



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

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

AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

SUMMER ISSUE 2015

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ALPI'S NEW PARTNERSHIP: **EHEAP**



EHEAP STAFF: *Stand L-R: Charlene Leonard, ALPI Client Specialist II and Michelle Creech, ALPI Client Specialist II. Sitting: Cheryl Burnham, LIHEAP/Community Services Director*

ALPI is proud to announce its new partnership with Tampa's Senior Connection Center, Inc. (SCC) in administering the Polk County Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP). As a result of Polk County no longer administering the EHEAP program as of March 31, 2015, ALPI was specifically selected as a possible administering agency, especially in light of ALPI already administering the LIHEAP program. After much consideration, and with ALPI Board's approval, ALPI officially became the administering agency for the EHEAP program in Polk County, Florida on April 1, 2015.



The Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP) assists low-income households that include at least one person aged 60 or older when the households experience a home energy emergency. This program is 100-percent federally funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. EHEAP is a component of the



Charlene Leonard, ALPI Client Specialist II, assists Rosa Mae Thomas with her EHEAP application.

federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Payments are for home heating or cooling and other emergency energy-related costs during the heating (October-March) and cooling (April-September) seasons. Eligible households may be provided

one benefit per season. The maximum crisis benefit is \$600.00 per household per season. Payments are made directly to the vendor for electricity, natural gas, propane, fuel oil, kerosene, or wood.

Rosa Mae Thomas (66 years old from Lakeland, FL) received a disconnect notice of May 18th on her light bill of \$100. Due to unexpected expenses, she couldn't afford to pay this bill. With assistance from ALPI's EHEAP program, her bill was fully paid and an electrical disconnect was prevented!

Program beneficiaries may receive vouchers to purchase blankets, portable heaters, and fans. The program can also help pay for repairs to existing heating or cooling equipment or for energy-related utility reconnection fees.

Continued on page 2

CEO's CORNER

COLLABORATION IS KEY TOWARD EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

Establishing collaborative partnerships not only strengthens an organization, it also demonstrates to the community, decision-makers and funders that other stakeholders recognize that there's a need for what the organization is doing. This has been and continues to be a powerful asset for the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. Our collaboration efforts have confirmed that there's something in it for all participating parties, whether it's access to skills and resources or simply working together towards a common aim. This common aim ensures that more sectors of the community hear about the organization's collaborative partnership efforts designed to widen all participating parties' networks and to increase access to new skills, information and services.

More and more funding bodies like to see collaborations. Such acknowledgements work in our favor in grant applications, not to mention the fact that a wide range of costs for the effort is being shared in a cost effective manner. Moreover, collaborative partnership efforts enable many organizations in the ALPI target areas to provide resources that tend to lead to better access to services and ongoing positive working relationships to meet the needs of economically challenged families. This Summer edition of the ALPI newsletter includes some significant collaborative partnerships project accomplishments to validate what the ALPI organization and its collaborative partners are doing together to provide more accessible community services opportunities to help people to help themselves and each other to move toward sustainability and self-sufficiency.

My sincere "Thanks" to all the ALPI Collaborative Partners for their continued support and involvement in our collaborative partnership efforts. Together...We Are Making A Significant Difference In The Lives Of Many.

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive Officer & Editor



EHEAP

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE, HOUSEHOLDS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- A heating or cooling home energy emergency
- At least one individual age 60 or older in the home; and
- A gross household annual income of no more than 150% of the federal poverty guidelines

For more information, contact
**Cheryl Burnham, LIHEAP/
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ALPI'S SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM:

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR



This summer, ALPI partnered once again with the Polk County School Board in order to provide services to the community of Frostproof through the ALPI Summer Feeding Program. The program was operated from ALPI's Lakeview Community Center in Frostproof and lasted from June 11 through July 31, 2015. Temporary summer employment was also made available for qualified youth. The program was able to serve an average of 75-80 meals daily to school age children in the community. The program not only provided meals, but also fun, educational, age appropriate activities coordinated by ALPI Child Development Services staff.

ALPI ENERGY FAIRS: EPIC TURNOUTS IN 2015

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. Through this program, ALPI helps provide federally funded assistance in managing costs associated with home energy bills and energy crises.

CLEWISTON, FLORIDA (April 22-23, 2015)



Many thanks to Hendry County Commissioner Janet Taylor (ALPI Board Member) for her assistance and help in securing the location. Utility assistance was provided to over 200 low-income families

Vendors participating in this event included: City of Clewiston, Help Me Grow, Hendry County Elections, Goodwill Joblink Bus, AAASWFL and Shine Program, Hendry County Veterans Service Office, Abuse Counseling Treatment Center, and ALPI's CSBG Program.

SEBRING, FLORIDA (May 20, 2015)



With help from ALPI's Southern Region Advisory Council, utility assistance was provided to over 250 low-income families

Vendors participating in this event included: WellCare, SafeLink, Healthy Start Coalition, Duke Energy, Central Florida Health Care, Department of Children and Families, ACCESS Florida, SHINE, Ace HomeCare, Amerigroup Real Solutions in Healthcare, NAACP (Highlands County), Empowerment Automate Health System, and ALPI's CSBG Program.

FT. PIERCE, FLORIDA (July 15-16, 2015)



With help from the following, utility assistance was provided to over 600 low-income families: The Eastern Region Advisory Council (Christine Samuel, Staff Liaison), Eastern Region Advisory Council member, Bobby Byrd and his committee (who were instrumental in developing a plan for crowd control), Ft. Pierce Police

Department (John Schramm, Sergeant), the CMT (Community Mobilization Team) for their fantastic assistance, Louise Scurry and Sandra Paige (Community Volunteers), and Myrna Rodriguez (ALPI HS/EHS Director) and Head Start Staff.

Vendors participating in this event included: Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) and St. Lucie County.



LAKELAND, FLORIDA (August 13, 2015)



With assistance from Novella Johnson of DCF and ALPI Central Region Advisory Council Chair, Johnnie McNair, utility assistance was provided to over 350 families.

Vendors participating in this event included: SHINE, DCF Refugee Services, DCF Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency, Healthy Start Coalition, Total Care Consultants, Central Florida Health Care, Lakeland Electric Cooperative, Healthy Start Families, Simply Health Care, Peace River Center, New Beginnings High School, HUMANA, BayCare, Florida Health Polk County, Polk County Indigent Health Care Division, Polk County School Board Parent Information Resource Center, Romero Medical Plaza, Heartland for Children, Tri-County Human Services, ALPI's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program, and ALPI's Housing Urban Development (HUD) Program.

ALPI PARTNERS WITH FLORIDA PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP



Front Row: Mary Bunch (3rd from left) and PaHoua Lee-Yang, 3rd from right)

Congratulations to Florida Prosperity Partnership, an ALPI partner which engages, through statewide collaboration of focused organizations, in providing life-enhancing services to all Floridians.

Serving as liaison between FPP and ALPI is PaHoua Lee-Yang, ALPI's CSBG Director. In her role as FPP Advisory Council member, Ms. Lee-Yang assists in the review

and selection process of FPP Doorways to Dreams (D2D) Fund by reviewing and voting for worthy individuals and families meeting stated criteria.

ALPI congratulates Mary Bunch for being selected as the 2015 D2D Fund \$25,000 award recipient. Ms. Bunch also received the added prize of a free van from Elderpoint Ministries.

2015 Shared Governance Orientation

The 2015 Shared Governance Orientation was held at the Chain O'Lakes Complex in Winter Haven, Florida on February 28, 2015. The purpose of the Shared Governance Orientation is to provide newly elected and experienced Board members, Head Start/EHS Policy Council Members and Regional Advisory Council Members with an overview of the agency's governance practices and regulatory requirements.



TAKE A TRIP WITH ALPI

**A VIRTUAL
TOUR OF THE
AGRICULTURAL
AND LABOR
PROGRAM, INC.**

ALPI recently completed the monumental task of creating a truly "virtual" tour of all facilities across the entire agency. A professional film crew took more than 8 days to visit over 20 locations, from as far north as



Deland, Florida to as far south as Clewiston, Florida, and filmed over 67 hours. Beginning with a warm and gracious "welcome" from ALPI's own Chief Executive Officer, Deloris Johnson, the video focuses on what ALPI does, how its done, by whom, and from where.

The virtual video tour gives viewers a birds-eye view of the entire agency and how all elements of the agency work together to make the ALPI Mission come to life every day! So, take a trip with ALPI today by visiting the website and click on ALPI Virtual Tour.



Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County 9th Annual Family Fun Fair

ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start (St. Lucie County) participated in the 9th Annual Family Fun Fair hosted by the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County on April 11, 2015.

Management staff, teaching staff and caregivers volunteered to host ALPI's Story Station. This opportunity was used to recruit and promote the ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start program. It was a fun day for all!

*Special Thanks to
everyone who gave up
their Saturday
to support this
great cause!*



Another Successful Year for ALPI's **Computer Assisted Tutorial (C.A.T.) PROGRAM**



ALPI's Computer Assisted Tutorial Program (C.A.T.) is an after-school program for children in grades K-6. The program assists students with homework, FCAT preparation, and other areas as needed for school readiness and success. Congratulations to C.A.T. on another successful school year!



at ALPI Frostproof Child Development Center

On May 1, 2015, Frostproof Child Development Center hosted "Donuts with Dad" for their "Fatherhood Initiative Program" (FIP). The Fatherhood Initiative Program is designed to allow Early Head Start dads the opportunity to become more involved in center activities. The dads discussed things such as possible projects for the center, meeting times, and elected officers. The FCDC Fatherhood Initiative Program is committed to assisting the FCDC by helping wherever there may be a need. From volunteering in the classrooms to restoring the playground by adding



wood chips, many opportunities exist for helping and the dads are stepping right in! The Frostproof Child Development Center is grateful to all the dads in the Fatherhood initiative Program and look forward to future endeavors with a great group of men!

St. Lucie County HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START Parent Orientations



ALPI's St. Lucie County Head Start/Early Head Start program conducted three Parent Orientations during the month of August. The orientations helped provide parents an overview of the different services the program offers, different experiences children will have, and how parents will participate throughout the school year.



FACA 35th Annual Training Conference



ALPI's Chief Executive Officer and FACA Board of Directors Chairperson, Deloris Johnson, addresses FACA attendants.



Denise Harlow, CEO, Community Action Partnership, Washington, DC and Deloris Johnson

This year's conference theme was: Strengthening Low-Income Families Through Innovation & Excellence in Performance and Accountability.

ALPI submitted four nominees for the Self-Sufficiency Award, as well as a very large gift basket to be used for fund-raising via a raffle. ALPI was publicly recognized for their four self-sufficiency nominees and for all of the agency's hard work during the past year.

Head Start/ Early Head Start Pre-Service Training

ALPI strongly believes that one of the most important determinants of program excellence is the presence of well-trained, qualified staff. Professional development provided by ALPI establishes a structured approach to staff training and development that is designed to foster relationships and build knowledge and skills. Annual Pre-Service Training was held this year during August 10-13, 2015 at the ALPI Administrative Office Training Site in Fort Pierce, FL.



ALPI STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



This year's Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held in Port St. Lucie, FL. The event is a special time set aside annually to thank the staff and acknowledge their dedication and commitment to the mission and goals of the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. This year's theme was: "ALPI's Winning Team". Theme development competition winners were George W. Truitt Family Services Center (first place) and ALPI Child Development and Family Services Center and ALPI New Horizons (both second place).

Staff were warmly greeted by William Holt, ALPI Board Chairman. Mistress of Ceremony for the event was Christine Samuel, Human Resources Director. Award presentations and closing remarks were made by Deloris Johnson, ALPI Chief Executive Officer.

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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 ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING AND LUNCHEON

WHEN: Saturday, January 23, 2016

WHERE: Orlando, Florida

Look for more information
in the next few months!



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The ALPI Newsletter is a quarterly publication designed
to inspire and inform all employees, volunteers, parents,
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through the years to grow the organization into what it has
become today. We welcome your suggestions, comments,
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