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Hon. Michael Corrigan
Hon. Lad Daniels
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Bank of North Florida helps Jacksonville community achieve stronger partnerships and better banking skills

Blueprint for Prosperity would like to spotlight The Bank of North Florida for its commitment to several strategies in the Blueprint for Prosperity plan. The Bank of North Florida's ongoing charitable giving and community support programs enrich many lives in the Jacksonville community.

When the bank opened its first Jacksonville branch downtown on the corner of Bay and Hogan Streets in January 2007, it formed a partnership with the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation (MWKF). The bank made a five-year commitment to partner with the foundation and make ongoing contributions to assist

with the sponsorship of the foundation's Golf Pro-Am, campaign contributions and leadership programs. Many Bank of North Florida employees, including its president and CEO J. Stewart Baker, are involved in foundation programs.

In May, Bank of North Florida hosted an interactive budget and savings seminar for Jacksonville's residents, which included a day in the life of a bank teller, as part of the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation's summer leadership camp. Bank of North Florida is also a sponsor of the Florida Forum supporting the Wolfson's Children Hospital.

Web site houses Jacksonville's support groups – add your organization to the list

A common concern brought up by citizens during the public input phase of Blueprint was the difficulty in locating various support organizations. There's a new, easy way for people to find the support organizations they're looking for - www.mysupportjax.com. The homepage contains more than 60 categories with over 200 organization listings. To learn what is provided, click on a category and then its specific listing to find a link to that organization's Web site as well as an e-mail address of the contact person.

You can help MySupportJax reach its goal of 300 listings by the end of 2007 by contacting the site at

www.mysupportjax.com and adding your support organization to the growing list. Membership is free and entails no obligation other than maintaining accurate, up-to-date information on the listing entered. In addition, if you have a support group that would not fit under the current categories, MySupportJax will add the category you need.

For more information about the development and operation of www.mysupportjax.com contact Tom Golatz at (904) 382-6250 or mysupportjax@mysupportjax.com.

Metrotown Institute

OneJax's Metrotown Institute is a gathering of high school students entering grades 10 – 12, who come together to explore options for living successfully in an increasingly diverse and interdependent world. This year's event will be held July 9 -12 at the Riverside Presbyterian Church, 849 Park St.

Students share ideas and feelings, discover their own unique talents and experience a variety of perspectives on diversity issues, multicultural communication, religious traditions, gender roles and self-esteem.

Participants create strategies for living and working with a multitude of differences. The goal is to promote respect and understanding among all people through small group discussions and workshops, creative and artistic expression, recreation, outdoor experiences and personal reflection on our diverse community.

For additional information or to receive an application, contact Kathi Gram at (904) 354-1529 ext 10. Applications must be returned to OneJax by June 29, 2007.

Founding Partners

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

New Partners

Bank of North Florida
Keiser University
League of Women Voters/
Jacksonville and the First Coast
MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation
MySupportJax
Northwest Jacksonville Community
Development Corporation

Total of 331 Partners

Blueprint Partner Orientation

Blueprint staff has been conducting orientations to assist Blueprint Partners in understanding the process and developing strategies. The next orientation will be July 19, 1:30 pm at the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, 3 Independent Dr., Jacksonville Fla., 32202.

To register for this orientation or to schedule an individual appointment, contact Harlan Stallings at 904.366.6618 or harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com.

Regional Roundtable on Economic Development

Please join the Cornerstone Regional Development Partnership at the second annual conference of business, nonprofit and government leaders addressing job creation, capital investment and strategic challenges on the First Coast.

Angelos Angelou, founder and CEO of AngelouEconomics, will deliver the keynote address on trends and opportunities in economic development.

The conference will also include panel discussions on attracting corporate projects to your county and evaluating the impact of the anticipated property tax reductions.

Registration fee is \$25 and includes breakfast. RSVP by July 16 by calling (904) 366-6600 ext. 7617 or visit www.myjaxchamber.com.

Property Tax reform creates unintended consequences

A Message from the Chair and Executive Director

On Tuesday, June 12, state legislators convened in Tallahassee for a special session – the outcome of which may seriously inhibit the community progress we have made through Blueprint for Prosperity – and at worst, could force a premature end to more than two years of dedicated efforts to increase the income of Duval County residents.

According to the most recently released estimates, Jacksonville stands to lose \$38 to \$70 million in the first year of the statutory proposal, in addition to an existing \$25 million budget deficit. This alone will be devastating, but a projected loss of up to \$100 million, should the constitutional amendment be passed on January 29, 2008, would cause irreparable damage to the future of our city.

The anticipated elimination of public service grants and the Health Department subsidy, along with reductions to children's services and public safety budgets, will result in an immediate impact to a number of the nine primary benchmarks established by Blueprint. Health care, housing, education and employment rates are likely to become the first victims of the tax cuts, as non-profit and government jobs are abolished and the funding sources for health programs and early childhood education are severed.

Government and non-profit efforts to assist in obtaining affordable housing and employment opportunities, to reduce homelessness and provide family stability, will be drastically impacted; the cultural community will be critically under-funded and the library system will be forced to reduce hours and services, seriously endangering literacy levels.

Within each of the Blueprint foundations – including Education, Economic Development, Quality of Life, Racial Opportunity and Harmony, Infrastructure and Leadership – strategic alliances have been formed with much success and significant accomplishments have been made. Accomplishments which, unfortunately, may be negated by the effect the “relief” proposal will have on our quality of life. Blueprint now has over 330 community partners, many of these are non-profit organizations. Without resources of their own, their ability to continue the work they have begun will be severely limited.

We hope that you will consider the unintended consequences of this legislation and provide your full support as we strive to preserve our mission and the welfare of this community.