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Jarik Conrad, Executive Director
jarik.conrad@myjaxchamber.com
904.366.6634

Harlan Stallings, Manager
harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com
904.366.6618

Blueprint Implementation: A Year In Review

Please join Blueprint for Prosperity for a report to the community as the first year of Blueprint implementation concludes. The event will be held on February 22 at WJCT, located at 100 Festival Park Ave., beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and the program immediately following at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will focus on Blueprint's progress toward the nine Key Benchmarks for Duval County residents: income, education, jobs, racial opportunity and harmony, poverty, family stability, public safety, health care and housing. Speakers will include Mayor

John Peyton and City Council President Michael Corrigan.

Tickets to the event can be purchased for \$15. Please RSVP by contacting 366-6600 x7624 or register online through the Chamber's calendar at www.myjaxchamber.com. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, contact harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com.

Visit www.blueprintforprosperity.com for more information about the Blueprint for Prosperity initiative.

Key Benchmarks

1. Duval County Residents' Income

- Increase Duval County median household income at a percentage of the United States by 0.5 percent annually beginning in 2007.

- Increase Duval County per capita income as a percentage of the U.S. per capita income by 0.5 percent annually beginning in 2007.

2. Education

- Early Learning - Birth to 5 - Duval's kindergarten readiness rate will exceed 90 percent by 2013.

- Graduation Rate and Achievement Gap - Duval's percentage of students graduating will exceed 90 percent in 2013. Over 90 percent of students will perform at grade level in reading and math by 2013.

- Racial/Ethnic and Economics Gap - Eliminate the racial/ethnic and economics/education achievement gaps and graduation rate gaps by 2013.

- Higher Education - By 2017, 35 percent of Duval's population age 25 and over will have bachelor's degrees or higher and an additional 10 percent will have associate's degrees.

3. Jobs (by place of work in Duval County)

- Earnings per Job - Annually increase average earnings per job 0.5 percent above the U.S. average.

- Job Growth - Increase Duval County annual percentage job growth at a rate above the Florida average (See above-earnings per job has the highest priority).

4. Racial Opportunity And Harmony

- Increase per capita income for all Duval residents while decreasing the gap between Whites and all other racial/ethnic groups by 50 percent by 2020.

5. Poverty Rate

For all Duval County Residents in Poverty

- Reduce Duval poverty to 50 percent of the United States average poverty in 20 years.

For High-Poverty Duval Residents

- Reduce by 1 percent annually the areas where the poverty rate is between 10 percent and 20 percent.

- Reduce by 2 percent annually the percentage of individuals in poverty in every zip code in Duval County where poverty exceeds 20 percent.

6. Family Stability

- Reduce Duval County's infant death rate to Florida rate by 2016.

- Reduce Duval County's birthrate to unwed mothers by 50 percent by 2016.

- Reduce the marriage dissolutions rate in Duval County by 50 percent by 2016.

7. Public Safety

Reduce Duval County's murder rate to equal the Florida rate by 2011.

8. Health Care

The Key Benchmark measurement will be established by the Benchmark team, Quality of Life team and Blueprint Partners adopting and implementing the Quality of Life health care strategy #1.

9. Housing

The Key Benchmark measurement will be established by the Benchmark team, Infrastructure team and Blueprint Partners adopting and implementing the Infrastructure strategies in the Housing section.

Founding Partners

- City of Jacksonville
- Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce
- WorkSource

New Partners

- Child Cancer Fund
- Children's International Summer Villages, Inc. Jacksonville Chapter
- Clara White Mission
- Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville
- Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
- ICATT Consulting, Inc.
- Jacksonville Business Journal
- Jacksonville Lean Consortium
- Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute
- Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.
- Kingdom Life Ministries International, Inc.
- Learn to Read, Inc.
- MAD DADS National / Jacksonville Chapter Inc.
- Make a Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida
- March of Dimes
- Nemours BrightStart!
- ODI/ Independent Living Resource Center
- Planned Parenthood of Northeast Florida, Inc.
- Pride In Action Community Services
- Project SOS, Inc (Strengthening Our Students)
- Safe Harbor Boy's Home, Inc.
- Sherwood Forrest Front Porch Inc.
- Spina Bifida Association of Jacksonville
- SunTrust Bank

Total of 250 Partners

Event gives Jacksonville leaders better understanding of health care coverage

The cost of health care for Florida's uninsured residents is \$2.9 billion annually. For Florida residents who have insurance, health insurance premiums are \$1,313 higher annually due to health care costs for the uninsured. Access to affordable, quality health care is a key factor in continued economic development and a productive workforce - both of which are significant for Blueprint for Prosperity.

To gain a better understanding for the intricacies of health care coverage, a group of Jacksonville's community leaders will participate in the "Walk in My Shoes" event on February 9 at FCCJ's Advanced Technology Center. This is a group activity for community leaders that helps participants understand what it's like to be an "outsider" in the U.S. health care system. Each participant is assigned a character role, either a person trying to obtain health care, or a health care administrator serving as a "gatekeeper."

"Walk in My Shoes" is designed to:

- Help participants understand the factors that affect access to health care and thus, health outcomes;
- Enable participants to feel what it is like to encounter barriers to needed health care;
- Raise awareness and educate participants in order to help in efforts to improve health care access for the underserved.

This event is facilitated by Community Catalyst, a national consumer health organization that works with communities to play a role in shaping the health care system and expand access to quality health services for all. Previous attendees at "Walk in My Shoes" workshops across the country have reported that this workshop is a great learning experience and has helped to affirm and validate the experiences of the uninsured, confront barriers and short comings of health programs and provided focus for improvements in the health care system.

This event is funded by contributions from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, St. Vincent's Health System, FCCJ, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, and the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida.

Wayne Conner Ministries Int.

Wayne Conner Ministries International (WCMI), a Jacksonville-based nonprofit, is dedicated and designed to strategically engage, equip, and develop the youth and young adults including the hard-to-reach population. The organization uses non-traditional and interactive one hundred percent youth and young adult centered activities, events, training and outreach.

Positively impacting young people is an important facet of Blueprint for Prosperity, making WCMI a valued Blueprint partner. "Our young people are in trouble. It is time for us to act, and to act with a sense of urgency. We strongly value family and believe every young person should be given the opportunity to become the very best in life," said Wayne Conner, founder of Wayne Conner Ministries International. "We believe that success and true happiness comes from committing to God."

WCMI provides constructive outlets for young people to express themselves through activities such as music, dance, sports and TV production. These activities promote self-esteem, self-worth and self-identity all aimed at reducing high-risk behaviors.

Four of WCMI's initiatives include:

- Souljahz Inc. - The official youth ministry name of WCMI, an outreach to the city's youth.
- Project Positive Vibe - A campaign designed to clean up the negative and derogatory lyrics in music.
- Young world - Focuses on evangelical outreach, including radio, televangelism and large multicultural conferences.
- Torchbearers - A mentorship program for individuals, ages four to twenty one, which provides support systems involving job training skills, school visits /after school programs, goal easement and life skills, for young moms and dads.

WCMI is in the process of purchasing nine acres for a facility that would help to provide support systems for young people. The group is also organizing a city-wide youth outreach event at the Jacksonville Veteran's Memorial Arena planned for later this year.

To make a contribution or to hear more about the efforts of WCMI, call 904-448-4480 or e-mail souljahzinc@yahoo.com.

Blueprint Partner Orientations

Blueprint staff will conduct orientations to assist Blueprint Partners with developing strategy benchmarks in alignment with the Key Benchmarks. These orientation sessions will be given throughout the year in the Compass Bank room at the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, 3 Independent Dr., Jacksonville Fla., 32202. The dates and times of these orientations are as follows:

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| February 15 | 1:30 p.m. |
| March 8 | 1:30 p.m. |
| April 18 | 1:30 p.m. |
| May 7 | 1:30 p.m. |

To register for these orientations, contact Harlan Stallings at 904.366.6618 or harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com.