



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

# community **Action** *QUARTERLY* Newsletter

**PARTNERSHIP**

**AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK**

SUMMER ISSUE 2017

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## THE *Seed* OF *Self-Sufficiency*

**CEO's CORNER**

**EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS:  
*To Be Or Not To Be***

A partnership is an arrangement between two or more groups, organizations or individuals to work together to achieve common aims. The term is now widely used and sometimes it's applied to situations where one powerful organization is doing no more than consulting with others, or where one organization is simply buying something off another. But these are not real partnerships in the true sense. So what distinguishes such interactions from a true partnership? **Tips for successful partnerships:** Partnerships have great potential for advancing a cause, tackling difficult issues and accessing funding. The key is to use your judgement and management skills and try to follow best practice wherever possible. **Keep your eyes on the prize:** Any funder is going to want to know that what has been funded is actually taking place. In addition, the funder may have assessment or evaluation criteria that must be built into the design of the partnership. Try to determine in advance what the expectations are, what systems are to be used for data gathering and what measures of success are important to the funders.

It is the belief of The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI) that meaningful partnerships enhance community engagement, increase community awareness of the issues being addressed and establish a framework for the continued support of services that support community advocacy efforts. This includes the creation and expansion of programs and services, changing public policies, laws, and practices to improve the lives of families seeking a hand up. Over the years, ALPI has partnered with over 300 different agencies in the State of Florida and currently maintains LIHEAP, CSBG and Head Start/Early Head Start subcontract agreements with over 16 different non-profit organizations in 7 counties in the State of Florida. **PARTNERSHIPS WORKS!**

Deloris Johnson  
*Chief Executive Officer & Editor*

On a recent Saturday evening I was sitting in an auditorium waiting for the performances to begin, looking through the playbill at the names of the young performers and I happened upon the name of K., a seventh grade trumpet player. I recognized the unique name as the sibling of a student from my first year as a Head Start teacher. I had K.P.'s younger brother, O., in my class as well that year. This was a family that struggled tremendously for stability. Only the dad was employed, part time, mom had not finished high school. They had a third child who had a host of medical issues and mom was pregnant again by the close of the school year. I recalled how hard it was to keep the family in the program; they moved frequently and the father abandoned the family by the time the third brother, D. became my student at ALPI Head Start. We worked hard to keep them with us, teaching staff, FSW Ana Williams and CDSM. As with many families, we sent D., off to kindergarten with our hopes and best wishes for some success.

Clearly, there was success. K.P. was there on stage, first year student, a seventh grade trumpet player. This event requires that a student be recommended by his band director because of his technical achievements in music and his dedication to the band program. He has to be approved and selected to be part of the event. He has to



be academically sound in all of his classes because rehearsal requires being excused from school for several days. K.P. was all of these things, apparently, because he was seated there with peers from surrounding counties who likely came from economically and socially less challenging circumstances. In the audience, many rows ahead of me and out of my reach was his family, cheering him on, the younger brothers looking healthy and wearing tee shirts from other school activities. A family had survived, intact. A successful family intact. The music was never more beautiful.

Rarely do we have opportunities to see the seed of self-sufficiency grown into a family that is established, a family flourishing. We must all remember there is an abundance of treasure in every small investment of time and effort that we make.

Ellen M. Bradley  
*Child Development Services Manager II,  
 ALPI Queen Townsend Head Start Center II*



## A Trip Down Memory Lane...

The Agricultural and Labor Housing Development Corporation, Inc.

During the 1991-92 program year, The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. began to pursue a longstanding need for decent, sanitary, low-cost rental housing for farmworkers and their families. ALPI contracted the Danter Company, Inc. to conduct a market analysis of affordable rental housing in Polk County. A very severe shortage of affordable rental housing for migrant and seasonal farmworkers was identified. During the Spring of 1992, ALPI, with the assistance of Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc., developed and submitted a pre-application for farmworker housing to the Department of Agriculture. ALPI's proposal was to build a 57 farmworker families apartment complex composed of multi-sized, single family units. The development would also include a management office, day care center, play area, laundry facilities, community room and storage area. A new corpora-

tion was born: The Agricultural and Labor Housing Development Corporation, Inc.

On December 29, 1993, ALPI was notified by then Congressman Charles T. Canady of the 12th Congressional District that the project was approved.

Today, the apartment complex continues to provide affordable housing for qualifying residents and historically runs at maximum occupancy.



## ALPI CEO honored with prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award

ALPI Chief Executive Officer, Deloris Johnson, was presented with the 2017 Community Action Heroes of Excellence Award during the Florida Association for Community Action (FACA), Inc. 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference held in Jacksonville, Florida. Recipients of this prestigious award must demonstrate steadfast service to the Florida Community Action Network over a period of 20 years or more. In addition to time in service, recipients must also have contributed significantly in the areas of combating poverty, advocating for issues affecting low-income individuals, and/or serving in a management, leadership or governance role. Congratulations to Ms. Deloris Johnson on this lifetime achievement award.



Left to Right: PaHoua Lee-Yang, CSBG/Economic Development, Director; Deloris Johnson, ALPI Chief Executive Officer; and, Albert Miller, Community Services and Economic Development Division, Deputy Director.

## 2017 COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP Annual Convention



The 2017 Community Action Partnership Annual Convention was held this year in Philadelphia, PA. The theme was: Community Action: Transforming Communities, Changing Lives. The event brought together Community Action leaders, board members, staff, and volunteers from across the nation. More than 100 educational workshops were offered, in addition to inspirational presenters and fresh, new innovative approaches to transforming families and communities. Participating ALPI staff were also able to experience an exceptional presentation on the proposed federal budget and advocacy-related issues facing Community Action.





# 2017 SHE KNOWS WHERE SHE'S GOING Award



Congratulations to Christine Samuel, ALPI Human Resources Director! Ms. Samuel was recently honored for her community service and concern for girls. She was one of three women selected from among 20 nominees for the 2017 She Knows Where She's Going Award.

This is the 28th year Girls Inc. of Lakeland, the nonprofit group that provides programs and mentorship to mostly low-income youth, has honored women for their community service and concern for young girls.

"We're here today celebrating 20 amazing women," said Kay Fields, president and CEO of Girls, Inc. of Lakeland. "I can't thank the girls enough because without girls there would be no Girls, Inc. I can't thank the parents enough because without the parents, there would

be no girls. And I can't thank the women enough."

Ms. Samuel is the board president of Girls, Inc. of Winter Haven. She has been known to use her own personal story to help girls understand that if she can do it, they can do it too. She was a struggling single mom raising three sons, working two full time jobs, and still managed to go back to school and even find time to volunteer in her community. She proudly embraces the challenges and successes in her life because they helped shape her into the person she is today.

As she received her award and all the accolades that went along with it, she simply said,

*"I believe in my heart  
I was born to serve."*

## School Supplies for Needy Families



On July 18, 2017 the IBM Southeast Employees' Credit Union (IBMSECU) donated school supplies, fresh food, backpacks and \$25 gift cards to 25 children enrolled in the ALPI Head Start Program. The items came just in time as the children transitioned to public schools. The event was held at the ALPI Child Development and Family Services Center located in Port St. Lucie, FL. ALPI Head Start thanks IBMSECU for all their support.

## With Gratitude and Thanks...



The letter below was sent to Sophia Harris, ALPI Client Services Specialist II/Job Developer. Mrs. Harris, like all ALPI staff, believe in making a difference in people's lives by doing "whatever it takes" each and every day.

Dear Mrs. Harris:

I tearfully thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all that you have done for me. Thank you for being so patient with me.

When I came to you, my mom was suffering from breast cancer. I was desperate for help. I needed to help her. You embraced me, encouraged me; you even pushed me ... and I thank you that even when I failed the first part of my test, you encouraged me to try again, and I did Ms. Sophia ... and I PASSED!

I just want to say thank you for always being there ... even when I would walk in your office without an appointment, you welcomed me ... you put everything aside ... and you helped me. You even helped me to get my first job through Bella Vista, and another one at Utopia.

I can't say how much I appreciate this program. Now, I can look forward to making more money to help support myself and my mom!

Thank you again.  
Sincerely, Rashida Burgess

# ALPI Technical Education Center (ATEC)

## Success Stories



For more than 12 years the Agricultural and Labor Program, Incorporated (ALPI) has been operating a vocational/technical center in Volusia County. The ALPI Technical Education Center (ATEC) was first established around 2005 to provide ALPI's farmworker clients with training for an alternative career as Nursing Assistants. Through its license with the Commission for Independent Education, ALPI has provided diplomas to many farmworkers in the Deland area. In 2010, ALPI received licensing for Home Health Aide training. This enabled ALPI to reach more of the community and offer more alternatives in obtaining healthcare related training. Below are two success stories resulting from this program.

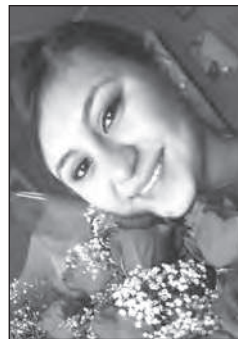
### *Maria D. Avila Lopez*



Born in Zacatecas, Mexico, Maria's parents brought her to the US when she was 3. Her parents were agricultural workers who worked in the fields all their lives. With three children of her own, she knew she had to do something to better her life and thereby, the lives of her children. She never graduated high school, but was prepared to do whatever it took

to turn her life around. She applied for a work permit, which then allowed her to get a driver's license and ultimately a job. She went through the Putnam County Migrant Program/DOE in order to take the ALPI CNA prep and HHA class. Maria was able to then pass the Certified Nursing Assistant state test and today she is a CNA and a Home Health Aide. Maria currently works at Lakewood Nursing Center.

### *Jessica Lopez*



Jessica was born in Mexico City, Mexico and was brought to the United States when she was almost two years old. She and three siblings were raised by her mom (an agricultural worker) and stepdad. She graduated from Taylor Middle High School in Pierson, Florida. Jessica was able to benefit from the DACA (The Dreamers Act) through a two year work permit. She quickly obtained her driver's license and was then ready to seek employment after

graduation. Jessica went through the Putnam County Migrant Program in order to help her pay for her ALPI CNA prep class. She then went on to pass her CNA state certification test and is now working in a nursing home. She is enrolled in the LPN program at Daytona State College. Because of her status, she does not qualify for financial aid, but she is happy to work hard to pay for her classes. She is currently and happily employed at Parkside Rehabilitation Center.

## ALPI 2017 Annual Family Picnic



ALPI staff work very hard all year long serving others and helping to further the agency's mission, which is why this event has become something so many look forward to. ALPI's annual family picnic is a special day set aside every year for nothing but fun, rest, and relaxation. It is a day for staff and their families, along with ALPI Board members, to come together and enjoy a sunny Florida day, great barbeque and lots of camaraderie. This year's picnic was held on June 24, 2017 at Lake Parker Park/Osprey Pavilion in Lakeland, FL.



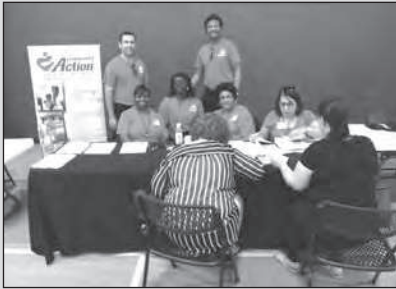




ALPI Participates at

# IRMA

## Recovery Assistance Center



In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) announced his staff would host comprehensive recovery assistance centers throughout Florida. Residents affected by the hurricane were able to sign up for FEMA assistance, as well as visit the “insurance village” comprised of property insurance companies providing on-site assistance with the filing of claims and general inquiries. The event was a public/private partnership of federal and state agencies, charitable organizations and companies gathering to provide critical resources.

ALPI LIHEAP staff attended the Naples event on September 20, 2017. The event was an overwhelming

success in that the number of attendees was unexpected and quickly surpassed even the highest anticipated number. Although many visitors to the ALPI table looking for assistance did not have proper documentation, no one was turned away. Applications were handed out, assistance was provided with completion of the applications, all questions were answered, and visitors were told where to go in order to finalize their application, once they had the required documentation available. In addition, ALPI plans to work with other agencies in the area to schedule a day and location, in the immediate future, for an “Energy Fair”. This will allow ALPI to assist even more members of the community.

Over 32 insurance companies participated in the event, as well as over 22 agencies, organizations and companies ready to provide critical services. The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. is proud to count itself a partner in this critical outreach to the resilient residents of the State of Florida.



## ALPI EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER PROGRAM



ALPI's Emergency Assistance under the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program is a statewide program funded through the Department of Education (DOE) and Florida Non-Profit Housing. This program provides emergency assistance to qualifying farmworkers and their families. Farmworker job duties include field labor, which can consist of picking vegetables and fruits, packing houses and juice plants. These funds can help with: rent assistance (with landlord verification), food vouchers (Publix), water bills, gas bills (cooking gas), electric bills, and gasoline cards.

During the 2016-2017 contract year the following were served: Florida Non-Profit Housing funds (\$24,000): 104 clients served, providing rental, light and water assistance to farmworker families. DOE funds (\$31,200): 313 clients served, providing food cards, gas cards, water and electric assistance to farmworker families.

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

**SAVE THE DATE**

**January 27, 2018**

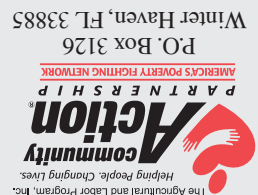
## ALPI 50th ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING & LUNCHEON

*Look for more information in the next edition*

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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