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2015 ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING AND LUNCHEON



from the ALPI Board Chairperson, William Holt of Vero Beach, FL. An emotionally moving performance was given by saxophonist Stanley Jones, Jr. of Bartow, FL. The event's keynote speaker, Jonathan Edison, M.Ed., was introduced by Dorothy Curry of Sanford, FL (ALPI Board Member).

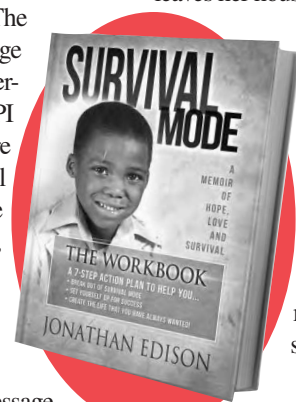
This year's Guest Speaker, Jonathan Edison, M.Ed. (pictured below), is the quintessential example, teacher, book author and motivator of success-centered technologies. His presentation was incredibly dynamic and inspirational. He gave a brief overview of his life growing up without parents. His grand-



ALPI's 2015 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon was held on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This year's meeting marked 47 years of the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. providing services to socially and economically disadvantaged children and families throughout the State of Florida. Over 410 Corporate partners, Board members, and guests attended ALPI's largest annual event. The theme for this year's event was "50 More Years: The Journey Continues ...Helping People, Changing Lives."

Master of Ceremonies for this year's luncheon was David Walker, Esq., Stuart, Florida (ALPI Board Vice Chairperson and President of David Walker Law Firm, pictured above). Presentation of Colors was performed by the American Legion Post #201, Winter Haven, Florida. The Welcome and Occasion message was delivered by Alexis Echeverria, Winter Haven, FL (ALPI Board Member). Greetings were extended by Reginald McGill of Orlando, FL (Assistant to the Mayor of the City of Orlando, FL). Words of Inspiration were shared by the Reverend Vernon McQueen of Sanford, FL (ALPI Board Member), followed immediately by the message

mother took him in and instilled in him values that he has not lost sight of. He recounted how his grandmother once chastised him for the way he was dressed. She told him when he leaves her house he doesn't represent himself, but her. He understood how his appearance was a reflection of his grandmother and he didn't want to embarrass her in the local community. Jonathan has never forgotten his grandmother's priceless teachings or the incredible sacrifices she made on his behalf. Jonathan spoke candidly about the



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CEO's CORNER

WELLNESS PROGRAM IN THE WORKPLACE TO PROMOTE HEALTHY HABITS AND HEALTHY LIVING

According to the research findings in the RAND Health Workplace Wellness Programs Study Final Report, an epidemic of "lifestyle diseases" has developed in the United States: unhealthy lifestyles, such as inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and frequent alcohol consumption, are driving up the prevalence of chronic disease.

The Workplace Wellness Programs Study Final Report reminds us further that out of concern about the impact of chronic disease on employee health and well-being, the cost of health care coverage, and competitiveness, employers are adopting health promotion and disease prevention strategies, commonly referred to as workplace wellness programs. Disease prevention programs aim either to prevent the onset of diseases (primary prevention) or to diagnose and treat disease at an early stage before complications occur (secondary prevention). Workplace wellness takes advantage of employers' access to employees at an age when interventions can still change their long-term health trajectory. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act) supports this trend with several provisions regarding health promotion and also mandated this study.

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc., Human Resources Department, has been given the charge to move forward with our Workplace Wellness Program. As we move forward with our Workplace Wellness Program efforts, I want to commend all the ALPI employees who stepped up to the plate and have pledged to do whatever it takes TO PROMOTE HEALTHY HABITS IN THE WORKPLACE AND HEALTHY LIVING.

For additional information regarding the RAND Health Workplace Wellness Programs Study Report, visit: http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/13/WorkplaceWellness/rpt_wellness.pdf

Deloris Johnson
 Chief Executive Officer & Editor

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seemingly insurmountable setbacks and barriers that he has had to overcome to get to where he is today. Despite many failures, he never stayed down. He kept getting up, even when life was not finished knocking him down. Despite a history of poor academic performance, he persevered ... eventually obtaining a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and most recently acceptance into the prestigious Harvard University. He explained that anything is possible if you want it bad enough. The outcome of your efforts to improve is based on how hard you are willing

to work to make those outcomes you long for a reality. The message was very well received and the animated crowd gave Jonathan a very lively standing ovation.

Following the speaker, guests were recognized by Commissioner Janet Taylor of Clewiston, FL (Hendry County Board of County Commissioners and ALPI Board Member). Awards and recognitions were bestowed by William Holt (ALPI Board Chairperson) and Deloris Johnson of Lakeland, FL (ALPI Chief Executive Officer).

Program participants were acknowledged by Marjorie Gaskin of Ft. Pierce, FL (ALPI Board



Member), with Board installations performed by Jonathan Thiele, Esq. of Lakeland, FL (ALPI Board Counsel). Closing remarks were given by William Holt and Deloris Johnson (pictured above).

ALPI'S 2015 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The following were awarded during the 2015 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon.

Board & Shared Governance Leadership Awards

ALPI Board of Directors
Chairperson's Award: William Holt
Head Start/Early Head Start Policy
Council Chairperson's Award:
Antonia Jackson

ALPI Housing Development
Corporation Board Chairperson's
Award: Phillip Howard

Governance Support Awards

Board Chairperson's Award:
Lester Roberts
Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award:
Vernon McQueen

CEO Recognition Award:
Deloris Johnson

Community Services Awards

Betty Bradwell (Eastern Region)
Anthony Gordon (Central Region)
Al J. Hinson (Southern Region)
Algerine Miller (Northern Region)

Corporate Support Award

The U.S. Attorney's Office -
Southern District of Florida

Certificate of Appreciation

Program Participants

ALPI's Health & Wellness Initiative

ALPI's Children and Families Division, working together with the ALPI Human Resources Department, recently embarked on a Health & Wellness Initiative. This initiative was first introduced to the staff as part of Pre-Service activities. In St. Lucie County, staff were provided with a light and healthy lunch, Zumba class and variety of resources and information. In Polk County, ALPI staff participated in a presentation by ALPI Board Member, Glenda Jones, and Dr. Dwayne Jones. The focus was on the American Diabetes Association's challenge to America to "get cooking to stop diabetes".

The initiative's intent is to help promote healthy eating and lifestyle habits by being



a good role model for adults and children at home, at school, in the workplace and in the community.

In continued implementation of the initiative, the March 20, 2015 ALPI In-Service Training stressed healthy eating and wellness by providing a healthy continental breakfast. Information on healthy eating and maintaining a healthy lifestyle was also provided. As a way of encouraging staff to continue to take care of themselves, free massages were provided to the Corporate Office and Frostproof Staff.

Christine Samuel, Human Resources Director, is currently working with our insurance provider to offer incentives and additional information that will further promote this wellness initiative.



2013-2014 Board Members Receive VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS



Thank You

ALPI Parents Enroll in Program to Reduce the Impact of Poverty



Pamela Burson, Myrna Rodriguez, Director (HS/EHS Program Operations), Vivian Tindall, Regena Gilchrist, and Kevin Singletary, ALPI Family Support Services Coordinator

As part of the Bridges to Prosperity efforts, the ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start Program (St. Lucie County) has had 25 Head Start/Early Head Start parents enroll in the “Getting Ahead in A Just Gettin’ By World” program. This 19 week intensive training is designed to get parents to investigate the impact of poverty, how low wages is having an effect on them, and how to move their personal situation from a just getting-by world to a getting-ahead world. The course causes the participants to build a new future by setting SMART goals for their lives. Participants are connected with mentors to assist them along their journey to success. The parents receive training on how to compose a resume, interview skills, budgeting, money management, and many other life skills necessary to change their lives.

Getting Ahead provides people in poverty with the same information found in

the Bridges Out of Poverty training, which was developed for professionals and others in the community working to end poverty. The Getting Ahead curriculum consists of the following:

- Involves rigorous work done in a safe learning environment with the support of an experienced facilitator and co-facilitator.
- Enables participants, called “Investigators,” to examine their own experience of poverty as well as explore issues in the community that impact poverty – banking, housing, jobs, transportation – providing critical information the community can use to take action to end poverty.
- Guides investigators through an assessment of their own resources and how to build those resources as part of their move to self-sufficiency.
- Puts the concepts, tools, and relationships in the hands of people in poverty to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others in their community.

The 2015 spring class was facilitated by ALPI staff member and certified trainer, Kevin Singletary. Two parents and one staff graduated from the class: Pamela Burson, Queen Townsend Head Start Center II, Vivian Tindall, Garden Terrace and staff member Regena Gilchrist. Congratulations to Pamela Burson, Vivian Tindall and Regena Gilchrist on their accomplishment.



ALPI attends the

RIVHSA 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Founded in 1986, the Region IV Head Start Association, Inc. (RIVHSA) is a private not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to improving the quality of early care and education for young children and empowering families in Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs throughout the region. RIVHSA represents more than 165,000 children, 30,000 staff and 250 member programs. Its regional network includes a growing alliance of corporate partners and individual members, as well as 8 state affiliates: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.



RIVHSA held its 2015 Annual Conference during the week of February 2-5, 2015. The conference was a training event in Region IV providing educational enrichment opportunities for hundreds of Head Start policymakers, administrators, service providers, parents, community partners and business leaders, as well as an array of professionals in the field of child development and research. Representing ALPI at the conference were: Deloris Johnson (ALPI Chief Executive Officer and RIVHSA Board Member), *third from right above*, William Holt (ALPI Board Chairperson), Elizabeth Young (ALPI Child Development and Family Services Division, Deputy Director), Myrna Rodriguez (ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start Program Operations, Director - St. Lucie County), Aletta Stroder, (ALPI Early Head Start Program Operations, Director – Polk County), and ALPI staff members Iris Rivera, Bridgette Hyde and Ana Cendejas.

HEAD START, 1965-2015: 50 YEARS of OPPORTUNITY

50YearsOfOpportunity.org

For 50 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. As our community celebrates Head Start's accomplishments over the past 50 years, it is important to come together and present a unified voice. This is why ALPI is proud to be part of this historic milestone ... congratulations Head Start on 50 years of changing lives!



ALPI Plants Roses to Commemorate Head Start's 50th Anniversary



On May 18, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced Project Head Start in a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden. Some 50 years later, ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start staff are planting rose bushes to commemorate the anniversary and to celebrate the more than 31 million children who have benefitted from the early education program for at-risk children and their families. On May 18, 2015 ALPI staff and children took great pride and joy in personally planting beautiful rose bushes at all ALPI Head Start and Early Head Start centers across St. Lucie County and Polk County, Florida.



NEW ALPI PROGRAM HELPS SENIORS WITH ENERGY NEEDS

Polk County seniors in need of assistance with electric bills or anything related to home energy can now contact the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. ALPI now oversees the Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program for the Elderly. Formerly managed by the county's division of elderly services, EHEAP helps low-income residents ages 60 and above with a variety of emergency energy needs. The program also can help pay for repairs to existing heating or cooling equipment or for re-connection fees. For more information, call 800-330-3491. *Look for more information on this new program in our next newsletter.*

ALPI Welcomes Aletta Stroder

Aletta Stroder is passionate about education and has worked as a teacher to children as young as infants all the way through high school. She served as Director to one of the largest daycare facilities in the midwest. She earned her B.A. degree from Central State University, her M.ED From Liberty University and soon to complete her ED.S degree in Educational Leadership. Aletta and her husband of 22 years, Corey, relocated from Michigan to Florida nearly 9 years ago to raise their 2 sons (Corey II, age 18 and Camron, age 12). Aletta, who likes to be called Lea, is excited about her new journey with ALPI and looks forward to serving the children and families of Polk County. Lea will be serving as Early Head Start Program Operations Director for the ALPI Frostproof Child Development Center in Frostproof, Florida.



Program Operations Director (Polk County), Early Head Start

Welcome aboard Lea!



St. Lucie County School Board and ALPI Head Start Join Forces: Working Together To Enhance School Readines

The collaboration/partnership with the St. Lucie County School Board and the world's largest publisher of educational materials, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), is going strong through the 2015-2016 school year. The focus continues to be increasing school readiness in St. Lucie County. The early childhood education community leaders, ALPI Head Start, SLC Early Learning Coalition and SLC School Board, have played a major role in this effort. Results from four years of collaboration/partnership prove that we, as a community, have made vast improvements. The 2015-2016 school year marks the conclusion of the five-year partnership with HMH. Through this partnership ALPI Head Start and child care providers have received endless technical support, curriculum and materials, professional development, and much more. Most recently, ALPI Head Start received 23 Splash Curriculum Kits (with a retail value of approximately \$64,000.00) for the 2015-2016 school year. "Thank You" to HMH and Mary Huffstetter, SLC School Board, Early Childhood Coordinator, for all your support and commitment to the early childhood community.



L-R: Ana Cendejas, ALPI Facilities Specialist, Mary Huffstetter, SLC School Board, Early Childhood Coordinator, Myrna Rodriguez, Director (HS/EHS Program Operations) and John Russo, SLC School Board Warehouse Representative

CONGRATULATIONS ALPI Family Self-Sufficiency Program Graduates!

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SHAREKA LEWIS Major: Criminal Justice – Cum Laude

Shareka Lewis entered the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSSP) in November 2013. Before entering the program Shareka came to the agency seeking assistance to get a food card because she was denied food stamps. Shareka told her Case Manager, Sheila Armstead, that she was enrolled at Polk State College in the Criminal Justice Program and worked at the school part time. Shareka was interested in the ALPI Program and attended the orientation.



Although she had a steady GPA of at least 3.28, she struggled with Math. But, with support from her case manager, the services of a tutor were enlisted and she was able to overcome her struggle

Shareka Lewis completed the ALPI FSSP and graduated on Thursday, May 7, 2015 with a degree in Criminal Justice (Cum Laude). She was able to achieve two of the three goals she had established as part of the program: a Criminal Justice degree and purchasing a car. She is now well on her way to achieving the final goal – employment.

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FREDDIE MORGAN Major: Nursing

Freddie Morgan entered the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSSP) in March 2012. Before entering the program, Freddie was laid off from his job as a CNA and was collecting unemployment. Freddie told his case manager, Sheila Armstead, that he had heard about the program from someone that went through it and how grateful they were to receive the assistance.

While going through the nursing program, the agency was able to assist Freddie with books, scrubs, shoes, occasional gas cards, etc.

Freddie graduated from Polk State College on Thursday, May 7, 2015 and is currently waiting to obtain his State Board License. He hopes to work in the Intensive Care Unit of a hospital.

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MICHEAL FORRESTER Major: Elementary Education

Micheal Forrester, a single female raising a son under the age of one, came into the ALPI Family-Self Sufficiency Program (FSSP) in August 2013. Micheal came seeking assistance for rent and began sharing her story with case manager, Sheila Armstead. She wanted to return to school in order to obtain an Elementary Education degree and open her own child care facility.



While in school, Micheal had a few setbacks, but with encouragement from her case manager and assistance from ALPI, she was able to overcome.

Micheal was awarded a degree in Elementary Education from Polk State College on Thursday, May 7, 2015. She is grateful to her case manager, Sheila Armstead, not only for encouraging her to return to school but for all the emotional support she provided. Micheal is "eternally grateful" to ALPI for all the assistance given to her and said she would be sharing information about the ALPI FSSP with others who really want to change their lives!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ALPI's Programs and Services Are Funded in Part by:

City of Ft. Pierce, County of St. Lucie, Department of Education (Adult Migrant Division), Florida Department of Health, Early Learning Coalition of Polk County, Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc., St. Lucie County School Board, Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County, Inc., and Florida Housing Finance Corporation

SAVE THE DATE

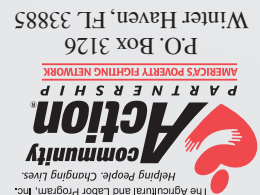
ALPI BOARD MEETING

WHEN: Saturday, June 27, 2015, 10am
WHERE: Hampton Inn & Suites
1985 Reynolds Dr., Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

ALPI ANNUAL PICNIC

WHEN: Saturday, June 27, 2015, 12:30 - 4pm
WHERE: Jaycee Park, S. Ocean Dr. & Melaleuca Dr., Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

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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