, serve on committees, attend meetings, and assist with community events. One of the goals at the center is to sustain partnerships with parents and community representatives to better support families as primary educators, nurturers, and advocates for their children.

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. - Polk County Head Start Policy Committee functions as a delegate agency to the Polk

County School Board. The Head Start Policy Committee's major purpose has been to implement the Polk County Head Start program performance standards (Program Governance) with the involvement of its parents and community representatives. This body is committed to meeting at least once a month to conduct business meetings. The Policy Committee created an effective link to ALPI's Parent Committee and Board of Directors, public and private organizations, and the community. The Policy Committee is made up of ten parents from the Head Start program and four community representatives that are expert/professionals in a field that impacts the program.

ALPI is proud to be a leader in promoting partnerships between parents, community, and staff to provide opportunities for parents to support themselves, enhance family outcomes, and increase the quality of life for the children and families we serve.



The ALPI Head Start Policy Committee: Parent Engagement and Community Partnership at work.

TECO TAMPA ELECTRIC Agency Portal Goes LIVE

On March 26, 2012, LIHEAP and CSBG staff attended a training facilitated by Tampa Electric Company (TECO). The training introduced the ALPI Community Services/Economic Development Division Staff to the TECO Agency Portal. This portal provides social service agencies secure access to customer account information and allows for the submission of vendor commitments electronically. The new agency portal will allow staff to print electric bills, view current and past due amounts, and view any other commitments made on a customer account by other agencies.



ALPI'S NURTURING FATHERHOOD PROGRAM HOSTS BARNES & NOBLE Book Fair

In its continuing effort to support and encourage commitment to parent involvement and family literacy, the ALPI Nurturing Fatherhood Program in St. Lucie County hosted the Barnes & Noble Book Fair from March 21, 2012 through March 25, 2012.

Once again the event turned out to be a great success! Special thanks to all the parents, staff and community members who helped organize the fair this year.



2012 Annual Father & Daughter Dance Ball



Presley Charles and Kevin Singletary

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.'s Head Start/Early Head Start Nurturing Fatherhood Program (St. Lucie County) hosted their annual Father & Daughter Dance Ball on March 5, 2012.

ALPI understands that fathers play a critical role in the development of their children. As such, ALPI promotes family involvement and provides a variety of opportunities for parents to become an active father/parent through events such as this.

This year over 100 parents participated along with their children! Special guest speaker was Mr. Presley Charles, Assistant Principal at Westwood High School.

This immensely successful event was led by Kevin Singletary, ALPI Family Support Services Coordinator. Special thanks goes to Sandra Monroe, who took the lead in making sure we had a wonderful meal, and to Maria Morales, who made all the decorations and decorated the venue.

ENCOURAGING THE EXPLORATION OF SCIENCE

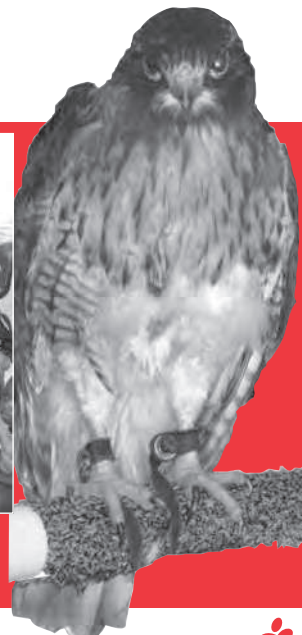
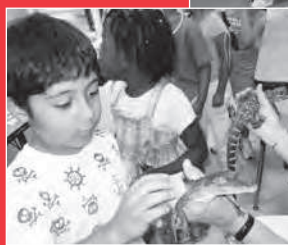


One of the biggest events during the school year is the Science Fair Display Week held during the month of March. Children and their parents get to explore science projects together and parents get to present their child's project in the classroom. Parents' involvement is essential in this activity, because in order to complete the projects they must gather and work together with their child either at home or at school. This is a great way to promote science and parent involvement. All centers participate in this activity. Centers display a wide range of science projects as well as provide ideas to help challenge and guide children through the completion of their project.



Hobe Sound Nature Center Visits ALPI Morningside Head Start Center

The children of Morningside Head Start Center got the best visit from the rescued wildlife of Hobe Sound Nature Center! They were able to interact with Spirit the Hawk, Shadow the Owl, a baby alligator, a baby crocodile and a small corn snake! The children have spent the school year learning about the natural world and this visit brought those lessons to life!



WILD!

ALPI Provides **\$250,000** to 1,500 Low-Income Families During **Annual Energy Fairs**

During the months of February and March the ALPI LIHEAP/Community Services Departments held much anticipated energy fairs in the following counties/cities: Polk County - Lakeland, Auburndale, Dundee, Lake Wales, and Frostproof; Hendry County - LaBelle and Clewiston; Collier County - Naples; Martin County - Stuart. Approximately 1,500 low income households received home energy and/or crisis benefits, totaling \$250,000.

A “special thank you” to Mr. Vernon McQueen (ALPI Board Member) and Mr. Melvin Philpot of Progress Energy for distributing essential information on energy education to clients attending our Frostproof Energy Fair (held at Lakeview Park Community Center). Also, a huge “thanks” to the Southern Region Advisory Council for assisting with crowd control and client sign in.



Pictured Far Right: Vernon McQueen, ALPI Board Member



AUBURNDALE ENERGY FAIR
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church



LAKELAND ENERGY FAIR
Parker Street Ministries



FROSTPROOF ENERGY FAIR
Lakeview Park Community Center

ALPI Nurturing Fatherhood Program – Polk County

FATHERS in **Community Action**



The ALPI Nurturing Fatherhood Program in Polk County is a male driven program encouraging participation from the fathers in the program, empowering fathers in the home, and educating families on the important role that male figures play in early childhood development.

ALPI Nurturing Fatherhood Program – Polk County is dedicated to partnering with fathers and parents to encourage

strong relationships between parents and children and to set the foundation for lifelong involvement in their children’s education. This year the NFP hosted its 2nd Annual Nurturing Fatherhood Spring Event, “Kidz Cook off with Nutrition in Mind,” at the Frostproof Child Development Center on April 20, 2012. Activities for this event were coordinated by Bertram Smith, Program Operations Director, together with fathers from the program. This event was open to the whole family for a fun filled day aimed at raising awareness towards physical fitness, nutrition, mental wellness, and the importance of family meal times.

Activities were not only fun, but educational. Parent training was provided by the Health Services Manager, Amarilis Garcia, and Food Service Coordinator, Hilda Walker. This year the male involvement from fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and father figures grew from 20 to 35 participants. The Nurturing Fatherhood Program meetings are held monthly and follow a curriculum for developing attitudes and skills for male nurturing in the home.

HANDS DENTAL CLINIC

Helps Provide ALPI Children with Critical Dental Care

Mr. Ervin Valcin is the Registered Dental Hygienist for HANDS Dental Clinic in St. Lucie County. Recently, Mr. Valcin visited all ALPI Centers to follow up on children with dental needs. Children identified with dental concerns (regardless of whether or not they had any form of insurance) were referred to the HANDS Clinic to receive the needed services.

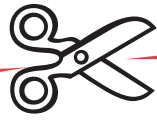
HANDS Dental Clinic has been a regular partner of the ALPI Annual Health Fair that is held during the month of July. Iris Rivera, Health Services Manager, works closely with the clinic

and other community partners to make the ALPI Annual Health Fair a success.

A very special “thanks” to HANDS

Dental Clinic for their commitment to the low-income families in the community and for helping ALPI provide high quality services to the children and families we proudly serve.





FROSTPROOF CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER RIBBON CUTTING and OPEN HOUSE

In 2009, the Agricultural and Labor Program received a grant to service Early Head Start children. This grant brought numerous positive changes to the Head Start/Early Head Start Program in both St. Lucie and Polk Counties. The Frostproof Child Development Center experienced some of those changes. The number of children serviced grew from fifty-four (54) children to a capacity of ninety-four (94) children, comprised of both Head Start and Early Head Start children. Staff capacity also grew and the agency was able to create employment opportunities in an economy where unemployment was growing. As a result, we also experienced growth in the number of parents, volunteers, and community partners involved with the center.



Bertram Smith (Director, Head Start/Early Head Start Program Operations (Polk Co.), Elizabeth Young (Deputy Director, Child Development and Family Services Division), and Christine Wilson (Child Development Services Manager, Frostproof CDC)


The center itself also underwent numerous physical changes. As the capacity grew, so did the need for upgrades and renovations to accommodate services to valued families and children. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House event was hosted on June 1, 2012, officially opening the center to the community. Various community partners, community representatives, ALPI Board of Directors

members, Policy Council/Committee members, friends, and families were invited to this historic event. The event included an overview of the Head Start/Early Head Start program, highlights of the many upgrades and renovations, a campus tour, and an official ribbon cutting.



Elizabeth Young addresses guests during the Program Overview.

ALPI Child Development and Family Services Division Deputy Director is selected as 2012 AWARD JUDGE



ELIZABETH YOUNG, ALPI Child Development and Family Services Division Deputy Director, was selected as an official Award Judge for the 2012 Polk County Association of Charter Schools, Teacher and Support Person of the Year Awards Ceremony held in May. The awards are Polk County's Charter Schools System's top honors.



HOSTS ITS 3RD ANNUAL IN-SERVICE DAY Training for Sub-Recipient Agencies

On May 8, 2012 ALPI's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) hosted its 3rd Annual In-Service Day Training for Sub-Recipient Agencies. Sixteen (16) agencies were in attendance, along with the Community Services Department staff.

The agenda included a complete review of the revised LIHEAP application, worksheet, vendor commitment forms, etc. Each agency's LIHEAP Agreement was reviewed and discussed individually with the LIHEAP Director, advising of the program changes and addressing increased oversight, tracking and monitoring expenditures.

ALPI's Low Income Home Energy Assistance program is currently providing energy benefits in thirty-two (32) sites within seven counties!

ALPI CSBG/Economic Development Director RECEIVES SEACAA CERTIFICATION

On October 13, 2011 CSBG/Economic Development Director PaHoua Lee-Yang was presented with CCAMP (Certified Community Action Manager Program) certification through SEACAA (Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies) Region IV. The course consisted of 8 modules on how to be an effective CAA manager.



Deloris Johnson, ALPI Chief Executive Officer, PaHoua Lee-Yang, and William Holt, ALPI Board Chairperson

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for the socially and economically disadvantaged;
children and families; and farmworkers.*

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