

In This Issue

Frostproof Child Development Center.....	2
St. Lucie County Head Start Centers.....	2
Head Start Awareness Celebration.....	2
Putting a Life Back Together Again	3
William Holt Elected SEACAA President	3
CCAP Designation.....	3
SEACAA 2016 Annual Conference	4
C.A.T. Program Expansion	4
Lincoln Park Head Start Center	4
Education and Child Development	5
ALPI Director Elected to FACA.....	5
Corporate Office Turns Pink.....	5



Head Start is the national commitment to give every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, an opportunity to succeed in school and in life. In the 50 years since its inception, Head Start has improved the lives of more than 32 million children and their families. Head Start alumni - or "Head Start babies," as they often call themselves - are in all walks of the nation's life.

Educators, doctors, lawyers, military personnel, artists, engineers, religious and civic leaders, and scientists - from all across the country - remember Head Start as the place where, at an early age, they acquired a life-long love of learning.

In addition to life and school preparedness, Head Start is also the nation's laboratory for early learning innovation. Head Start offers a unique whole child/whole family program design coupled with a delivery system that includes local

programs, national standards, monitoring, professional development, and family engagement. This has been the basis for many subsequent statewide and community initiatives.

Thirty-four years after proclaiming October Head Start Awareness Month, President Ronald Regan's words still inspire us to celebrate this amazing program: "Perhaps the most significant factor in the success of Head Start has been the involvement of parents, volunteers, and the community. Their commitment and the services provided by dedicated Head Start staff have been instrumental in creating a quality program that truly provides young children with a 'head start' in life." The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. is proud to share in the Head Start legacy and congratulates Head Start on its 34th Annual Head Start Awareness Month.

CEO's CORNER

HEAD START Awareness Month

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. Every October we celebrate the long and successful history of Head Start since October was first proclaimed Head Start Awareness Month by President Ronald Reagan on October 22, 1982.

In honor of Head Start Awareness Month, the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc., has joined the Region IV Head Start Association, Inc. and the National Head Start Association in launching the Dollar Per Child (DPC) 2016-2017 Campaign! What better way to celebrate than by ensuring that we can continue to raise awareness through advocacy for more years to come! With only a dollar per child donors can help ensure that the 1 million enrolled Head Start children and families have a voice in the halls of Congress, in their state capitals and in the media! Anyone interested in learning more about the Dollar Per Child campaign may contact me directly at 863-956-3491 (ext. 206) or at djohnson@alpi.org. Further information will also be posted at www.alpi.org.

A recent article in the Washington Post¹ noted that "Thousands of Head Start alumni all over the country credit the program with giving them the tools they needed to pursue successful lives and careers. The thread running through all of these stories is that the early exposure to education, and to a love of learning, has stayed with these students throughout their lives. For more than 50 years, Head Start has improved the lives of more than 30 million children and their families". It is clear that every Head Start classroom across this nation is

Continued on page 2



filled with children with incredible promise. Head Start alumni have gone on to become business owners and artists, musicians and doctors, teachers and even Members of Congress. For instance, Danny Glover is a proud Head Start parent. The son of a teacher and delivery truck driver, Chris Rock attended Head Start in Brooklyn, New York. Other prominent alums include: Darren Walker, President of The Ford Foundation, the second largest philanthropic organization in the world; Shaquille O'Neal, former professional basketball player and current television sports analyst; Anna Maria Chavez, the first Latina CEO of Girl Scouts of the United States of America; U.S. Secretary of Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell and many others.

Our Head Start children and families deserve the highest quality services from the most capable organizations, which is exactly what ALPI strives to be each and every day. Despite the challenges that often face our children and families, ALPI staff provide a consistent, caring, and stimulating environment to meet the educational and developmental needs of all our Head Start children. It's all about making sure that each child in Head Start has an equal shot at the American dream.

Congratulations Head Start and on behalf of the 831 Head Start and Early Head Start children and families served by ALPI I extend a sincere "Thank You".

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive Officer & Editor

¹ Read the full Washington Post article here:
<http://wpo.st/74S82>

FROSTPROOF CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER Celebrates Head Start Awareness Month

For over 50 years Head Start has been an intricate part of communities around the United States, Frostproof being among them. ALPI Frostproof Child Development Center is one of the first Head Start programs in Polk County and has been serving families for over 51 years. As we celebrate Head Start Awareness this month, we celebrate because we know Head Start Works - we see it every day in our families. We have families like Mr. Quan Rushing and Brijuna Barnett who are relatives - both were children at the Frostproof CDC and now are active members of the ALPI Policy Council and volunteer at the center. In addition, they have children and grandchildren currently enrolled. ALPI's Early Head Start program is the only one of its kind in Polk County - another unique fact that ALPI is very proud of.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY HEAD START CENTERS

Support Breast Cancer Awareness



In an effort to support October Breast Cancer Awareness, all ALPI St. Lucie County Head Start Centers participated in activities showing their support in different ways. Community representatives visited the different centers to speak to the children. All ALPI Head Start Centers held parades, created balloon art and painted/decorated pink t-shirts. The children also performed original skits for their parents. The Garden Terrace Head Start Center also had the Sheriff's K-9 Unit make a presentation.

ALPI's

Head Start Awareness Celebration

ALPI's St. Lucie County Head Start held its 2016 Head Start Awareness Celebration on October 17, 2016. The event was held at the ALPI Administrative Complex at 2202 Avenue Q, Fort Pierce, FL. The celebration was planned with the children in mind! It was a day filled with all kinds of fun. Activities included face painting, games, cake walks, potato sack race, Zumba/music and much more. Parents had access to helpful information and community resources. Over 150 staff members participated in organizing and managing the event. This year a record 300+ families were in attendance. It was a wonderfully memorable event enjoyed by parents and children alike.



Putting a Life Back Together Again

Armyr Quinones has been enrolled in ALPI's Family Self Sufficiency Program Since April 2015. In that short time span, Ms. Quinones and her six-year-old daughter Tatiana have gone from being homeless, stressed, and on TANF income to happy and financially more secure.

After living her entire life with a very strict parent, she met and fell in love with a man who could not keep a job and was a recreational drug user. Eventually becoming pregnant, things became even more complicated.

Four months into the pregnancy, the couple moved in with her parents. After a short stay, they found themselves living in Miami after George found a job there. After one year, he lost his job. The couple then moved to California so that George may pursue employment there, but became unemployed again within weeks of arriving. Shortly thereafter, they returned to Florida and George returned to California to look for work. He never returned.

"I was left alone to provide everything for my daughter. Arguments with my mother led us to be out in the streets with nowhere else to go. We were homeless," Quinones said. "After my mother threw us out of the house, my daughter



and I stayed at the homes of different church members." For more than a year, the two bounced around from home to home. Then one day, staff with the Avon Park Housing Authority called to report there was an opening in their transitional housing program.

"I was so happy and excited and I couldn't wait," Quinones said. But she also said these sudden changes were stressful. "All the stuff I needed to do drove me insane, but it motivated

me to find a way to improve my situation and provide a safe and secure place for both of us."

Avon Park Housing authority case manager Toni Salvaaggio referred Ms. Quinones to the ALPI Family Self Sufficiency Program. Her caseworker developed a plan using her existing job training to help her find a job. Ms. Quinones had a bachelor's degree, for example, but the degree was not from a prestigious school and she was having a problem finding steady work with this degree. Initially, the case manager helped her apply for an ALPI job opening, but when she did not get this job, the case plan shifted toward job training as a certified nursing assistant because of the high local demand. After completing her training, Ms. Quinones was hired as a nursing assistant and has been working at Royal Care for over a year. Quinones said. "I am enjoying my job so much that I am contemplating on continuing my education for registered nurse. I would like to thank ALPI and Avon Park Housing Authority staff for their support. Without them, I would not be where I am now. I want them to know how much I appreciate them."



William Holt Wins SEACAA Election

William Holt is the current Chairman of the ALPI Board of Directors and is a committed, life-long community activist.

Congratulations to the newly elected President of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies (SEACAA)! Elected by a landslide, William Holt was greatly honored by the enormous vote of confidence. "The future of poverty in the southeastern United States and throughout America rests in the hands of every member of our communities and I will use this platform to amplify their muffled voices," said Mr. Holt during his address to all those in attendance.

SEACAA has a membership of nearly 200 agencies that represent the interests, issues and concerns impacting the quality of life of families and communities in an eight-state region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

➤ *Congratulations* ◀

ALPI Deputy Director Designated CCAP CERTIFIED COMMUNITY ACTION PROFESSIONAL



On July 1, 2016, Deputy Director Al Miller became the first ALPI staff member, and only the 8th or 9th person in Florida, to be designated a Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP). In a September ceremony at the National Community Action Partnership conference in Austin, Texas. Mr. Miller walked across the stage before an audience of more than 1,000 Community

Action staff to receive his certificate and pin. The CCAP certification process involved the provision of a summary of his accomplishments in Community Action as well as a comprehensive examination that tested his knowledge of the history, goals, and future of community action. The CCAP designation helps distinguish him as a qualified and capable leader and, at the same time, increases the credibility of ALPI in the noble and deserving efforts of the entire CAA network.

ALPI

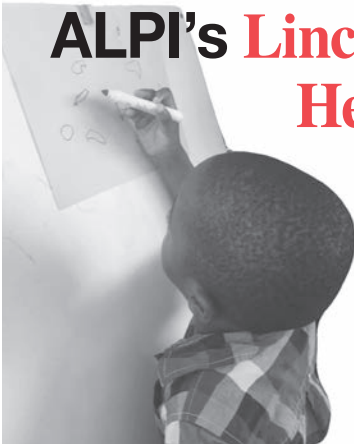
C.A.T. PROGRAM EXPANSION & FOOD PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP



Recently, ALPI's C.A.T. Program was selected from many applicants as the recipient of special funding for EXPANSION of its 2016 Summer Program. Thanks to generous funding by the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, an additional **40 children** were able to attend the 2016 C.A.T. Summer Program!

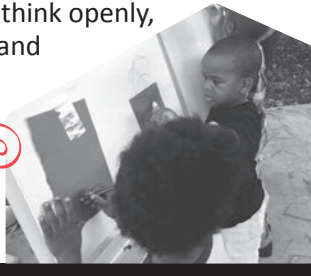
During the same period, a partnership with the Treasure Coast Food Bank also allowed for a Summer Feeding Program Site to be setup at the C.A.T. Program location.

ALPI's Lincoln Park Head Start Center



ART
giving children the opportunity of creativity

Art encourages exploration, self-expression, logical thinking, imagination, creativity and much more. Early art experiences also teach the children to think openly, create new meaning and much more.



VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP



United States Attorney's Office representatives read to the children one hour a month (ALPI Garden Terrace Head Start Center)



The Violence Reduction Partnership is a collaborative effort between the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida and federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as non-profit, faith-based and educational organizations to reduce gun and gang-related violence while enhancing public safety through the integration of evidence-based prevention, law enforcement, and ex-offender reentry initiatives. This specific partnership is between the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc., Head Start and the United States Attorney's Office – Southern District of Florida.

The Violence Reduction Partnership Pre-K Reading Program is a key component of the prevention strategy. The Pre-K Reading Program's goal is to increase children's appetite for reading before they enter elementary school, thereby reducing their risk of early academic failure. Following every reading session, volunteers give the children books to take home. Since 2014, the program has given out more than 11,000 books.

The goals of the reading program are to instill in the students excitement for reading, provide mentorship, prevent academic failure and derail the school-to-prison pipeline. The reading program has expanded to 21 schools throughout the Southern District of Florida, including Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties.

SEACAA 2016 Annual Conference

People, Performance and Partnerships



Ricky Baker (outgoing SEACAA President) and Deloris Johnson, ALPI CEO

The Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies (SEACAA) is a professional organization that provides research and policy development, resources, education and training to ensure progress towards the elimination of poverty and its causes in the Southeastern U.S. Through local, state, and private partnerships and collaboration, member agencies contribute to local economies through a variety of programs and services. The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. is proud to be a member of SEACAA.

This year's annual conference consisted of over 13 workshops, interesting and exciting speakers, guest speakers and keynote speakers, as well as inspiring award recipients.



Education & Child Development Program

Education and Child Development Program services has started off the 2016-17 program year in full swing. Teaching staff returned to three days of pre-service training on areas of child safety, providing high quality care, and building a school family through the Conscious Discipline Program. For the first month of school, teaching staff objectives focused on welcoming children to school and creating classroom expectations. During this time, daily routines were developed and relationships were formed with teachers and peers throughout each classroom.

School readiness continues to be a major goal and requires a dedicated partnership with parents and the community. The curriculum ensures that all activities are developmentally appropriate and provide learning experiences in social-emotional development, approaches to learning, language and literacy, cognition and perceptual motor, and physical development. ALPI's infant/toddler program provides many opportunities for individualized and small group activities that provide adequate opportunities for free choice, play, exploration and sensory/motor experiences. The preschool children also have many opportunities for individual and large/small group learning activities that are planned daily.



The program continues to have an organized developmental scope and sequence that includes various learning experiences based on developmental progressions and how children learn.



ALPI Director Elected to FACA Board of Directors

PaHoua Lee-Yang, ALPI CSBG Economic Development Director, was recently elected to the FACA Board of Directors. As a member of the board, PaHoua will serve as an "At Large" member for 2 years. Being part of the FACA board means that she is now able to work with



other community action professionals to guide the state CAA network family towards meeting the needs of less fortunate families and children in the state of Florida. Additionally, she will be at the forefront of assisting the CAA community to build a stronger network to help empower families

and communities. Ms. Lee-Yang will now be able to share, plan, and support community action around the State of Florida, as well as nationally in its never-ending effort to eliminate poverty in all communities.



In Support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month ALPI Corporate Office Turns Pink for the Day



According to the World Health Organization, breast cancer is the **most common cancer among women worldwide**, claiming the lives of hundreds of thousands of women each year and affecting countries at all levels of modernization. It is a global burden.

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, ALPI organized a myriad of activities to take place throughout the entire agency. Staff planned and organized creative ways to show their support for the all those affected by this disease, either directly or indirectly.



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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE FUNDED IN PART BY:



United Way of Central Florida and United Way of St. Lucie County

SAVE THE DATE

ALPI BOARD MEETING

WHEN: Sunday, November 20, 2016, 10am

WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Downtown Orlando
60 S. Ivanhoe Blvd., Orlando, FL 32804

ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING & LUNCHEON

WHEN: Saturday, January 21, 2017

WHERE: Rosen Centre Hotel
9840 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819

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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