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**ALPI**

**Head Start Alumni Returns To Visit**

Kaylee Silva is somewhat of a celebrity at ALPI Head Start. Her image was one of 10 selected over 5 years ago for large canvas artworks that are showcased at ALPI Head Start locations.

Elizabeth Balzano and with special fondness, the late Ms. Willie Mae Bacon.

Her mom showed up one afternoon to pick up Kaylee's cousin who attends Queen Townsend Head Start Center II. She was so moved to see her daughter's little preschool face on the walls that she brought her back a short time later to visit.

Mom reports that she is an excellent student and a helpful, well behaved child. Kaylee is now ten, and mom credits her success to her great beginnings at ALPI Head Start. She remembers her teachers,



**CEO's CORNER**

**A Focus On Early Learning**



The first five years of life are a magical time, when the world is full of wonder and possibilities. It's also a time of opportunity, when young minds begin absorbing knowledge that forms the basis for all learning. PNC Grow Up Great Program helps children from birth through age five develop a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime - and can help set them on a path to success. That's why PNC Grow Up Great and PNC formed a \$350 million program dedicated to helping prepare America's youngest learners for great things in school - and life.

Since PNC began the program in 2004, it has distributed more than \$121 million in grants that help young children prepare for school by focusing on readiness in vocabulary development, math, science, financial education and the arts. Through these grants to nonprofit organizations, the program has impacted approximately 3 million children throughout 19 states and the District of Columbia.

I am proud to announce that ALPI Garden Terrace Head Start Center was selected to receive new books and puppet kits through the local PNC Grow up Great Program Initiative located in Ft. Pierce, FL. The Agricultural and Labor Program was also awarded a grant of \$3,000 through the PNC Grow Up Great "Grant for Great Hours" Program. The program recognizes the efforts of exceptional PNC employees who volunteer in support of nonprofit early education and school readiness programs.

**Thank You PNC!**

Deloris Johnson  
 Chief Executive Officer & Editor

**Frostproof Child Development Center 2nd Annual Alumni Picnic**

On June 29, 2017 Frostproof Child Development held its 2nd Annual Alumni Picnic where families who have attended the center over its 49 years of existence are invited back to learn about resources available and what's been going on at the center. This year the center was honored to have FCDC Alumnus Anthony Gordon (pictured at right), Dealer Principle of Jarrod Gordon Ford in Davenport, as special guest speaker. He spoke passionately about his memories of the center and our responsibility to the community and the children. In addition to great food, a raffle was held. Raffle prizes were generously



donated by FCDC partners: Badcock Home Furnishings, Bagwell Lumber Company, First Baptist Hilltop Church, former MLB player Nicholas Gordon, McDonalds (Frostproof), Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Save-A-Lot (Frostproof), former NFL player Alvin Harper, and Mr. Willie Boynton. This year the center honored Mr. Gordon as the Alumni of the Year, Ms. Tanya Knapp as Employee of the Year, and Ms. Shena Hamilton as Parent of the Year.



# Frostproof Child Development Center Hosts Annual Health Fair



Frostproof Child Development Center hosted its 2017-2018 Health Fair on August 4, 2017. Health screenings were provided to the incoming children and parents were able to learn more about program requirements like education, child development, health, mental health, nutrition, disabilities, program governance, family and community partnerships, ERSEA, dental services, pedestrian safety/car seat safety and health screenings.



# A New JOURNEY BEGINS

Congratulations to Elizabeth Young, Deputy Director, Community Services and Economic Development Division, on her recent retirement. Although Mrs. Young retired as of July 28, 2017, she will continue working for ALPI as a consultant, through December 31, 2017.

Elizabeth Young's ALPI journey began as what she describes "a magical way." She picked up information in a grocery store parking lot in Haines City, Florida. The information read "A Project in Progress: A Status Report on the Agricultural and Labor Project of the Coca-Cola Company Food Division." Being a non-traditional thinker with experience in community based projects, she knew she had found her place.

Born in Damascus, Georgia, Mrs. Young attended Daytona Beach Community College and Bethune -Cookman University. She also completed specialized certification programs at University of Bridgeport and University of Massachusetts.

During her tenure at ALPI she has held various positions, including: Grant Writer, Area Manager, Acting Executive Director, Child Care Central Agency Director, Education Coordinator, Early Head Start Director, and Community Services and Economic Development Division Deputy Director. She is grateful for the tremendous support and leadership of ALPI's world-class chief executive officer, under the superb guidance of a dedicated Board of Directors.

When asked what she will miss most, she said "What I appreciate the most about ALPI is management staff's willingness to work together to accomplish goals, objectives and take responsibility for outcomes, positive or negative." She further stated, "My journey at ALPI has provided interaction with staff to help promote critical thinking to ensure that developmentally appropriate practices, inclusive of child safety, was consistently at the forefront at all times to provide an environment conducive to learning."

"My plans now are to spend as much time as possible with my family and especially focus on my beautiful grandchildren. And of course...travel is always in the mix!"



SITTING (L-R): Elizabeth Young, Child Development and Family Services Division, Deputy Director; Deloris Johnson, ALPI Chief Executive Officer.

STANDING (L-R): Mr. Freddie Young; Aletta Stroder, HS/EHS Program Operations (Polk Co.), Director; Albert Miller, Community Services and Economic Development Division, Deputy Director; PaHoua Lee-Yang, CSBG/Economic Development, Director; Cheryl Burnham, LIHEAP/Community Services, Director; Christine Samuel, Human Resources, Director; Twila Smith, Administration & Operations Quality Control Division, Director; Myrna Rodriguez, HS/EHS Program Operations (St. Lucie Co.), Director; and Dennis Gntewek, Finance Director.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: It's Time to **Read!**

**TIME FOR READING!** ALPI Head Start believes that coordinating community engagement is an important part of our daily activities. ALPI Head Start creates and maintains a literacy-rich environment in every classroom through the use of word walls, books, and reading materials. Each classroom possesses a very special setting that encourages and supports speaking, listening, reading, and writing in a variety of authentic ways.

Those at ALPI Head Start understand the most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. Reading aloud builds motivation, curiosity and memory, helps children cope during times of stress or anxiety, creates a positive association with books and reading, and so much more. ALPI Head Start periodically engages community representatives to read aloud to the children in order to model that reading is a great way to spend time and expose children to complex vocabulary that they may not otherwise come across.



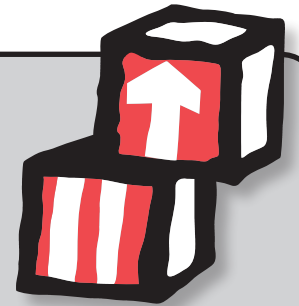
# Back to **SCHOOL**



## Children Return to Frostproof CDC

August 11, 2017 marked the first day of school at the Frostproof Child Development Center. The center had 93% of its children in school on the first day! Many were sad as they had to wave goodbye to their parents, but quickly comforted by the warm and loving ALPI Caregivers. Both caregivers and staff were very excited and ready to receive the incoming children.

## October is **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.

## Garden Terrace Head Start Center Awarded Books and Teaching Resources

**PNC Grow Up Great** is a \$350 million, multi-year, bilingual initiative that began in 2004 to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. To date, the program has served approximately 2.3 million children. Thanks to PNC Grow Up Great, Head Start teachers are now eligible to register for DonorsChoose.org! DonorsChoose.org allows anyone to help a classroom in need with the goal of moving us closer to a nation where students in every community have the tools and experiences they need for a great education. Teachers from every corner of America create classroom project requests, which are then posted on DonorsChoose.org and funded by donations from individual donors or corporate or foundation partners.

PNC Foundation funded hundreds of pre-K classroom requests as part of a new, \$5 million grant to DonorsChoose.org to give teachers the resources and experiences they need to inspire their students' love of learning. Teacher requests for educational resources range from books to art supplies, science equipment, field trips and more, according to DonorsChoose.org. Frequent requests include technology and visits from specialized educators.

A recent donation of \$504,000 flash funded 849 projects in public and charter pre-K classrooms in 22 states and Washington, D.C., where PNC does business. The PNC Foundation's gift also enables DonorsChoose.org to include project requests from Head Start teachers for the first time in its 17-year history. As a result of this flash funding, ALPI Garden Terrace Head Start Center was awarded a generous amount of beautiful new children's books and other teaching resources. These items will serve as exciting new learning tools for all the children at Garden Terrace.

"Head Start supports our nation's most vulnerable children by offering a comprehensive, high-quality early learning experience that prepares them for kindergarten and strengthens family participation in their children's learning," said Yasmina S. Vinci, executive director, National Head Start Association. "Our research shows almost all Head Start teachers are spending their own dollars on basic resources for students. This is a great opportunity to empower Head Start teachers to secure the resources needed to maximize the Head Start advantage."



# MAXIMIZING THE HEAD START ADVANTAGE



# ALPI 2017 SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

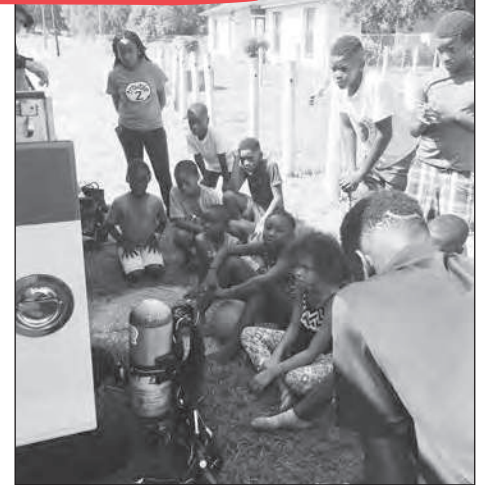
The ALPI Child Development and Family Services Division and Community Services and Economic Development Division continue to collaborate with the Polk County School



Board to provide services to the community of Frostproof through the Summer Feeding and Work Experience Program. The Summer Feeding and Work Experience program provides much needed services to the children of this economically challenged community over the summer break.

This year's program was once again located at the ALPI owned Lakeview Community Center and operated from June 9, 2017 thru July 28, 2017. The program provided meals to children between the ages of 1 and 18 years of age and served 75 meals daily (35 breakfast and 40 lunch). A total of 2,475 meals were served during program operation. Adequate supervision and fun educational age appropriate activities were coordinated by ALPI Child Development Services staff between meals and throughout

the day. The program was inspected twice by food program site inspection teams and ALPI is pleased to announce no findings were reported and the program was found to be in full compliance. Through the Summer Work Experience program the agency was able to employ two youths and provided hands on work experience assisting with feeding the children and activities at the center. This year a team of professional barbers from Faded Fresh Barber Shop in Lake Wales visited the program and provided free back-to-school haircuts.



## ALPI C.A.T. PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR AIDE *Selected for Distinguished Washington, DC Internship*

Juan Rangel is the After School Instructor Aide at ALPI's Computer Assisted Tutorial Program (C.A.T.). A "Beyond the Bell" program, ALPI's Computer Assisted Tutorial Program is an after school and summer enrichment program designed to help keep kids off the streets, increase positive decision making skills and improve academic performance.



The Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) recently announced a new partnership with the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association (NMSHSA), a division of the Head Start organization which focuses on providing resources such as education, healthcare, and childcare to agricultural migrant workers and their families. CHLI is a Washington, DC based organization advancing the Hispanic community's diversity of thought. It is the premier

organization founded by Members of Congress to advance the Hispanic community's economic progress with a focus on social responsibility and global competitiveness.

As a result of the partnership with Head Start, CHLI awarded a summer internship to our very own Juan Rangel. In addition to working for ALPI's C.A.T. program, Juan also attends Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, FL. Juan believes that his position with the ALPI C.A.T. program has provided him with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of young children. His long term goal is to serve college students as an Athletic Director.

Juan's parents emigrated from Mexico in 1992 and worked as migrant farmers in Florida. His father had to travel to the Carolinas and New York for large portions of the year in order to provide for the family. They harvested oranges, apples, and tobacco and worked year-round. Because his parents had to be out in the fields almost every day, Juan and his siblings were often under the care of the East Coast National Migrant Seasonal Head Start program. "I am very happy to have been given this opportunity by NMSHSA and CHLI to start off my professional career," Juan said of his internship placement.

***Congratulations to Juan on having been selected for this internship ... it is indeed a great honor.***

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SAVE THE DATE

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## ALPI 50th ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING & LUNCHEON

Look for more information on our website [www.ALPI.org](http://www.ALPI.org)

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