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## Volunteer Jacksonville needs your help

Blueprint for Leadership is a six-day training program over the course of six months culminating in a class service project and one-year board internship that will prepare participants for service on a nonprofit board of directors. The mission of this organization is to increase community volunteer leadership capacity by embracing inclusiveness and promoting the value of diversity within the nonprofit sector through training and experiential learning.

This volunteer leadership program is designed to identify, recruit, train and place community leaders on nonprofit boards and other governing or advisory bodies in Jacksonville. This goal is consistent with several of the Leadership

strategies outlined in the Blueprint plan. Participants are professional, business and community individuals whose backgrounds demonstrate leadership and a commitment to serve the community. Area corporations, government agencies, civic/fraternal organizations and human service agencies are encouraged to refer potential leaders for consideration.

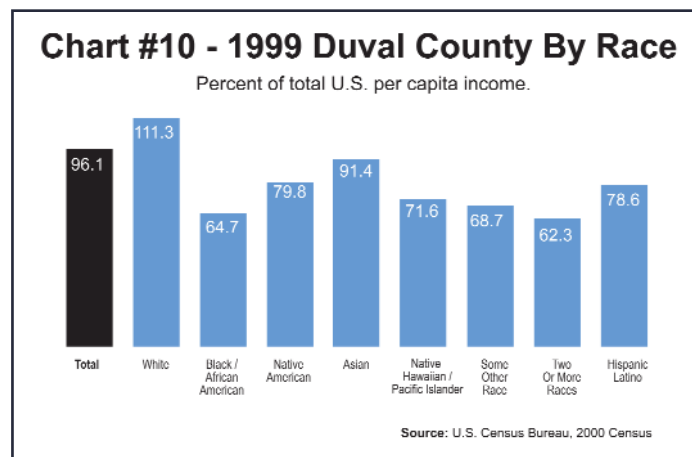
There are still a few available seats for the 2007 class and the deadline for application has been extended to Friday, November 24th. For more information, please contact Volunteer Jacksonville at 332-6767 or visit our Web site at [www.volunteerjacksonville.org](http://www.volunteerjacksonville.org).

## Key Benchmarks

There are nine Key Benchmarks outlined in the Blueprint for Prosperity document. These Key Benchmarks are the driving force in creating an overall better quality of life for residents in Duval County. Progress toward the Key Benchmarks will be presented to the general public every year. Key Benchmark #4 is highlighted below:

### Key Benchmark #4 - Racial Opportunity & Harmony

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



### Case for Change

a. The gap in per capita income by race and ethnicity for Duval County is illustrated in Chart #10 below. The 1999 income gap between Whites and African Americans was 46.6%. Between Whites and Hispanics/Latinos, the income gap was 32.7%. These statistics compare per capita income as a percentage of total U.S. per capita income for 1999.

b. In 2003, the White population in Duval County was 65%. The African American population was 30% and all other races comprised 5%. Hispanic/Latino is an ethnic designation and is throughout other races.

c. In 2003, Duval County's African American population was 30%; in 1990 it was 24.7%. This was five times the white population growth rate for that period. At this rate of change, African Americans will be 35% of the population in 2015 and 40% in 2027.

## Founding Partners

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

## New Partners

- Agility Press, Inc.
- Character Counts! in Jacksonville
- Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, Inc.
- Duval County Medical Society
- Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida
- Jacksonville Diversity Network
- Jacksonville Fraternal Order of Police
- Mission Harvest America, Inc.
- Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc.
- West Council- Jacksonville Chamber

**Total of 186 Partners**

## Jacksonville Tapped to Lead Nation in Improving High School Graduation Rates

*The Community Foundation and the Pew Partnership for Civic Change will implement Learning to Finish campaign in select Duval County schools.*

On November 16, Duval County Public School Superintendent Joseph Wise and Nina Waters, president of the Community Foundation in Jacksonville, announced that Jacksonville was selected as one of two pilot communities throughout the nation for the Pew Partnership for Civic Change *Learning to Finish* Campaign.

Aimed at engaging the entire community in the fight to reduce dropout rates, consistent with several of Blueprint's Education Foundation strategies, the five-year *Learning to Finish* campaign brings community members, practitioners and educators together to raise awareness about the graduation rate crisis and an array of effective strategies to help combat it. *Learning to Finish* focuses on the transition from middle to high school - a critical time period in which students begin to show declines in academic performance.

As a pilot community, Jacksonville will receive technical assistance from the Pew Partnership including an organizing model, an asset mapping tool, research on the problem and best practice solutions, and data collection and analysis tools. The Community Foundation is the sponsoring organization that will lead the initiative, which is estimated to cost \$100,000 per year.

The *Learning to Finish* campaign's next steps are:

- Creation of a local Blue Ribbon steering committee
- Creation of baseline data on 2006-2007 eighth graders for monitoring progress toward graduation
- Determination of the most effective academic support in partnerships with parents, schools and students
- Implementation of community-driven, drop-out prevention strategies
- Initiation of community-wide discussion of the problem and potential remedies using the Pew's *Learning to Finish* Guide
- Mapping and aligning community resources

For more information about *Learning to Finish*, please contact Pam Paul Dopf at the Community Foundation at 356-4483 or [pdopf@jaxcf.org](mailto:pdopf@jaxcf.org).

## 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:

<b>December 12</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>
<b>January 18</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>

To register for these orientations, contact Harlan Stallings at 904.366.6618 or [harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com).