

**COMMUNITY NEIGHBORHOOD RENAISSANCE PARTNERSHIP, INC
YEAR 2002 IN REVIEW**



Grand opening of the Technology and Learning Resource Center in Apalachee Ridge Estates

Conducted community-wide meeting with neighborhood residents, Wesson, Fairview and Rickards schools regarding services at the Learning Center

Purchase of a single family home in Apalachee Ridge Estates by the City of Tallahassee for renovation

Solicitation of over \$150,000 in donations for hardware and software and for furniture, equipment, and security

Secured on-going partnerships with Pearson Education, Comcast Cable, Sonitrol, Mainline Computers, Leon County Schools for the delivery of learning content through high speed Internet connections and server-based applications

Established service learning partnership agreement with Florida State University to bring university student and faculty resources to the Learning Center and to Providence neighborhood

Providence selected as the second Renaissance neighborhood

Solicited and reviewed applications for designation of next Renaissance neighborhood

Partnership delegates and City staff conducted application reviews and recommendation to Partnership Board

Began planning process with neighborhood assessments, community-wide event with neighborhood association, and informational briefings with key stakeholders in the community

Developed www.tallpartners.org, the Partnership's web site

AmSouth Bank and Tallahassee Community College joined the Partnership

Annual Board of Directors meeting of the Partnership

Annual Meeting and dinner of Covenant Partners

Provided technical assistance to the Apalachee Ridge Neighborhood Association to obtain status as non-profit corporation with Internal Revenue Service

Provided support to the Apalachee Ridge Neighborhood Association for block party and for holiday open house at the Learning Center

Produced seven newsletters for the Partnership Board, corporate partners and community

Coordinated covenant partner activities which raised over \$700 for Leonard Wesson Elementary School Media Center, constructed a wheel chair ramp for a family with a disabled child in Apalachee Ridge, conducted a clean-up day at the learning center, conducted an outdoor clean-up and landscaping at Fairview Middle School, conducted housing survey in Apalachee Ridge, hosted recognitions at Wesson and Fairview schools to honor teacher and staff for their dedication to students and maintaining a positive learning environment

Secured commitments from the FSU School of Nursing, College of Medicine, School of Information Studies and Urban and Regional Planning for on-going service learning, internships and special projects with Apalachee Ridge and Providence neighborhoods

Hosted volunteer recruitment at Florida A & M University and Tallahassee Community College

Submitted funding requests to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Leon County School Board/21st Century Schools, Tom Joyner Foundation, supported application to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Outreach Partnership Grant with Florida State and Florida A & M Universities for Tallahassee's southside.

Established a façade renovation grant program with the City of Tallahassee for income eligible homeowners in Apalachee Ridge

MEDIA RELATIONS

Series of videos on WCOT featuring Apalachee Ridge

Editorial in Tallahassee Democrat, "Providence: Next Up for Renaissance"

Seven articles and features in Tallahassee Democrat

Coverage of events by local TV stations

Development of web site, with continually updated content and quarterly newsletter

Media package for prospective donors

Learning Center power point presentation, CD ROM and brochure on learning and technology centers

Technical assistance to Apalachee Ridge Neighborhood Association to develop newsletter, flyers and marketing materials, including promotional advertising book for Learning Center Open House

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Expansion of services at the Technology and Learning Resource Center in Apalachee Ridge Estates

* Renewed commitments for on-going donation of goods and services from Pearson Education, Comcast Cable, Sonitrol, Mainline Computers, Leon County Schools, and Tallahassee Community College for the delivery of learning content through high speed Internet connections and server-based applications.

* VITA volunteers provided free income tax preparation and assistance in claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Tax Counseling (VITA) project is conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and volunteers from Tallahassee's Association of Black CPA's.

* Secured commitments from the FSU Departments of Education, Urban and Regional Planning, School of Nursing, the College of Medicine and Tallahassee Community College, and the Governor's Mentoring Initiative for on-going service learning, internships and special projects. The FSU School of Nursing provided free Flu shots to residents.

* Americorps/VISTA completed one year of service, strengthening the on-going tutoring and homework assistance after-school program, creating on-going opportunities for service learning projects with FSU and FAMU.

* Apalachee Ridge on Wheels event promoted helmet safety with helmet giveaway, demonstrations by College of Medicine and School of Nursing students.

* FSU's Center for Civic Education and Service partnered with the Bond Community Health Center and FSU'S College of Medicine and School of Nursing to begin the first "E-mail for your Health" program in the nation. Using MedDocs software, this pilot program allows residents of Apalachee Ridge to E-mail their health care professional with questions about medications and treatment.

* AmSouth Bank staff provided Money Smart training focusing on using credit wisely as well as managing and saving money. Participants received a free copy of their credit report including tips on how to understand their report and improve their credit scores.

* Conducted three workshops in conjunction with the FSU College of Medicine and the School of Nursing on "How Healthy Nutrition Influences a Child's Success in School," "Preventing Diabetes and Maintaining Good Health," and "Detecting and Living with Hypertension."

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

* Completed 25 façade renovations for income eligible homeowners in Apalachee Ridge with grant funding from the City of Tallahassee

* Began sidewalk construction on Pontiac Drive
Ground breaking for Jack McLean Community Center

* Wesson Elementary School improves Sunshine State Standard from "F" to "C" rating

* Increased capacity of the Policy Steering Committee that determines standards,

implementation and day-to-day operation of the Apalachee Ridge Learning Center.

*** Ten area churches join Covenant Partners to mobilize resources to support the Providence neighborhood.**

Providence Neighborhood Completes Year-long Planning Process

*** Completed community-wide events with neighborhood association, and informational briefings with key stakeholders in the community to begin the neighborhood planning process.**

*** Students from the FSU Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Education assisted in a neighborhood survey called the Road Walk to assess housing, infrastructure and other needs in Providence**

*** Neighborhood plan completed and adopted by the Providence Neighborhood Association and the City of Tallahassee Commission**

*** FSU School of Nursing provided free Flu shots to residents**

*** Partnership with the FSU Center for Conflict Resolution to conduct action team meetings, conduct training and facilitate meetings**

*** Focus group formed of single parents and of landlords to increase participation in the Providence planning process and on-going activities**

*** Hosted Community-wide clean-up day in conjunction with City of Tallahassee's Operation Commitment, hosted two events featuring children's activities, information booths from social service and housing providers, free blood pressure screenings and other health information**

*** Formed Task Force for the Community Center Collaboration to determine feasibility of building and sustaining a community center in the Providence neighborhood**

*** Received \$1,000 in funding from the Wachovia Bank Foundation**

*** Submitted funding requests to the Community Human Services Partnership, Leon County School Board/21st Century Schools, Dollar General Stores, the Kellogg Foundation**

*** Completed housing needs assessment and identified properties and/or sites suitable for renovation or new construction for single-family owner occupied homes.**

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Apalachee Ridge Estates

Secured commitments from the FSU Departments of Education, Urban and Regional Planning, School of Nursing, the College of Medicine, College of Information Studies, Florida A & M University School of Journalism and Tallahassee Community College, for on-going service learning, internships and special projects.

Conducted the Apalachee Ridge Walk to Fitness event, Apalachee Ridge resident organized and led walkers through the neighborhood, the FSU College of Medicine and School of Nursing students conducted Pre and Post-Walk testing of pulse, heart rate and blood pressure and provided healthy heart information, City of Tallahassee Police Department conducted PROJECT ID for all children, Elder Care Services distributed information and answered questions about their programs, the American Red Cross provided information on hurricane preparation for homes, staff conducted tours of the Learning Center

FSU's Center for Civic Education and Service partnered with the Bond Community Health Center and FSU'S College of Medicine and School of Nursing to continue the first "E-mail for your Health" program in the nation. Using MedDocs software, this pilot program allows residents of Apalachee Ridge to E-mail their health care professional with questions about medications and treatment.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Sidewalk construction on Pontiac Drive – completed

Grand opening of Jack McLean Community Center, almost five years ahead of originally scheduled date.

Leon School Board agreed to build new elementary school facility, with Wesson Elementary School merging with Bond Elementary.

Plans were finalized for improvements to interior street drainage in Apalachee Ridge and stormwater containment, including the Tartary Drive Stormwater Improvement Project. Additional drainage improvement will result from the Orange Avenue Expansion project that began in the Fall.

The City's Public Works Department installed speed limit signs and no parking signs as requested in the neighborhood plan. Traffic calming devices were approved and funded for Pontiac Drive and will be installed upon completion of the sidewalks.

The City of Tallahassee Police and the Leon County's Sheriff's Department assisted in revitalizing the neighborhood's crime watch program and the Apalachee Ridge and Providence neighborhoods held meetings that resulted in improved communications with law enforcement officials.

Continued to provide training and support to build capacity of the volunteer Policy Steering

Committee that determines standards, implementation and day-to-day operation of the Apalachee Ridge Learning Center.

Renewed commitments for on-going donation of goods and services from Pearson Education, Comcast Cable, Sonitrol, Mainline Computers, and Leon County Schools for the delivery of learning content through high-speed Internet connections and server-based applications.

The Apalachee Ridge Learning and Technology Center conducted an after-school academic support program for neighborhood youth and conducted a summer computer repair/computer build program, a science demonstration for youth, a web design class and a general drop-in program for youth.

Americorps/VISTA completed one year of service, strengthening the on-going tutoring and homework assistance after-school program, creating on-going opportunities to bring resources from FSU, FAMU and TCC to support community projects through service learning.

Host to Workforce Development placement of Welfare-to-Work trainee who provided clerical and other support services to the Learning Center while receiving training in office software.

Secured Elder Care VISTA for one year to work in both Apalachee Ridge and Providence, providing outreach and services to senior.

Providence

Neighborhood began implementation of the neighborhood revitalization plan.

Formed Providence Property Owners Association, comprises of 25 owners of multi-family complexes and other rental housing in Providence who agreed to work together to improve conditions in rental housing.

Ten area churches joined the Covenant Partners, a coalition of faith-based institutions, to mobilize resources to support the Providence neighborhood. Conducted training for these Covenant Partners for the new Family-to-Family Mentoring pilot program to be implemented in Providence. Five families were selected for the pilot Family-to-Family mentoring program with Covenant Partners and Providence single mothers.

Constructed five new single-family homes in Providence.

FSU School of Nursing conducted baseline health survey in Providence neighborhood.

Students from the FSU Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Education conducted additional survey and data collection in Providence.

Hosted Providence Fun Day and Health Fair with activities for children in Providence, blood pressure checks and other health screenings and information provided by the FSU College of Medicine and School of Nursing.

Sponsored a community workshop on rental and homeownership rights and responsibilities including how to find help with a down payment and where to get credit counseling. Over 30

residents attended and viewed pictures of the types of homes to be built Providence, in collaboration with the Community Redevelopment Agency. Presentations were given by Tallahassee Lender's Consortium, the City of Tallahassee's Homeowner Rehabilitation Program, and Code Enforcement Rehabilitation Grant Program, Tallahassee Housing Authority's Section 8 Homeownership Program, State Farm Insurance, Capital City Bank, Boy's and Girls Club, Bethel Community Development Corporation, Leon County Housing Programs, and the Seminole Manor Neighborhood Association.

Trinity United Methodist Church completed an intensive home repair project for a homeowner in Providence, providing all material and labor.

Conducted two Community-wide clean-up days in conjunction with City of Tallahassee's Operation Commitment.

The Task Force for the Community Center Collaboration completed its recommendations regarding the feasibility of building and sustaining a community center, playground and basketball court in the Providence neighborhood,

Submitted funding requests to the Community Human Services Partnership and Surdna Foundation

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Apalachee Ridge Estates

Conducted first annual Healthy Soul Food Cook-out with FSU College of Medicine, School of Nursing and Apalachee Ridge Neighborhood Association. The event feature traditional dishes made with less salt and fat. Residents participated in drawings for Healthy Soul Food Cookbooks and aprons. Blood pressure and blood sugar screenings were conducted.

Secured commitments from the FSU Departments of Education, Urban and Regional Planning, School of Nursing, the College of Medicine, College of Information Studies, Florida A & M University School of Journalism and Tallahassee Community College, for on-going service learning, internships and special projects.

Hosted welfare-to-work participant, working at the Learning Center during six week assignment.

Sign dedication event for Learning Center. Marquee sign and lettering were donated by the Service Learning Program, Center for Civic Education and Service at Florida State University. Other items received include a tent for outdoor events, a printer/facsimile machine, print cartridges and expendable office supplies.

Walkability Survey completed by FSU Urban and Regional Planning students. Neighborhood walking groups formed.

The Apalachee Ridge Learning and Technology Center conducted an after-school academic support program for neighborhood youth and conducted a summer computer repair/computer build program, a science demonstration for youth, a web design class and a general drop-in program for youth.

Continued to provide training and support to build capacity of the volunteer Policy Steering Committee that determines standards, implementation and day-to-day operation of the Apalachee Ridge Learning Center.

Americorps/VISTA completed one year of service, strengthening the on-going tutoring and homework assistance after-school program, creating on-going opportunities to bring resources from FSU, FAMU and TCC to support community projects through service learning.

Host to Workforce Development placement of Welfare-to-Work trainee who provided clerical and other support services to the Learning Center while receiving training in

office software.

Hosted Parent's Night open house at Learning Center.

Holiday Open House at Learning Center.

Tallahassee's first community rain garden planted in the yard of the Learning Center with volunteers from the Master Gardener program at the Leon County Extension Office.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Co-sponsored with the City of Tallahassee the neighborhood Leadership Training for neighborhood associations in Tallahassee/Leon County.

Joined United Partners for Human Service and the Affordable Housing Network.

The City's Public Works Department installed traffic calming on Pontiac Drive.

Orange Avenue improvement and expansion, improvements to interior street drainage in Apalachee Ridge and stormwater containment, including the Tartary Drive Stormwater Improvement Project began.

Construction of the new elementary school facility to serve both Wesson and Bond Elementary Schools began. In the interim the two schools merged into one, conducting classes at Wesson.

The City of Tallahassee Police and the Leon County's Sheriff's Department assisted in revitalizing the neighborhood's crime watch program and the Apalachee Ridge and Providence neighborhoods held meetings that resulted in improved communications with law enforcement officials.

Providence

City of Tallahassee purchased Lots 3 and 4, Block R, Bloxham Heights Subdivision (Providence Neighborhood), bordered by Lake Avenue for new construction of single or multi-family affordable housing.

On-line vote campaign to secure funding for playground in Providence.

Black History Fair hosted by Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church for Providence adults and children.

Entranceway signs erected in Providence were unveiled at Providence Fun Day.

City of Tallahassee purchased parcel of land for new single or multi-family home construction.

FSU School of Nursing conducted free flu shot event with blood pressure checks, hand-

washing, flu prevention exercise with black light.

Grand opening of renovated multi-family apartments on Stuckey Street, renamed Providence Point. Mayor Marks officiated ribbon cutting.

Private residential investments of over \$1 million in Providence neighborhood.

Conducted neighborhood clean-up with neighborhood residents and volunteers from Covenant Partner churches and City of Tallahassee's Operation Commitment.

Walkability Survey completed by FSU Urban and Regional Planning students.

Held Providence Anti-Drug March in conjunction with law enforcement, the Providence Neighborhood Association, and Mothers in Crisis.

Hosted Providence Fun Day and Health Fair with activities for children in Providence, blood pressure checks and other health screenings and information provided by the FSU College of Medicine and School of Nursing.

Trinity United Methodist Church completed its second intensive home repair project for a homeowner in Providence, providing all materials and labor.

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