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2016 ANNUAL

CORPORATE MEETING & LUNCHEON



CEO's CORNER

Sustainability

"Sustainability is making decisions that do not have negative consequences for either current or future generations. Under this broad definition, sustainability impacts on a wide range of ecological and human issues, from the preservation of natural resources to a commitment to human and societal wellbeing."

The ALPI 2016 Annual Corporate Meeting & Luncheon theme, **"A Better Tomorrow is Today's Objective,"** is a true assertion that all efforts the organization embarked upon during its 2014-2015 program year continued to provide meaningful opportunities for all people in need to have a sustainable social and economic future.

In this edition of the ALPI newsletter, I am pleased to report notable news and accomplishments demonstrating what The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. has established over time: a social sustainability framework that continues to provide opportunities for all people, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community, to help themselves and each other to secure and maintain self-sufficiency.

My sincere "thanks" to the ALPI Board of Directors (under the leadership of Mr. William Holt), the ALPI employees, service delivery partners and sponsors for your untiring support and participation in our 2016 Annual Corporate Meeting & Luncheon. Together we are making a difference because ... **"A Better Tomorrow is Today's Objective."**

Deloris Johnson
Chief Executive Officer & Editor

ALPI's 2016 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon was held on Saturday, January 23, 2016, at the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This year's meeting marked 48 years of The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. providing services to socially and economically disadvantaged children and families throughout the State of Florida. Over 400 Corporate partners, Board members, and guests attended ALPI's largest annual event. The theme for this year's event was: **"A Better Tomorrow is Today's Objective."**

Mistress of Ceremonies for this year's luncheon was Patricia Gamble of Lakeland, FL (ALPI Board Member). The Welcome and Occasion message was delivered by LaVita Holmes of Clewiston, FL (ALPI Board Member). Words of Inspiration were shared by the Reverend Vernon McQueen of Sanford, FL (ALPI Board Member), followed immediately by the message from the ALPI Board Chairperson, William Holt of Vero Beach, FL.

Guests enjoyed beautiful music performed by Tia Crockett. The event's keynote speaker, Lucas D. Boyce, was introduced by Josephine Howard of Haines City, FL (ALPI Board Secretary).

Lucas Daniel Boyce is the author of *Living Proof: From Foster Care to the White House and the NBA*, published in January 2011. This powerful story follows Boyce, who was a former foster care child born premature to an alcohol and drug addicted teenager, and how he overcame daunting life challenges in pursuit of his dreams. Developmentally delayed as a result of his birth mother's abuse, Boyce struggled and ended up failing kindergarten. However, his adoptive mother didn't cast him aside as another tragic statistic. Instead, Dorothy Boyce instilled in her son principles that drove his determination to overcome the cards he'd been dealt. Boyce is the former Director of Business Development and Legislative Affairs for the Orlando Magic, where his responsibilities included strategic business planning and

Continued on page 2

statewide legislative and government affairs. Prior to the Magic, Boyce served at the White House in the Office of Political Affairs where he managed political activity and key races across the plains southwest region of the United States. He also coordinated proactive communication, public relations and education outreach across diverse communities, constituencies and issues on behalf of the President and much more.

Mr. Boyce described his early childhood in vivid detail, explaining that regardless of whatever disadvantages or setbacks you may be forced to work through, you don't have to, nor should you want to, accept them as anything but opportunities for success. He encouraged guests to be "exactly who they were created to be and do big things, just as God intended." Boyce explained that our call is to be unlike everyone else and that rising above the crowd will only set us apart, empowering us to live a more personally fulfilling life. "Champions and leaders, those who will do big things,



Patricia Gamble
(ALPI Board Member)
Mistress of Ceremonies

those who will help and heal, those who open their minds and hearts will believe and accomplish the impossible. You are a generation rising with tasks of leadership to embrace, because NOW is the time and this is the place." He closed his dynamic and passionate address by challenging everyone to live life at a higher level and be willing to take enormous action toward our goals so that we too may experience success in our lives.

Following the speaker, guests were recognized by Dorothy Curry of Sanford,

FL (ALPI Board Member). Awards and Recognitions were bestowed by Deloris Johnson of Lakeland, FL (ALPI Chief Executive Officer) and William Holt (ALPI Board Chairperson). Program participants were acknowledged by Marjorie Gaskin of Ft. Pierce, FL (ALPI Board Member), with Board installation performed by Jonathan Thiele, Esq. of Lakeland, FL (ALPI Board Counsel). Closing remarks were given by William Holt, ALPI Board Chairperson.

ROBERT J. BRYANT, JR. AWARD

Congratulations Dorothy Curry



The Robert J. Bryant, Jr., Award is presented each year at the ALPI Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon to an ALPI Board Member by his/her peers for outstanding services beyond expectations. This award is presented in the name of the late Robert J. Bryant, Jr., in honor of his outstanding service to ALPI beyond expectation while serving as a board member and chairperson of the ALPI Board of Directors.

The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. takes great pleasure in bestowing this special award to Dorothy Curry. Ms. Curry's commitment, dedication and acumen serves as an example for others to emulate.

Dorothy Curry was born in Port St. Joe near Tallahassee, Florida. She graduated from Crooms Academy and immediately thereafter began working as a sewing machine operator for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Eventually, Ms. Curry was promoted to the administration department, from which she retired after 22 years of service. Retired for more than 19 years now, she has remained extremely active in community activities and still enjoys sewing and crocheting in her spare time. Ms. Curry has served her community in many capacities over the years, including: the Seminole County School Board Parent Advisory Committee (15 years); Central Florida Regional Hospital; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee (20 years); the ALPI Board of Directors (8 years); Crooms Academy Alumni Committee (5 years); Financial Secretary for St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, Sanford, FL (25 years) and St. Matthew's Missionary Baptist Church, Sanford, FL (1 year).

ALPI'S 2016 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The following were awarded during the 2016 Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon

BOARD & SHARED GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

- ALPI Board of Directors Chairperson's Award Recipient: **WILLIAM HOLT**
- Head Start Policy Council Chairperson's Award: **RUSSELL BALASCO**
- ALPI Housing Development Corporation Board Chairperson's Award: **PHILLIP HOWARD**

COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARDS

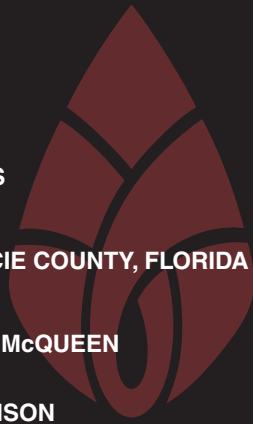
- Eastern Region: **ELDER WALTER BARRON**
- Central Region: **2ND STREET TREE CLUB**
- Southern Region: **ROBERT CALVIN SAFFOLD**
- Northern Region: **DR. VELMA HAYES WILLIAMS**

CORPORATE SUPPORT AWARD

- **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

GOVERNANCE SUPPORT AWARDS

- Board Chairperson's Award Recipient: **VERNON McQUEEN**
- Robert J. Bryant, Jr. Award: **DOROTHY CURRY**
- Chief Executive Officer's Award: **DELORIS JOHNSON**



2016 Board of Directors



Back Row (l-r): William Holt, Patricia Gamble, Patricia Brown, Kimberly Ross, LaVita Holmes, Annie Robinson, Chester McNorton
 Middle Row (l-r): Mercadez Connelly, Dorothy Curry, Glenda Jones, Marva Hawkins, Lester Roberts, Vernon McQueen
 Front Row (l-r): Josephine Howard, Katie Clarke, Ruby Willix, Marjorie Gaskin.
 Board Members Not Pictured: David Walker, Esq. & Annessa Chilous, Stacy Campbell-Domineck and Commissioner Kim Johnson

JOSEPHINE HOWARD, Board Secretary
 Commissioner Roy Tyler - City of Haines City
 Citizen Designee (Polk County)

DOROTHY CURRY
 Commissioner Velma Williams - City of Sanford
 Citizen Designee (Seminole County)

COMMISSIONER KIM JOHNSON
 St. Lucie Board of County Commissioner
 (St. Lucie County)

MARJORIE GASKIN, Board Treasurer
 Commissioner Rufus Alexander - City of Ft. Pierce
 Citizen Designee (St. Lucie County)

BRENDA GRAY-GILES
 Deputy Mayor Brenda Gray - City of Avon Park
 Citizen Designee (Highlands County)

KIMBERLY ROSS
 Commissioner Janet Taylor - Hendry BoCC
 Citizen Designee (Hendry County)

PATRICIA BROWN
 Commissioner John Ahern - City of Moore Haven
 Citizen Designee (Glades County)

WILLIAM HOLT, Board Chairperson
 Eastern Regional Advisory Council
 Chairperson (Indian River County)

ANNIE ROBINSON
 Southern Regional Advisory Council
 Member (Polk County)

ANNESSA CHILOUS
 Southern Regional Advisory Council
 Member (Glades County)

MARVA HAWKINS
 Northern Regional Advisory Council
 Member (Seminole County)

VERNON McQUEEN
 Duke Energy Florida
 Program Manager (Seminole County)

KATIE CLARKE
 Lakeview Park Homeowner's Association
 President (Polk County)

GLENDIA JONES
 Winter Haven Neighborhood Service Center
 Executive Director (Polk County)

STACY CAMPBELL-DOMINECK
 CareerSource Polk
 Chief Executive Officer (Polk County)

DAVID WALKER, Board Vice-Chairperson
 Law Office of David Walker, PA
 Attorney (Martin County)

CHESTER McNORTON
 ATEC Advisory Council
 Member (Volusia County)

MERCADEZ ESTIME-CONNELLY
 Head Start Policy Council
 Member (St. Lucie County)

RUBY WILLIX
 Central Regional Advisory Council
 Member (Polk County)

LAVITA HOLMES
 Southern Regional Advisory Council
 Member (Hendry County)

NORTHERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Northern Region Advisory Council Annual Meeting was held on October 24, 2015 in Sanford, Florida. The main focus of the Northern Region Advisory Council during this operational year was to complete the process for presenting the Grace Miller Scholarship Award and certification of the corporate membership list. The first scholarship award will be presented at the Northern Region Annual Meeting in October 2016.

EASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Eastern Region Advisory Council hosted its Annual Membership and Arie Lou Perkins Scholarship Luncheon on October 17, 2015 in Ft. Pierce, Florida. Accomplishments and activities: raised \$1,500.00 for three Arie Lou Perkins scholarships, three scholarships awarded in St. Lucie County, and ERAC council members assisted with LIHEAP Energy Fairs in St. Lucie and Martin counties during the months of August and September.



SOUTHERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The SRAC Annual Corporate Membership Meeting was held in Frostproof, Florida on October 19, 2015. The Southern Regional Advisory Council is proud to announce the Seigler, Sims & Wade Scholarship for eligible high school graduates. The goal of the Council is to present its first scholarship in 2016. Additionally, summer jobs were coordinated with the CSBG Program for two youth to assist with the Summer Food Service Program.



CENTRAL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Annual Corporate Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, October 3, 2015 in Winter Haven, Florida. Council Members participated in the ongoing 2014-2015 Voters' Registration activities and "LIHEAP Energy Fair", serving approximately 500 families in Lakeland and the surrounding communities. The following committees were established: the Arabell Wiggins Scholarship (*Scholarship Committee*), the Annual Corporate Membership Meeting (*Special Events/Community Relations Committee*) and the upcoming 2016 Presidential Election (*Government Affairs Committee*).

ALPI BOARD MEMBER INVITED TO SPEAK AT BREAKFAST



Josephine Howard,
Board Secretary

Haines City High School, Haines City, FL: ALPI wishes to congratulate Josephine Howard, ALPI Board Secretary, for being honored with an invitation to speak at the recent HCHS Title 1 Parent Involvement Breakfast. HCHS was designated a Title 1 school in 2010. The basic principles of Title 1 state that schools with large concentrations of low-income students will receive supplemental funds to assist in meeting students' educational goals.



ALPI
Head Start
partners with...



ALPI Head Start recently coordinated and facilitated a meet and greet meeting with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties. This meeting helped introduce the new mentoring program at the ALPI Queen Townsend Head Start Center II. The Big Brothers Big Sisters agency will provide one-on-one mentoring to approximately seventy 4-year-old children. ALPI is very excited about this new partnership, which is expected to run through the entire school year.

ALPI 2016 ANNUAL Staff Training Conference



Cynthia Krosky, *Instructor*



Adam White, *Keynote Speaker & Instructor*

Training and development presents a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge base of all employees and provides both the agency as a whole and our individual employees with benefits that make the cost and time a highly worthwhile investment.

This year's training workshops were carefully analyzed and selected to help bring all employees to a common higher level so everyone may have similar skills and knowledge. This helps put everyone on one collective track, working toward set common goals. Our guest speaker and workshop presenters are experts in their fields and possess a great deal of proficiency in their area of expertise.

The training conference began with the traditional staff luncheon, which featured keynote speaker Adam White. Adam White is a renowned personal development trainer and leadership expert. Having spent more than 10 years studying psychology, neuroscience, leadership development and the lives of successful leaders, Adam has positioned himself as one of the top voices in Leadership and Personal Development.

Training workshops included: Zumba Fitness/Nutrition & More (an interactive training session focusing on nutrition and physical well-being); Problem Solving: Its in the Bag (how to bridge the gap between parents, community and/or staff); Improving Listening Skills: Being Healed for Real (how to identify the symptoms of suffering and learning how to deal with it, etc.), as well as many other workshop options. There was something for everyone and everyone had a great time.

ALPI: Helping Turn Tragedy Into Triumph

Tania G. Kocher is a single parent (raising a 13-year-old daughter) who enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSSP) in October 2014. Ms. Kocher was seeking assistance from the agency to complete the Criminal Justice Program at Southeastern University in Lakeland (Polk County).

An inspiring young lady changing her life for the better and becoming self-sufficient.



At the age of 19 she started heading down the wrong path and began a series of run-ins with the law. From 1998 thru 2011, she had been arrested six times on over six charges and was ultimately classified a felon. By this time, she was addicted to heroin, methamphetamine, and alcohol.

While in jail in 2011, a staff member from Hope Now Women's Transition Center met with Ms. Kocher and discussed her life struggles. She then decided to turn her life around and entered the facility for eight months to break the cycle of addiction. Ms. Kocher went from a life of severe substance abuse and chronic incarceration to becoming a productive member of society. She went from no rent (homeless) to paying rent living at the Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS) Housing Program, from a bike rider to a car driver and continues to strive to improve her life through volunteering, working part time, and continuing on with her education.

Ms. Kocher has established goals for herself in life and wants to mentor individuals who are going through the same thing she did and also hopes to one day have a career as a social worker. Today she is a volunteer counselor at Hope Now and is one of the featured stories on their website and agency brochure. Additionally, she is currently in the process of completing a documentary about her life story.

With assistance from ALPI's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Ms. Kocher was able to receive assistance with tuition and other needs she encountered along the way. With help and encouragement from her case manager Sheila Armstead, Ms. Kocher continues to stay focused on all her goals.

ALPI's Community Services Block Grant Program

In 2013, the agency incorporated the Work Experience Program as a service under the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG). The program has been more than a Win/Win proposition for the agency and participating partners.

The Work Experience Program is an employment opportunity program where the agency reaches out to employers in the community, asking them to join in an effort to assist those who are displaced and/or lack work experience.

The agency offers to provide partners with employees for 14 weeks, during which time they will gain skills and knowledge to re-start their work history, gain confidence and brush up on employment skills. If the business partner is pleased with the employee's work performance at the end of the 14 weeks, we ask the partner to consider hiring them permanently.

Employers simply provide 40-hour positions for the clients and ALPI does the rest. ALPI accepts clients into a temporary position and pays their salary at the rate

of \$10.10 per hour, provides weekly communication with employers and clients, purchases uniforms and provides background checks if necessary.

Over the past 3 years, the agency has established partnerships with a diverse group of employers, including: City of Winter Haven, City of Auburndale, Lakeland Housing Authority, Freeway Insurance, Grasshopper Lawn Equipment, Fields Insurance, Winter Haven Housing Authority, City of Lake Alfred, Advance Auto Parts, CL Coating, LLC, Regal Nails, Miss K's Enrichment Center, Jeanni's Preschool, All Learning Childcare, Goodwill of Hendry County and many more.



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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

BOARD MEETING

April 23, 2016
Saturday, 10 am

Chain O' Lakes Complex
210 Cypress Gardens Boulevard
Winter Haven, FL 33880



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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