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Become a Blueprint Partner

Join the more than 330 organizations signed on as Blueprint Partners to improve the quality of life in Duval County.

As Blueprint Partners, organizations can make significant contributions toward improving our schools, developing our economy, raising our quality of life, eliminating racial barriers, upgrading our infrastructure and making our leadership more effective.

Many of you are already doing work that aligns with the strategies in the Blueprint document. We can help to facilitate partnerships with you and other organizations working on similar strategies. To become a Blueprint Partner, contact us at (904) 366-6618.

Why do we need Blueprint for Prosperity?

- In 2004, the Duval County median household income was only 94.4 percent of the U.S. median household income. Further, the Duval County per capita income as a percentage of the U.S. per capita income declined from 98 percent in 1986 to 96 percent in 2003.
- In 2003, the Duval County average earnings per job was only 97 percent of the U.S. average and although earnings increased for 13 years, the increase was less than the U.S. annual rate.

Blueprint Visions

(1) Education - Vision: Before 2020, Duval County will value education, and have a high expectation of educational excellence in preparing our citizens for life and employment in the 21st Century.

(2) Economic Development - Vision: Before 2020, Duval County will be a harmonious and business-friendly environment that supports a vibrant, diversified and growing economy with ample opportunities for productive employment, the capacity to fund public services and a high standard of living shared widely among its citizens.

(3) Quality of Life - Vision: Before 2020, Duval County will have a Quality of Life that is innovative, healthy, energetic and inclusive with a common sense of pride in community and a shared commitment to excellence.

• From 1990 to 2000, the number of Duval County workers living outside of the county increased 45 percent. Most of these new commuters were high-income workers.

• In 1999, there was a 47 percent gap between White and African American per capita income as a percentage of the U.S. per capita income and a 33 percent gap between Whites and Hispanic/Latinos when comparing per capita income as a percentage of total U.S. per capita income.

• In 2003, the African American population, with this large income gap, made up 30 percent of the population. At current growth rates this population will reach 35 percent in 2015 and 40 percent in 2027. At these growth rates, the total racial and ethnic minority population will exceed 50 percent of Duval County's population before 2030, meaning, that if the income gaps continue, Duval's relative per capita income will continue to decline.

• There is a direct correlation between educational success and increased per capita income and quality of life. Yet, Duval County's public school four-year graduation rate was only 67.2 percent and only 32 percent of 10th grade students read at grade level in 2004.

(4) Racial Opportunity and Harmony - Vision: Before 2020, Duval County will have achieved Racial Opportunity and Harmony by eliminating disparities and barriers for achievement for its diverse population.

(5) Infrastructure - Vision: Before 2020, Duval County will have economically sustainable infrastructure that supports and enhances education, economic development, racial opportunity and harmony and our quality of life.

(6) Leadership - Vision: Before 2020, Duval County will have leadership that represent a diverse cadre of informed citizens who lead by example and make decisions based on the short-term and long-term goals of the entire community.

Founding Partners

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

New Partners

- American Legion Post #283
- Beaches Are Historical Society, Inc.
- Destined for a Change
- First Coast Christian Outreach

Total of 335 Partners

Leadership: Evolution



In alignment with Blueprint for Prosperity and the work in the area of Economic Inclusion, the Chamber will launch a new leadership training initiative entitled Leadership: Evolution. The program will focus on the high-potential emerging leaders within your company to provide them with the competitive resources and knowledge necessary for a greater leadership role within your organization. The Chamber is making an effort to specifically identify talented women and minorities for this program.

The time commitment for this program is one day a month for four months beginning August 16th. During the all day classes held at the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, you will:

- Learn how to be an effective leader
- Develop quality decision-making skills
- Discover the essential keys to managing direct reports and good relationships
- Learn conflict management skills
- Cultivate presentation ability

The curriculum includes:

- Leading vs. Managing
- Developing Direct Reports
- Managing Diverse Relationships
- Buddy or Boss
- Influencing Without Authority
- Conflict Management
- Presentation Skills
- Being Open and Receptive
- Building Your Team
- Motivating Others
- Building Trust

To register for the program, or for more information, contact Glenda Washington at 904-924-1100 ext. 266 or email her at Glenda.Washington@myjaxchamber.com. The cost of the program is \$1295 and the deadline to register is August 10th. *(Seating is limited to 15 participants)*

Stronger Families, Stronger Communities

Blueprint for Prosperity would like to spotlight Family Foundations for the work it has done over the years of improving the lives of families. As a premier provider of financial and family counseling and education, Family Foundations has helped more than 100,000 families in the last 50 years build wealth, save their marriage, cope with a troubled child, improve their communication and parenting skills, pay off their debts and restore their credit.

Family Foundations has developed Building Lives And Schools Together (BLAST) as a solution that builds strong capable families by connecting them to their schools, other families and their community.

BLAST is a school-based, collaborative program where the entire family participates in a series of orchestrated, research-based activities that

- Build parental respect in children
- Improve family bonds
- Enhance the family school relationship
- Provide a safe place to practice parenting skills
- Increase social skills

A recent graduate of BLAST said, "I could see the change in my daughter while spending time with her. Eating together showed me how important family communication is."

Blueprint Partner Orientation

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:

August 13 1:30 p.m.
September 13 1:30 p.m.

To register for these orientations, contact Harlan Stallings at (904) 366-6618 or harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com.