

THE JUNCTION

The Public Service Grant Newsletter

December 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

City Government and Non-Profit Organizations Meeting the Needs of the Community

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- Gwen Yates, Vice-Chairperson
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- Nancy Kirts, Assistant Management Improvement Officer
- Sue Andrews, Human Services Planner II
- Sandy Arts, Human Services Planner II
- John Snyder, Human Services Planner II

Greetings from the Editor:



We at the Grant Compliance Unit hope that our readers have found the Public Service Grant Newsletter to be of interest. This, our fourth issue, wraps up 2009. In the coming year, please continue to provide success stories related to your Public Service Grant funded projects.

The Public Service Grant Program is now well into the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Almost all of the contracts have been fully executed with copies distributed to the various organizations. If for some reason your organization has not yet received its copy, please contact your Program Monitor.

This issue highlights the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) with a third article in their series of success stories. We thank Christa Figgins for her diligence in submitting the JALA articles. An article related to a joint effort between WE CARE, Mission House, the I.M. Sulzbacher Center – Medical Clinic and The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) is also featured. We thank Dr. Sue Nussbaum, the Executive Director of WE CARE, and Freddie Webster, Program Coordinator, for the invitation to the event.

The next issue of The Public Service Grant Newsletter is projected for March 2010. Please submit articles, photographs or information to be posted by February 15, 2010. The staff of the Grant Compliance Unit looks forward to working with you during the new year. Best wishes for a safe and happy new year.

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Dates to Remember:

January 2010

- January 1** Happy New Year! City of Jacksonville Offices Closed
- January 4** City Council Committee Meeting (Chapter 118 to be discussed)
- January 7** PSG Electronic Application Training,
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Jacksonville Children's Commission, Multi-Purpose Room
- January 8** PSG Electronic Application Training,
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at Jacksonville Children's Commission, Multi-Purpose Room
- January 15** 1st Quarter Programmatic Reports are due
- January 18** Martin Luther King Day, City of Jacksonville Offices Closed
- January 19** Public Service Grant Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon at Ed Ball Building, 8th Floor Conference Room (meeting held 3rd Tuesday monthly at same location)





"It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered."

Aristotle (384 BC—322 BC)

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Disaster Averted

*How Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. was able to help
a neighbor through the City of Jacksonville Public Services Grant Program*

Lucian*, a 40ish ex-military veteran, was diagnosed with schizophrenia. He survives on Social Security disability totaling a little more than \$800.00 per month, and resides in a federally subsidized housing complex in Jacksonville. He pays rent of \$222.00 per month to his federally subsidized landlord. Obviously, his income does not allow for any emergencies that may crop up in his life.

When Lucian's car broke down, disaster loomed. As the vehicle was his only source of transportation, he utilized his rental monies to pay for the needed repairs. Unfortunately, that meant he was behind in rent and his landlord soon filed an eviction action against him. That's when he came to Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) for assistance to avoid becoming homeless. If the client had lost his subsidized apartment, it is likely that a private apartment would have cost him at least twice his \$222.00 in subsidized rent, thus consuming perhaps half of his monthly income.

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid represented Lucian utilizing funding provided by the City of Jacksonville Public Service Grant program. Prior to an answer having to be filed in the court eviction action, Legal Aid attorneys contacted the attorney for the landlord and proposed a repayment agreement that would fully pay the landlord and allow Lucian to remain in his subsidized apartment. Utilizing funds from his Social Security check and assistance from family, JALA advocates were able to negotiate a repayment agreement so that Lucian's rental arrearages, late fees, court costs, and attorney's fees, were paid off within a 3 month period. Upon completing the repayment agreement, the eviction action pending in court was dismissed, and Lucian was fully reinstated in his subsidized apartment lease.

Lucian remains in his subsidized apartment at this time, and was able to avoid either homelessness or a housing situation which would have been financially unmanageable. Had he become homeless, that situation combined with his schizophrenia could have driven him away from his doctors and medication, and resulted in a tragic situation of a homeless veteran living on the streets in an unmedicated state.

Lucian's life is better today because of PSG funding. JALA is proud to be a part of the family of non-profit agencies using PSG funding to assist our friends and neighbors so they can live happier and healthier lives.

*** Not his real name.**



Pictured from left to right:

Dr. Sue Nussbaum, Executive Director, WE CARE;
Freddie Webster, WE CARE
Program Coordinator; Sue
Andrews, City of Jacksonville,
Grant Compliance;
Jamie Pearl; Sandra Brown;
Jan Flager, Executive Director
Mission House.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance – “Help Is Here Express!”

The “Help Is Here Express” bus tour stopped at the Mission House in Jacksonville Beach on November 20. The event was coordinated by WE CARE along with Mission House and the I.M. Sulzbacher Medical Clinic, two of the ten local volunteer primary care clinics supported by WE CARE. Jan Flager, Executive Director of Mission House, Dr. Sue Nussbaum, Executive Director of WE CARE, and Cindy Funkhouser, Vice President of Health Services, Sulzbacher Center-Medical Clinic welcomed Edward Belkin, Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs, of PHRMA – Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

The Bus tour is part of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) – a nationwide effort sponsored by America’s pharmaceutical research companies – that works to raise awareness of patient assistance programs among residents who are uninsured or financially struggling. Patients can learn about new medicines and can be assisted in receiving access to information on more than 475 patient assistance programs, including nearly 200 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

To date, the PPA has helped more than 6 million patients, including more than 451,000 Floridians, and visited more than 2,500 cities in all 50 states. The Jacksonville Beach visit in November was the third visit to the Jacksonville area. Patients can visit PPA’s easy-to-use Web site (www.pparx.org) or call the toll-free phone number (1-888-4PPA-NOW) where trained operators field calls in 150 languages.