

THE JUNCTION

The Public Service Grant Newsletter

March 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

City Government and Non-Profit Organizations Meeting the Needs of the Community

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Greetings from the Director of the Recreation and Community Services Department

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to present this first issue of the Public Service Grant Newsletter. It is our hope that the newsletter will be a voice and showcase for the organizations the Public Service Grant Program serves, as well as a source of up-to-date program information. The initial goal is for a quarterly publication. At least one of our organization recipients will be highlighted in each issue.

The Grant Compliance Unit works hand-in-hand with the recently appointed Public Service Grant Council to deliver grant dollars to the non-profit community. These grant dollars allow non-profit agencies to provide services to the citizens of Jacksonville that the City might otherwise need to provide directly. The members of the Public Service Grant Council enhance the Public Service Grant process through their abundance of knowledge, wisdom, and tireless work.

We at the City of Jacksonville appreciate the diligence of the local non-profit organizations. Through the collaborative efforts of the City, the not-for-profit community, and the Public Service Grant Council, Jacksonville's most in need population will not be forgotten. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

Warm Regards,

Roslyn M. Phillips
Director

Lessons Learned:

When reviewing applications we often find that documents, signatures or bits of information are missing. Even the most, otherwise, well written application will lose points in the scoring process due to missing information. It's always helpful to have at least one other set of eyes review your applications before submission.

Grant Compliance Unit Staff

- Nancy Kirts, Assistant Management Improvement Officer
- Sue Andrews, Human Services Planner
- Sandy Arts, Human Services Planner
- John Snyder, Human Services Planner
- Linda Platte', Administrative Aide

Public Service Grant Council

- Alberta Hipps, Chairperson
- Gwen Yates, Vice-Chairperson
- Juan Diaz
- John Donahoo
- Ronald Mallett
- Edgar Mathis
- Arnold Tritt

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From the Editor:

We, at the Grant Compliance Unit, hope this newsletter will enhance our relationships with our community of Public Service Grant recipients. Our team consists of Nancy Kirts, Assistant Management Improvement Officer, Human Services Planners, Sue Andrews, Sandy Arts, and John Snyder, and Lynda Platte', Administrative Aide. In addition to other responsibilities, the Grant Compliance Unit administers the Public Service Grant Program.

An independent Public Service Grant Council was created in 2008. All seven members of the council were confirmed by City Council on August 19, 2008. Alberta Hipps serves as the chairperson and Gwen Yates serves as vice chairperson. The other five members are Juan Diaz, John Donahoo, Ronald Mallett, Edgar Mathis, and Arnold Tritt. The Public Service Grant Council meets the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the 8th floor meeting room in the Ed Ball Building. If you haven't attended in the past, please try and attend as your time allows. The agenda is posted in advance on our website, in addition to minutes and other helpful information.

With the Mayor's declaration of January 26, 2009 as "daniel Day" in Jacksonville, Florida, it is appropriate that daniel's Project Prepare is highlighted as the success story for our first issue. The January 26 event launched a 125-day celebration leading up to the agency's official birthday on May 30, 2009. Cathy Turner, Director of Project Prepare, has provided us with a heartwarming story.

Our initial issue also highlights WE CARE and introduces its first executive director, Dr. Sue Nussbaum. Her arrival was much anticipated by her able staff, lead coordinator, Freddie Webster, R.N. and patient coordinator, Brenda Jordan. Dr. Nussbaum's first few days on the job included work on WE CARE's 2010 PSG application.

Please send me your success stories and events or information that you would like posted. In addition, your ideas will always be appreciated. At this time, the newsletters will only be available through our website. For all Public Service Grant information, go to www.coj.net, click on the site index, and scroll down to Grant Compliance Office.

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UPDATE on Public Service Grant Application:

The deadline for the receipt of Public Service Grant Applications for FY 2010 was March 13, 2009 at 4 p.m. This year 52 organizations submitted a total of 60 program applications. Of those 52 organizations, 13 did not receive Public Service Grant funds for FY 2009. The 2009 fiscal year Public Service Grant budget was \$2,452,216.00. Applicants have requested \$4,191,659.92 for FY 2010. All applications will be scored by April 17, 2009. Letters have been mailed to applicants giving them the optional opportunity of an oral presentation before the Public Service Grant Council on April 21, 2009. The funding for the Public Service Grant Program will be determined this fall upon approval of the Mayor's budget.



**"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."
Albert Einstein**

Good News: daniel's Project Prepare

The recent good news we'd like to share with you relates to daniel's nationally –acclaimed Project Prepare program. This unique program's mission is to assist homeless youth between the ages of 16 to 21 to become self-sufficient members of the community by helping them secure stable housing and employment, teaching them life skills, and supporting educational goals.

Mariah Fortune-Johnson has been enrolled in Project Prepare since January 14, 2008. Mariah has lived at the Independent Living Village since March 17, 2008 moving into her own apartment on her 17th birthday. Since enrolling in Project Prepare, Mariah graduated from Wolfson High School with honors. Mariah is currently a full-time student at the University of North Florida, majoring in accounting. Mariah also works at Edwards Counseling on University Blvd. She started out riding her bicycle

to school and work stating, "I ride my bike because the city bus is just too slow."

Since enrolling in Project Prepare



Mariah has met all of the program requirements. She has exceeded the community service requirements of completing 5 hours a month, by completing additional hours at Dignity U Wear on Saturdays, and also volunteering at a school carnival. She has also completed community service at the Second Harvest Food Bank, Humane Society, and ran in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Mariah has met the requirements of attending 2 Independent Living Skill Groups a month. She has also opened a savings

account and is able to manage her own account. Mariah has learned to make a budget and tries hard to stick to it. She has matured immensely since enrolling in Project Prepare.

Mariah is a smart and very bright young lady who accomplished so much even before her 18th birthday. She is defiantly trying to make a better future for herself. Mariah is now the proud recipient of a 1999 Saturn, that was donated to daniel by a very generous donor. Having her own car benefits Mariah in so many ways; she no longer has to stand and catch the bus or ride her bike on cold mornings or in the rain. Mariah's positive attitude and hard work have truly paid off for her since enrolling in daniel's Project Prepare and Independent Living program. We at daniel are very proud of her.

Submitted by: Cathy Turner,
Director of Project Prepare

Recession-Inspired

Job losses are never easy to cope with, but some Americans are turning a discouraging event into an opportunity to give back to the community.

Volunteering can offer the unemployed an opportunity to share their talents and energies with others, as well as boost their own sense of self-worth.

"To be able to go there and be busy working and make a difference, it's provided good mental stability and support," single mom Leah Magee of Nashville told the *Tennessean*.

Since she lost her job in December, Magee has been spending 25 hours per week helping out at a nonprofit community theater, according to the newspaper.

In addition to gaining a sense of accomplishment, some people view volunteering as an opportunity to meet people who may help them get back into the workforce.

Unemployed volunteer Jennifer Whiddon of Mobile, Alabama told Reuters she is confident that in the future "making the connections will pay off."

Figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 22 percent of unemployed Americans engage in some sort of volunteer work.

Source URL: <http://www.guideposts.com/story/recession-volunteer>

WE CARE Gets First Executive Director

WE CARE Jacksonville, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1993 by community advocates to facilitate adult access to specialty medical care. WE CARE serves individuals who are uninsured and at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty level. WE CARE is a community partnership of volunteer health care professionals and community volunteers. In addition, WE CARE supports ten local volunteer primary care clinics with diagnostic tests and medications for patients who seek care for acute and chronic illnesses. From October 2007-September 2008, WE CARE assisted 1,777 patients with referrals to a specialty physician and provided over 3 million dollars of donated medical care and resources.

Specialty physicians include orthopedists, general surgeons, gastroenterologists, and other doctors who

provide the next level of care for patients who have visited a primary care physician. Volunteer primary care physicians diagnose acute illness and help patients with diabetes, hypertension and other chronic illnesses that require careful follow-up. The number of patients requiring these services is expected to rise significantly this year due to worsening economic conditions.

Recently, WE CARE hired its first Executive Director, Dr. Sue Nussbaum, to lead the organization as the needs of the uninsured grow. Dr. Nussbaum has over 25 years of experience in health care. Freddie Webster, R.N., WE CARE's lead coordinator, has guided patients to specialty care for 7 years and has touched the lives of many patients who fall through the cracks. Brenda Jordan also serves as a patient coordinator and uses her communication and computer skills to



Brenda Jordan, Dr. Sue Nussbaum, Freddie Webster

navigate the health care community. WE CARE can be contacted at 904-253-1640.

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.":
Helen Keller**