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For fifty years Head Start has been the premier model for providing the whole child an opportunity for success in school and in life. Since the summer of 1965, more than 31 million children have benefitted from Head Start's comprehensive services - they have become business women and men, professors, teachers, lawyers, mayors, Members of Congress, athletes, foundation Presidents, Grammy-winning musicians, poets, and parents.

Every day, nearly one million children across the country walk through the doors of their local Head Start center and begin working, playing and learning their way toward success in Kindergarten and in life. Head Start programs, whether they're in small towns or large cities, are providing a lifeline to low income children and their families across the country.

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. is proud to count itself among thousands of amazing Head Start centers across the United States who successfully serve children and their families by promoting school readiness through providing educational, health, nutritional, social and other services.

ALPI firmly believes that Head Start children and families deserve the highest quality services from the most capable organizations. ALPI Head Start classrooms, as well as Head Start classrooms across the nation, are

filled with children with incredible promise and potential. Despite the challenges that often face our children and families, Head Start staff provide a consistent, caring, and stimulating environment to meet the educational and developmental needs of children who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

This year, October marks both the start of the 50th year anniversary celebration and annual October Head Start Awareness Month (created in 1982 by then President Ronald Regan). The National Head Start Association has organized eleven months of celebrations, which began on October 2 with a rally on the grounds of the Capitol in Washington, DC and ending with a White House Rose Garden commemoration. In between, Head Start programs everywhere will be participating in a variety of celebratory events of their own. ALPI has planned many activities for the month of October, including KIDS AT HOPE Reading Day, KIDS AT HOPE fire truck visits, a children's parade, special home activities, and much more.



WASHINGTON, DC
Hundreds of Head Start directors, staff, parents, and children (joined by Members of Congress) flocked nation's capital to participate in the Stop The Cuts: Stand Up for Head Start Rally.

CEO's CORNER

HEAD START WORKS!

In January of 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared The War on Poverty in his State of the Union speech. In the summers of 1965 and 1966, the *Office of Economic Opportunity* launched the eight-week Project Head Start.

I began my journey with the head start movement as a teacher in a classroom of 80 plus energetic pre-school age disadvantaged children. The opportunity was made available via the Palm Beach County Rosenwald Elementary School located in South Bay, FL.

In the summer of 1971 I was given another opportunity to work with Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children and Families via the Community Action Migrant Program (CAMP) Head Start Program for a period of seven years. This was an experience that propelled me to another level of the Head Start movement including, program planning, management, national head start professional development, monitoring and advocacy opportunities.

I am proud to have been a part of the original players in the making of a federally funded program that has a proven track record and more positive outcomes than not in the provision of comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families.

Some 50 years later and based on my direct involvement and experiences, I can say without any reservations that HEAD START WORKS! I encourage all who are currently involved to continue to move forward to ensure that the same opportunity is available for many more years and to ensure that all children in need are provided ... A HEAD START.

Deloris Johnson

Chief Executive Officer & Editor

50th ALPI Head Start: Celebrating 50 Years in Red, White and Blue

September 17 was the official Head Start “Red, White, and Blue” Day, when everyone in the Head Start community wore the *Head Start colors* in celebration of 50 Years of *Head Start* (1965-2015). ALPI Head Start children and staff from across all ALPI divisions showed “their colors” proudly.



Parent-Child Math Engagement Collaboration

During the month of May, ALPI Head Start partnered with the Parent Academy of SLC, Inc. to promote school readiness via a special Math Workshop which focused on the preparation of children for kindergarten. Both children and parents participated in this very successful collaboration. Participants were shown new ways to foster a deep understanding of math concepts. Parents also received free materials that can be used at home to support further math understanding. Parent Academy is a not-for-profit organization created to strengthen the families of St. Lucie County by giving parents and caregivers access to resources, information, and support they might not otherwise know about.



ALPI Head Start Staff Receives Certificate of Appreciation



Oak Hammond K-8 School recently presented Kevin Singletary, FSSC with ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start, with a Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution to their athletic program.

Mr. Singletary assisted with organizing the annual *Community Leaders vs Oak Hammond Basketball Game* fundraising event. In addition to the game, Mr. Singletary, along with County Commissioners Kim Johnson and Todd Mowery, served the staff during the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

Parent and Family Engagement *Starting the School Year Right!*

Parent Orientation – ALPI Frostproof Child Development Center

Parent involvement is an important key in early childhood development and school readiness. There is a positive correlation between parents that are involved in their children's development and the success of their children in school. The Parent Orientation is the first step in the journey to parent involvement and family engagement.

The event was hosted on two days, July



25 and August 1, 2014, so that all parents could have an opportunity to participate. The orientation provided parents with a great deal of services information on health, safety, nutrition, early childhood education and school readiness, family, parent, and community engagement, and much more. Parents and children took classroom tours and participated in classroom activities. ALPI Frostproof Child Development Center is proud to report this year's orientation resulted in 100% parent participation.



ALPI's Summer Enrichment Program

CAMP READY 2014



Camp Ready 2014 was hosted, for the fourth year, at the Frostproof Child Development Center in Frostproof, Florida. Camp ran from June 9th through July 3rd, 2014. This program was a collaborative effort between ALPI and the Learning Resources Center. The objective of the collaboration was to work together to provide an opportunity for preschoolers entering kindergarten to have an extended school year of activities geared toward preparing them for kindergarten. The goal of the program was to assist children to enter kindergarten "ready to learn", while enhancing skills with remedial activities to successfully transition to kindergarten. Parent engagement was also fostered in the program through volunteering in the classroom, weekly family take home activities, and child outcome reports at the start and end of the program. Breakfast, lunch, and a snack were provided daily to the more than 30 children participating in the program. Instructional staff were provided by the Learning Resources Center and were certified kindergarten teachers from the local public school.



Partnerships:

Working Together to Service Our Community

ALPI (Polk County)

2014 Summer Feeding Program



This summer, ALPI partnered once again with the Polk County School Board in order to provide services to the community of Frostproof, FL through the ALPI Summer Feeding Program. The program was operated from ALPI's Lakeview Community Center in Frostproof, FL and lasted from June 11th through August 1st, 2014. Temporary summer employment was also made available for qualified

youth. The program was able to serve an average of 75 -80 meals daily to children in the community between the ages of 1 and 18 years of age. The program not only provided meals, but also fun, educational, age appropriate activities coordinated by ALPI Child Development Services staff.

ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start 2014-2015 PARENT INSTITUTE

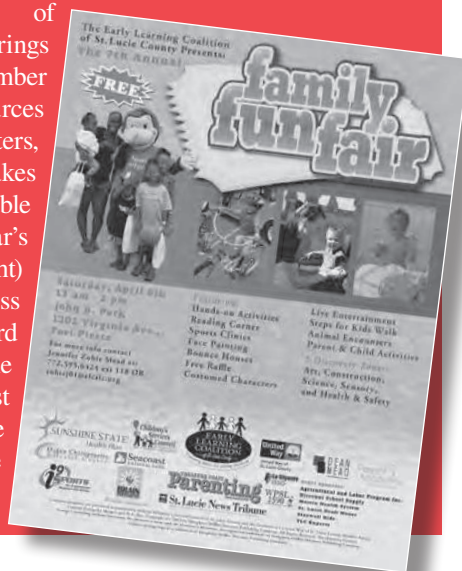
In collaboration with the Parent Academy of St. Lucie County, ALPI will be coordinating and hosting a year-long Parent Institute that will give parents the opportunity to build capacity as the parent's top source for children's success. Workshops began in September and will run through May 2015. Each month brings two new topics taught at two different ALPI Head Start centers. Topics promise to be both practical and fun and will include Science Fun, Math Fun, Reading Fun, and much more. In addition, topics specifically for parents will include, Where to Turn (identifying when your child needs help and how/where to get it), Be Part of the Solution (how to make a difference in one's own community), and much more. All are invited to attend! For more information, please contact ALPI Head Start SLC at 772-466-2631.



Parent-Child activities during September's workshop, Play is Child's Work.

ALPI'S ST. LUCIE COUNTY HEAD START GEARING UP FOR 8th ANNUAL family fun fair IN 2015

ALPI Head Start staff in St. Lucie County have already begun working on the 8th Annual Family Fun Fair, currently scheduled for April 2015. The event, presented by the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County, brings together a large number of community resources (vendors, supporters, partners, etc.) and makes them readily available to visitors. Last year's event (pictured right) was a huge success and we look forward to helping make the 2015 event the best ever. Look for more information in future newsletters.



MORE THAN 700 POLK RESIDENTS

SHOW UP FOR ALPI'S

AUGUST ENERGY FAIR



Of the more than 700 people waiting in line on August 14, 2014 at the Winter Haven Recreational & Cultural Center for assistance with paying their electric bills, an incredible 463 received help onsite! This is a record for the ALPI LIHEAP

Department. Almost 300 more received assistance within the following two weeks.

A very long line of people streamed down Avenue T and through a residential street, causing traffic jams. With temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, people patiently endured the heat and later on the rain, in hope of getting their electric bills paid.

People began arriving as early as 4 a.m., even though the doors of the center did not open until 10 a.m.

Residents of Polk County were referred to the Energy Fair by Agricultural and Labor Program Inc., which offers the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The event was sponsored by the program and Access Florida, the Florida Department of Children and Families' Automated Community Connection to Economic Self Sufficiency.

LIHEAP is designed to assist with funds to help with home energy bills, help in an energy crisis or help with weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs. "The program is designed to help keep families safe and healthy," said ALPI Program Director Cheryl Burnham. Mrs. Burnham, together with a highly experienced group of ALPI staff and dedicated volunteers, managed the crowd through the entire process.

Other local organizations represented at the event included, but were not limited to, the Social Security Administration, Catholic Charities of Central Florida, East Central Polk Democratic Club, and Florida Department of Children & Families Refugee Services Program, New Beginnings High School and Central Florida Health Care.

After completing the paperwork and providing documentation of their needs, each applicant was given a card to have each agency sign. Those present were not only able to receive electrical assistance, but a host of other free services and products, including groceries and fresh produce.

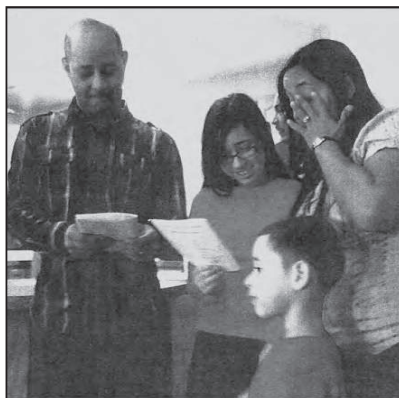


ALPI Client Receives Prestigious SEACAA Award



ALPI's Work Experience Program client, Rafael Cruz, was recently presented with the Lonnie D. Burton Achievement Award in September at the SEACA 2014 Annual Conference, held in Biloxi, MS. This award is presented annually by the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies (SEACA) to an individual who, through the assistance of a Community Action Program, has achieved a significant level of self-sufficiency and independence, while recognition is given to the local Community Action Agency's role in helping the nominee(s) to help themselves.

Through a partnership with the Avon Park Housing Authority and because of an immediate need for contracting of a lawn care company, an amazing opportunity became available to Rafael Cruz. Although he did have access to some lawn maintenance equipment, he did not have enough money to hire an employee to jump start the new business. ALPI then stepped in and assigned this second job opportunity to another Work Experience Program participant. Rafael was then referred to the Small Business Association for training and was later referred to Habitat for Humanity. Using income from his new business, he began working to correct credit issues that might block a mortgage and, along with his family, began to put in "sweat equity" as Habitat for Humanity volunteers, helping others build homes. Their dream of owning their own home finally became a reality on January 23, 2014. Less than a year ago, Rafael Cruz and his family (pictured right) identified themselves as homeless ... today they are proud homeowners.



ALPI's Family Self-Sufficiency Program:

Another Success Story!

Ms. Charmeythia Streeter, a single mother with three children and no income, enrolled in the ALPI Family Self-Sufficiency Program in June 2013. Ms. Streeter met Case Manager Sheila Armstead at an Open House sponsored by Ridge Career Center. She discussed a desire to enroll in the Cosmetology Program offered through Ridge Career Center.

Along with assistance from ALPI and her case manager, Ms. Streeter successfully enrolled into the Cosmetology Program at Ridge Career Center. Through assistance from ALPI's FSSP, she was able to reach her goals and rise to the top of her class.

Ms. Streeter worked diligently through the ALPI Family Self-Sufficiency Program and graduated from the Cosmetology Program in June 2013, after which she went on to obtain her state license. ALPI is proud to announce that Ms. Streeter is currently working as a hairstylist at the J.C. Penney Salon located in the Posner Park Shopping Center.

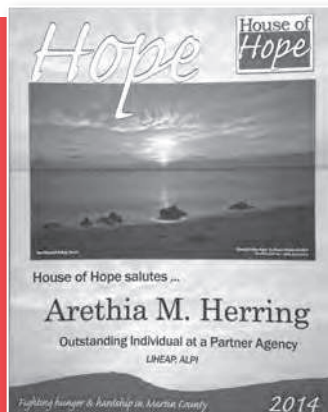


GIRLS, INC. OF LAKELAND RECOGNIZES ALPI CEO



ALPI Chief Executive Officer, Deloris Johnson, was among two other award recipients recently honored by Girls, Inc. of Lakeland for having *overcome hurdles to obtain leadership positions*. The recipients were among a total of eight nominees. Girl's, Inc. of Lakeland serves low-income children through after-school and summer programs and is currently celebrating 25 years of service to the community.

ALPI Staff Receives "Outstanding Individual" Award



Congratulations to Arethia Herring, Client Services Specialist II of the ALPI LIHEAP/Community Services Department, who was recently recognized as "Outstanding Individual at a Partner Agency" by the House of Hope

agency, located in Stuart, Florida. House of Hope is a nonprofit agency, founded in 1984, that provides food, clothing, furniture, financial assistance and life-changing case management services to Martin County residents.

www.hohmartin.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

CORPORATE OFFICE

P.O. Box 3126
Winter Haven, Florida 33885
(863) 956-3491
(863) 956-3357 Fax
Admin@ALPI.org

Executive Office

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Extension 206
DJohnson@ALPI.org

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS QUALITY CONTROL

Twila Smith, Director
Extension 204
TSteward@ALPI.org

Budget and Finance

Dennis Gniewek, Interim Director
Extension 210
DGniewek@ALPI.org

Human Resources

Christine Samuel, Director
Extension 202
CSamuel@ALPI.org

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Albert Miller, Deputy Director
Extension 212
AMiller@ALPI.org

LIHEAP/Community Services

Cheryl Burnham, Director
Extension 224
CBurnham@ALPI.org

CSBG/Economic Development

PaHoua Lee-Yang, Director
Extension 218
PYang@ALPI.org

CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

Elizabeth Young, Deputy Director
Extension 215
EYoung@ALPI.org

Eastern Region

Administration Office

2202 Avenue Q
Ft. Pierce, Florida 34950
(772) 466-2631
(772) 464-3035 Fax

Head Start/Early Head Start

Program Operations (St. Lucie Co.)

Myrna Rodriguez, Director
(772) 466-2631 - Extension 11
MRodriguez@ALPI.org

Head Start/Early Head Start

Program Operations (Polk Co.)

Bertram Smith, Director
(863) 635-3396 - Extension 40
BSmith@ALPI.org

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SAVE THE DATE

47TH ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING AND LUNCHEON

DATE: Saturday, January 24, 2015

PLACE: Rosen Centre Hotel • Orlando, FL

Information will be posted on the website as it becomes available: www.alpi.org
Look for your invitation in the mail during the month of November.

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Winter Haven, FL 33885

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