

Executive Committee

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Henry Luke - **Facilitator**

AT-LARGE

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FOUNDATION CO-CHAIRS

Education

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Lisa Moore

Economic Development

Barry Allred
Cleve Warren

Quality of Life

Connie Hodges
Alton Yates

Racial Opportunity and Harmony

Jim Crooks
Cal Jackson

Infrastructure

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With a streamlined city budget approved by the Duval County City Council on September 25, funding for the program has been retained by the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC). Effective October 1, the administrative responsibilities of Blueprint no longer rest with the Chamber. Though our timeline has been accelerated by the citywide budget cuts, the role of the Chamber was always intended to provide initial support and infrastructure, followed by a gradual transition that would allow Blueprint to stand on its own.

We are proud of the progress we have made during our time with the Chamber. We engaged more than 300 community partners and have already reached significant milestones in each of our foundations. While they will no longer be involved in our daily operations, the Chamber remains a committed partner and will continue to support our strategic goals through their economic and community development activities.

We are extremely excited about the prospects for 2007-2008 and beyond.

Blueprint Partner Reports

The Blueprint for Prosperity plan is structured around six foundations: Education, Economic Development, Quality of Life, Racial Opportunity and Harmony, Infrastructure and Leadership. Blueprint partners are recruited to implement the strategies under each foundation.

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.

This edition highlights recent accomplishments of some of the many Blueprint Partners who are making our community a better place.

MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation builds new sports complex

The Malivai Washington Kids Foundation is in the construction phase of a \$5 million Youth Tennis & Education Complex. The 9,500 sq. ft. building will be located in Durkeeville and will include nine tennis courts and one basketball court.

Upcoming projects include adding four classrooms to St. Pius for the 2008-2009 school year, which will serve more than 170 students. The four new rooms will house existing pre-k and kindergarten classrooms and a computer lab. The school plans to launch a three-year-old pre-k program at the completion of this project.

Guardian of Dreams adds classrooms to area schools

Guardian of Dreams, a nonprofit Catholic organization dedicated to the education of children in Holy Rosary and St. Pius elementary schools, recently completed construction on six new classrooms at Holy Rosary. The new building will house the pre-k and kindergarten classes, computer lab, resource room and an after-school program. This addition will serve more than 190 students each school year.

Project SOS teaches important life skills to Northeast Florida teens

Project SOS is a program committed to positively impacting teenagers by teaching them life skills to help them avoid premarital sex, drugs, alcohol and other high-risk behaviors through school health programs and mentoring clubs in middle and high schools. There are 423 active mentoring clubs in Northeast Florida and they have collectively worked with 12,264 students.

Founding Partners

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

New Partners

Jacksonville Port Authority
JM Insurance Inc.
The Multi Cultural Committee of
the Charles E. Bennett Federal Bldg.
Sport Series, Inc.

Total of 345 Partners

Blueprint Partner Reports

Jewish Family & Community Services aids families

Through May 2007, Jewish Family & Community Services had strengthened 141 families through in-home prevention services. The nonprofit also helped 76 individuals who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness locate and maintain stable housing, develop job search skills and learn household budgeting. Seventy-eight percent of clients have maintained stable housing at least six months after exiting the program.

Jewish Family & Community Services recently received a \$1 million grant from Delores and Wayne Weaver, owners of the Jacksonville Jaguars. These funds will be used to strengthen and build capacity for agency operations.

Tree Hill Nature Center enhances its facility; offers professional development for staff

Tree Hill has added a "green" design cover and restrooms to their 250-seat amphitheatre. This will accommodate community groups for outdoor meetings, team building activities, school programs, weddings, musical and theatrical performances and special events.

Tree Hill is also offering training for 10 staff members to be certified in the Florida Master Naturalist Program. The Wetlands Module has been completed for 40 credit units and the Coastal Module began on site in August 2007. The goal is to certify all Tree Hill employees in this state program.

Jacksonville Youth Sanctuary continues to expand operations

Jacksonville Youth Sanctuary was started in 1963 by Reverend Guy, a Jacksonville pastor who was inspired to provide assistance to the homeless in Jacksonville, particularly young males who were on the street, in detention centers and without hope. Since that time the group has continuously provided residential group care services to youth in the foster care system. This year, Jacksonville

Youth Sanctuary opened two new group homes serving children in foster care.

Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition helps reduce infant mortality

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition is an organization whose specific goal is to ensure healthy birth outcomes and to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight babies by linking all pregnant women in the region to prenatal care, case management and other risk reduction services. During the 2007 Legislative Session the Coalitions worked with other groups in the state to secure \$3 million in additional funding to better serve pregnant women and infants with case management, education and support services. This will result in a funding increase of about \$250,000 in Northeast Florida.

The Northeast Florida Safe Sleep Partnership was created to address Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep-related deaths which are one of the leading causes of infant mortality in the region. The goal of this effort is to increase awareness by hosting trainings on safe sleep methods and implementing an educational marketing campaign throughout the region.

Another initiative from the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition is focused on responsible fatherhood. The Male Responsibility Initiative recognizes the importance of men in ensuring a healthy birth outcome and a successful childhood. A pivotal component of the Male Responsibility Initiative is in the "Boot Camp for New Dads" program. This nationally-acclaimed program has been brought to UF & Shands Hospital in Jacksonville through the funding and coordination of the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition.