

THE JUNCTION

The Public Service Grant Newsletter

September 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

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

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Public Service Grant Council

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- Gwen Yates, Vice-Chairperson
- Juan Diaz
- John Donahoo
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- Edgar Mathis
- Arnold Tritt

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- Roslyn Mixon Phillips, Mayor's Office Liaison, Director, Recreation & Community Services Department
- Nancy Kirts, Assistant Management Improvement Officer
- Sue Andrews, Human Services Planner II
- Sandy Arts, Human Services Planner II
- John Snyder, Human Services Planner II
- Linda Platte', Administrative Aide

Greetings from the Editor:



We are happy to present our third issue of the Public Service Grant Newsletter. Please continue to provide success stories related to your Public Service Grant funded projects and offer suggestions for future issues. We also hope you highlight your PSG funded programs in your own newsletters.

As of this point, all of the agencies to be funded for FY 2009-2010 have presented their revised budgets and goals and objectives. The Grant Compliance Unit is in the process of preparing the contracts to be ready for signature early in October. We welcome a number of organizations new to the Public Service Grant Program this year. These organizations have been divided among the three Human Services Planners for contract management.

In this issue, we highlight the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) with a second of their series of success stories. The article recounts the rescue of a pregnant single mother from an illegal eviction and a lawsuit by a JALA attorney against her former landlord. Thanks again to Christa Figgins for her help in connecting us with this story and others in future issues.

The next issue of The Public Service Grant Newsletter is projected for early December. Please submit articles, photographs or information to be posted by November 1, 2009. The newsletter will be published at least quarterly. We in the Grant Compliance Office look forward to working with you during our new fiscal year.

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Dates to Remember:



OCTOBER

- October 1** City of Jacksonville's New Fiscal Year Begins
- October 6** PSG Best Practices Focus Group, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon, City Hall at St. James Place, 3rd Floor Conference Room
- October 15** Last Day Grant Compliance Office can process a request for payment for FY ending September 30, 2009
- October 20** Public Service Grant Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon at Ed Ball Building, 8th Floor Conference Room (meeting held 3rd Tuesday monthly at same location)

NOVEMBER

- November 15** FY 2009 Annual Financial Report Deadline Date
- November 16** FY 2010 PSG Contract Training, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., at Jacksonville Children's Commission, Multi-Purpose Room
- November 17** Public Service Grant Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon at Ed Ball Building, 8th Floor Conference Room
- November 18** FY 2010 PSG Contract Training, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., at Jacksonville Children's Commission, Multi-Purpose Room

DECEMBER

- December 15 (Tentative)** Public Service Grant Council Meeting, 10:00 – 12:00 Noon, at Ed Ball Building, 8th Floor Conference Room
- Sometime in December (Tentative)** Public Service Grant Electronic Application Training

For all Public Service Grant information, go to www.coj.net, click on the site index, and scroll down to Grant Compliance Office.

Home Sweet Home

*How Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. was able to help
a neighbor through the City of Jacksonville Public Services Grant Program*

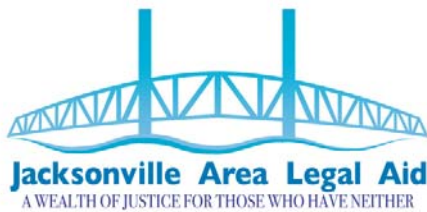


Judy Smith* came to Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. (JALA) with a serious problem. Judy, a pregnant single mother with other minor children, was renting her home under the Section 8 program. After many years in the same unit, her landlord sold the property and Judy and her family had to find another unit to rent. They located a house in the same neighborhood and met the landlord. The landlord came to Judy's home in late February, inspected Judy's housekeeping, and agreed to rent Judy her house beginning April 1, when Judy had to vacate her old unit.

The landlord gave Judy the keys on March 7 so that Judy could let in workmen to get the unit ready to pass the Jacksonville Housing Authority inspection. The same day Judy paid a \$1200 security deposit to the landlord.

The house passed the Jacksonville Housing Authority's inspection on March 21, and Judy started moving into the unit on March 28, after meeting with the owner that morning. On the evening of March 28, the landlord abruptly changed his mind, said he would not sign a lease with Judy, and ordered her out of the house immediately, threatening to illegally change the locks on her. The landlord did not return Judy's \$1200 security deposit.

(Continued on Page 4)



Judy then sought help from JALA. JALA attorney Don Freeman contacted the landlord's attorney and he agreed to tell his client not to illegally lock Judy out of the house. Mr. Freeman contacted the Section 8 Department at the Jacksonville Housing Authority, and they agreed to give Judy a new voucher immediately and to look at barring the landlord from future participation in Section 8. Mr. Freeman then defended an eviction action filed by the landlord. Judy found a new Section 8 home, and moved in on April 26. The eviction case was dropped, but Judy's security deposit was never returned. Mr. Freeman sued the landlord for damages as well as a return of Judy's deposit, going to trial in August. While JALA awaits the Court's decision from the trial, Judy and her family

are in their new unit, and remain on the Section 8 program.

- Judy's life and that of her children is better today because of PSG funding. JALA is proud to be a part of the family of non-profit agencies using PSG funding to assist our friends and neighbors live happier and healthier lives.

* *Not her real name.*

On September 29 the Public Service Grant Program Welcomed the Arrival of 12 new programs .

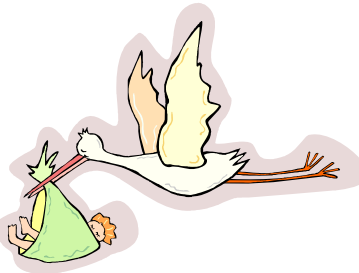
Sue Andrews, Sandy Arts and John Snyder will monitor their 1st Fiscal Year.

Sue Andrews

- Family Promise of Jacksonville—Family Promise Program
- Family Support Services—Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents
- Hart Felt Ministries—Hart Felt Program

Sandy Arts

- Families of Slain Children—Grief Counseling and Therapy
- River Region Human Services—Andy's Place
- The Help Center—Help Center Program



John Snyder

- Apel Health—Health and Wellness Program
- Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM)—Rent and Utilities Assistance Program
- Bridge the GAP—Elderly Care Program
- Catholic Charities—Emergency Assistance
- Edward Waters College—Senior Citizen Obesity Objective
- Youth Crisis Center—Touchstone Village