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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**CEO's CORNER**

**EFFECTIVE Community Engagement**

Community engagement is defined as “a planned process with the specific purpose of working with identified groups of people, whether they are connected by geographic location, special interest or affiliation, to address issues affecting their well-being. Linking the term ‘community’ to ‘engagement’ serves to broaden the scope, shifting the focus from the individual to the collective, with associated implications for inclusiveness, to ensure consideration is given to the diversity that exists within any community”.

From that definition, it is easy to see that before you can engage the community, you need to know what you want to accomplish - the work you want to engage the community to help with. You can only determine what approaches will work best when you have defined your reasons for wanting to engage the community in the first place.

The Agricultural and Labor Program utilizes various approaches to promote positive community engagement outcomes to ... **ENERGIZE BOARD** membership and governance; **FIND** and **KEEP** amazing **VOLUNTEERS**; encourage **WHOLE COMMUNITY EMBRACE** of the **ALPI MISSION**; use community engagement as the **SOLUTION** to **BURN-OUT**; build **DIVERSITY** in staff, board and volunteers; and build client sustainability.

The stories featured in this edition of the ALPI Newsletter provide a snapshot not only about the Who, but the What and How ALPI is promoting positive community engagement to make ALPI's **PROGRAMS** and service delivery efforts more **EFFECTIVE** in order to continue moving forward to help people help themselves and each other.

Deloris Johnson  
 Chief Executive Officer & Editor

**PNC Grow Up Great & ALPI Inspiring Great Futures Together**

ALPI and PNC Grow Up Great have begun a new partnership! PNC recognizes that learning in a child's early years is essential for their long-term success. Since PNC began the program in 2004, PNC Grow Up Great has distributed more than \$105 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 2.3 million children throughout 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Grow Up Great initiatives strengthen programming at early education centers serving at-risk children by providing professional development for teachers, enhancing children's classroom experience and further engaging parents in their children's learning. These efforts are supported by strong, long-term cross-sector collaborations



*Continued on page 2*

with national and local organizations, including Sesame Workshop, the Fred Rogers Company, and National Head Start Association, as well as a multi-disciplinary Advisory Council of highly respected early education experts.

There are various programs within PNC Grow Up Great, including: **PNC's Grants for Great Hours:** this program allows individual employees and teams of employees to earn grant dollars for qualified early education centers. Cumulatively, through 2015, Grow Up Great volunteers have earned more than 1,425 individual and team PNC Foundation grants totaling close to \$4.7 million.

**The Mobile Learning Adventure:** a traveling exhibit that provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn about the importance of early childhood education while having fun with their children.

**Growing Up Great Together Under One Big Sky Mobile Planetarium:** features an inflatable dome where children view One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure, a show created by Sesame Workshop to introduce astronomy to young viewers. The portable dome travels to early childhood education centers that are approved Grow Up Great volunteer sites. It provides children the opportunity to experience a planetarium show firsthand.

# ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start POLICY COUNCIL

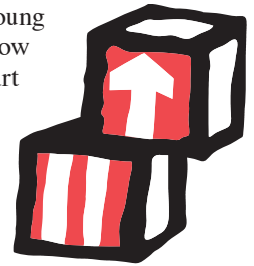



Standing: *Mabel Jones, Jones Connection (Atlanta, GA)*  
Seated from left to right: *Rhonda Boston, Assistant Secretary; Tychus Doe, Secretary; Nijona Patterson, Vice-Chairperson; Corey Breon Williams, Chairperson and Policy Council Board Representative*

The ALPI Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council training took place on October 17 and 18, 2016. Officers and members were seated on October 18, 2016. Training and orientation were provided by Mabel Jones from the Jones Connection in Atlanta, GA. Election of officers were facilitated by Mabel Jones.


Parents on the policy council received a copy of the new Head Start Performance Standards and the Head Start Act. Additionally, they were guided through a thorough review of all regulations. Members were trained on their roles and responsibilities, as well as the decision making process between Board of Directors and the Policy Council.


The new standards will ensure that the nation continues to look to Head Start not only as the leader, but also as a partner in moving early childhood forward. Head Start will continue its commitment to improving the lives of our poorest children through comprehensive services that build on and support the role of parents in the lives of young children, because we know a high-quality Head Start program can change the course of a child's life and engage the entire family.





## ALPI Gives Recognition to Military Veterans





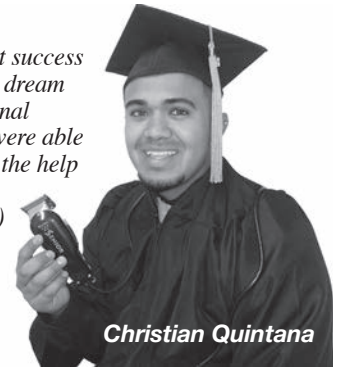
Veterans Day is observed annually on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year, the day the guns fell silent in Europe following the armistice that ended World War I. For some, it's a day off from school or work, but for the majority of Americans, it means so much more. ALPI believes that Veterans Day is an opportunity to thank and honor those who have selflessly served their country, which is why this past Veterans Day we recognized our own ALPI veterans in a personal way by expressing our sincere gratitude and honoring them with a special Certificate of Appreciation!

# ALPI Helps Three Young Men Achieve Their Dreams



*a cut above*

What follows are three short success stories of young men whose dream was to become a “professional barber.” These young men were able to achieve their dream with the help of their ALPI Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSSP) case manager and KOE Barber Academy in Mulberry, FL.



**Christian Quintana**

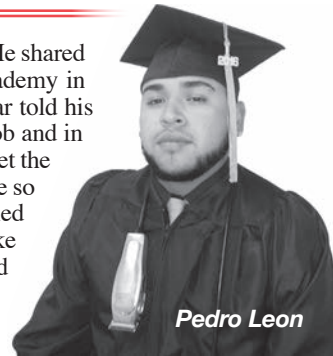


**Oscar Rosales**

**O**scar was living with his girlfriend, one year old son and his sister while working part time and receiving a weekly income of only \$175.00. He wanted to have a better life, but needed additional funds to complete the barber class at KOE Barber Academy. Oscar told his case manager that eventually he wanted to open his own barbershop. He was able to receive assistance through the FSSP for both his tuition and barber supplies. Oscar successfully completed the program, obtained his license and is currently working at Miami Cuts in Lakeland, FL. Oscar thanked case manager Sheila Armstead, who drove to Mulberry regularly to meet with him, and ALPI for providing the funding for the tuition and supplies.

**C**hristian was living with his fiancé and their newborn son while employed part time at a packing company when he made the decision to change his life for the better. Christian told his case manager he wanted to be able to live on his own, open his own barbershop, live the American dream and help his parents pay their mortgage. Working with his case manager, Christian was able to receive services for tuition, barber supplies and the state board exam fee. Christian passed the state exam, obtained his license and is currently employed full time at Toni’s Barbershop in Plant City, FL. Christian thanked his case manager and ALPI for the services he received to help him achieve his dream.

**P**edro was living with his fiance when he contacted the ALPI FSSP. He shared with his case manager that he was attending the KOE Barber Academy in Mulberry but needed assistance with tuition and barber supplies. Oscar told his case manager that he wanted to finish school, obtain a better paying job and in the future hopefully open up his own barbershop. Pedro was able to meet the requirements to enter the FSSP and was able to receive the assistance he so desperately needed. Pedro successfully completed the program, obtained his license and is currently working at Miami Cuts in Lakeland, FL. Like his other classmates, Pedro is also grateful for the assistance he received from ALPI and his case manager and acknowledges that without this assistance he would never have made it.



**Pedro Leon**



## ALPI REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

### NORTHERN REGION

During the past year, the Northern Region Advisory Council continued to be dedicated and committed to the Agricultural and Labor Program’s Mission: To propose, implement and advocate developmental and human services delivery programs for socially and economically disadvantaged children and families as well as farm workers.

The council joined ALPI’s three other advisory councils, Head Start Policy Council and ATEC council for the Annual Board of Director’s Program Governance Orientation. The governance orientation was held in Winter Haven, Florida at the Chain O’ Lakes Complex on February 27, 2016.

The orientation emphasized compliance with the organization’s mission and out-

lined the function of the advisory councils as well as the overall governance related function of the organization. Emphasis was placed on standard meeting dates and terms and function of the advisory councils.

As a result of the orientation, the Northern Region Advisory Council and the ATEC council were charged with developing the merger of the councils together to form one Northern Region Advisory Council. As a result of the merger of the two councils, during their first meeting, the combined council began to focus on location of the meeting facility, reclaim past council members, and focus on “making the difference in our communities.”

The council’s volunteer hours in the community include working with youth

inmates, volunteering in public schools, federal government initiatives with the Office of Elections as poll workers and greeters, volunteering in hospitals and assisting with many other activities and events in the community. The total documented hours incurred in community work for the total membership is documented at 3,519.

The Northern Region Advisory Council’s outlook on community service is that the group is dynamic and constantly “on the move.” Never standing still, the council continued to volunteer community hours, helped engage neighborhoods and community involvement, celebrated community service accomplishments, launched the “First Scholarship Award” and much more!

# ALPI REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

## SOUTHERN REGION

The past year started with the Southern Region Advisory Council's annual meeting held in Frostproof, Florida on October 19, 2015. The Advisory Council also participated in the following Agency sponsored activities: Annual Board of Directors Planning Retreat in Orlando, FL, Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon in Orlando, FL, recognition of Robert Saffold as the recipient for the 2016 Community Service Award, Shared Governance Orientation in Winter Haven, FL, Annual Family Picnic in Clewiston, FL, bi-monthly Southern Region Advisory Council meetings held in March, May and August, designated special events, and bi-monthly Board of Directors meetings in April, June and September of 2016.

Services provided in the council's service areas of Frostproof, Avon Park, Sebring, Lake Placid, Lake Wales, Fort Meade, Wauchula, Clewiston, LaBelle, Moore Haven, Naples and Immokalee were as follows:

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) served **2,638** low-income families and direct assistance payments were **\$985,010.58**.
- Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) served **431** low-income families and direct payments were **\$70,123.98**.
- The Emergency Assistance Program provided services to **169** farmworker families in the areas of home energy and/or rental assistance and direct assistance payments were **\$26,018.41**.

In 2016 three ENERGY FAIR EVENTS were held in the Southern Region Advisory Council's service areas, specifically the "B" Street Community Center in Lake Wales, the Boys and Girls Club in Sebring and the Lake View Park Community Center in Frostproof. The support of the Southern Region Advisory Council was invaluable in making sure that all those in need received the assistance they needed.

The Frostproof Child Development Center provided Early Head Start services to **56** children and their families. The Jumpstart Development Center (Lake Wales) provided Early Head Start Services to **20** children and their families. The Summer Food Service Program was held at the Lakeview Park Community Center in Frostproof, FL where **2,625** meals (breakfast and lunch) were served from June 15, 2016 through July 29, 2016. Summer jobs were also coordinated with the CSBG Program for three youth to assist with the Summer Food Service Program.

The Southern Region Advisory Council is proud to announce the first recipients of the Seigler, Sims & Wade Scholarship. They are: Ms. Destiny Smith and Mr.



Ja'Quez Pugh. Ms. Smith is from LaBelle, FL and is attending Florida Southwestern State College, after which she plans to transfer to FAMU in Tallahassee, FL. Mr. Ja'Quez Pugh is from Clewiston, FL and is attending Full Sail University in Winter Park, FL. Both scholarship recipients received \$500.00.



# ALPI REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

## EASTERN REGION

The Eastern Region Advisory Council hosted its annual meeting and Arie Lou Perkins Scholarship luncheon on October 15, 2016 at ALPI's Queen Townsend Training Center in Ft. Pierce, FL. The theme was "ALPI .... Paving The Way In Unity". Mistress of Ceremony for the event was Mercadez Estime-Connelly, council member. The keynote speaker was Dr. Donna Mills, St. Lucie County School Board. Dr. Mills inspired the parents to be their child's first teacher. Ms. Khalia Brevett, Head Start parent, shared her amazing story with all those in attendance. All six of ALPI's Head Start centers in St. Lucie County participated in the program. The highlight of this annual meeting is the presentation



of scholarships to deserving students in the community. This year, Marjorie Gaskin (scholarship chair) and her committee did an outstanding job with their fundraising activities to ensure sufficient monies to grant three \$500 scholarships.

The scholarships were awarded to: Tyler Gather, Jane Clement and Naderia Davis. Each advisory member received a plaque for their volunteer service. Mrs. Marjorie Gaskin was also awarded a certificate of appreciation for her exemplary dedication and untiring efforts. The meeting was very well at-

tended by parents, staff, corporate and community members.

There were many successful accomplishments and activities over the past year, including: raising \$1,500.00 for three Arie Lou Perkins scholarships, awarding three scholarships in St. Lucie county, processing six new corporate applications, meeting all required timelines, conducting fundraisers, assisting with a 2-day LIHEAP Energy fair in St. Lucie county, planned and attended annual corporate meeting and luncheon, attended the Board of Director's Planning Retreat, attended Shared Governance Orientation and other local, state and national events on behalf of ALPI.



# ALPI REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

## CENTRAL REGION

Continuing the long-standing tradition of commitment to community service, the Central Region Advisory Council participated in many agency sponsored activities, including: Annual Planning Retreat, Annual Corporate Meeting and Luncheon, Shared Governance Orientation, Annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon, and much more. Council members also participated in ongoing voter registration activities, as well as LIHEAP energy fairs in both Bartow, FL and Winter Haven, FL.

The annual meeting was held on October 4, 2016 and included a program and business meeting. Keynote speaker was Shawn Kinsey of Winter Haven, FL. This year's theme was "Building Unity in Our Community". The meeting was very well



attended by corporate, staff and community members. Each council member was presented with a volunteer service plaque for their untiring support and service during the program year.

The ALPI Central Region Advisory Council created the Arabell Wiggins Scholarship to be presented each year to an eligible central region high school graduate. The purpose of the scholarship

is to provide an opportunity for the scholarship recipient to take advantage of post-education options to improve their chances of getting a good job and ultimately to secure and maintain self-sufficiency. Ms. Arabell Wiggins was an ALPI pioneer and a retired farmworker who actually walked the orange groves talking to migrant workers encouraging

them to come to meetings in order to create a better way of life for them and their families. Ms. Wiggins served as the chairperson of the Central Region Advisory Council and on the Board of Directors for many years, becoming Board Emeritus. This year, the Central Region Advisory Council proudly presented its annual Arabell Wiggins Scholarship Award in the amount of \$500 to Rodvion Alnord.



## My Circle of Life *By: Charles A. Baker, III*

For the third time in a calendar year families served by the ALPI have been featured in the Highlands News-Sun, a bi-weekly newspaper published in Highlands County. The most recent instance was August 3. Talisha Mitchell recently moved to Highlands County from the Orlando area. She had trouble finding a job, got behind on rent and she came to our Avon Park office recently to ask for help. She was presented a few options: help finding a job, help going back to school for job training and/or help with her court-ordered eviction.

On Saturday August 1, a week or so after Ms. Mitchell asked for help, I ran into her on a football field. Most of you do not know this but I am retiring from social work September 30 and am going back to journalism full time. During the transition period, I have been working as a social worker and a journalist. I was assigned to cover some pee-wee football games and Ms. Mitchell has two sons that play.

She saw me taking pictures, walked over and said, "Hi Mr. Baker, do you remember me?"

I did and we got to talking. She told me what football does to help her children keep their grades up and behave during stressful times. I asked if I could quote her for the newspaper and then she gave me permission to publish her story, both there and for this newsletter article. After the story got published, I called and told her. It wasn't much, just a few lines hidden in a football story, but Mitchell said she was going to cut it out and save it for her scrap book. Maybe she will save this article out also.

"I really appreciate you calling to tell me it was published and to remind me what I need in terms of help going back to school," Mitchell said. "It shows you care." Ms. Mitchell was scheduled to attend our Family Self Sufficiency orientation as she wants help becoming a nurse.

I'm going to miss this part of social work but honestly, I get positive feedback from my journalism as well, just a different kind.

On July 20, an editor published a story I wrote about the Dixie Youth baseball state championships. Before the game started, I recognized former a FSSP client and walked over to say hello. ALPI helped Claudia Regino get through LPN classes in 2014 and I wanted to follow up and see how she had been doing since we closed her case out as a success.

Mrs. Regino said that after, she put herself through RN school and that she is now working as a registered nurse. I asked if she had a son on the team. When she said yes, I decided to try and get him in the newspaper just because I could. Her husband is an assistant coach on the team and I got his picture in the newspaper as well.

I liked knowing that I helped Mrs. Regino get through school and now I'm getting her son in the newspaper. It felt like the Lion King circle of life. Shortly after it was published, Mrs. Regino expressed her thanks on my Facebook journalism page.

Josh Regino and the Sebring "O" Zone all-star team went on to win the state championship. They play in the Dixie Youth "O" Zone all-stars World Series in Laurel, MS in August 2016.

The third time I helped an ALPI client make the newspaper is perhaps my favorite. On September 15, 2015, the Highlands News-Sun published a piece about client Yaritza Davila being named the SEACAA Family Self Sufficiency Client of the year.

I helped the agency win that award in 2014 also. My write-up of the event didn't make the newspaper but it got published in the Avon Park Housing Authority and ALPI newsletters.

I'm normally not one to bring attention to myself. But after six years working with ALPI, I wanted to say some of these things before I retired.

To Ms. Johnson and all of my co-workers, thanks! I have learned many great things, have grown as a human being met many great people since being hired. Don't be sad that I'm retiring, be happy for me.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

### CORPORATE OFFICE

P.O. Box 3126  
Winter Haven, Florida 33885  
(863) 956-3491  
(863) 956-3357 Fax  
Admin@ALPI.org

### Executive Office

Deloris Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Extension 206  
DJohnson@ALPI.org

### ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS QUALITY CONTROL DIVISION

#### Operations and Quality Control

Twila Smith, Director  
Extension 204  
TSteward@ALPI.org

#### Budget and Finance

Dennis Gniewek, Director  
Extension 210  
DGniewek@ALPI.org

#### Human Resources

Christine Samuel, Director  
Extension 202  
CSamuel@ALPI.org

### COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Albert Miller, Deputy Director  
Extension 212  
AMiller@ALPI.org

#### LIHEAP/Community Services

Cheryl Burnham, Director  
Extension 224  
CBurnham@ALPI.org

#### CSBG/Economic Development

PaHoua Lee-Yang, Director  
Extension 218  
PYang@ALPI.org

Elizabeth Young, Deputy Director  
Extension 215  
EYoung@ALPI.org

#### Eastern Region Administration Office

2202 Avenue Q  
Ft. Pierce, Florida 34950  
(772) 466-2631  
(772) 464-3035 Fax

#### Head Start/Early Head Start Program Operations (St. Lucie Co.)

Myrna Rodriguez, Director  
(772) 466-2631 - Extension 11  
MRodriguez@ALPI.org

#### Early Head Start Program Operations (Polk Co.)

Aletta Stroder, Director  
(863) 635-3396 - Extension 40  
AStroder@ALPI.org



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

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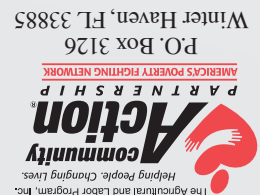
## ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING & LUNCHEON

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 21, 2017

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

Visit [www.alpi.org](http://www.alpi.org) for more information

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