

NEFLC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

April 2006

Inaugural Philip H. Gilbert Award recognizes contributions to mothers, babies and families in Northeast Florida

The inaugural edition of the Philip H. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Voluntary Contributions to Healthy Start and Mothers, Babies and Families in Northeast Florida, was presented at the April 20, 2006, Board Meeting of the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition.

The award was established by the Coalition in memory of Philip H. Gilbert who was the founding chairman of the Healthy Start Coalition. Mr. Gilbert was the long-time executive vice-president of the Duval County Medical Society and a tireless advocate on behalf of women, children and families.

He chaired the first Black Infant Mortality Task Force that led to many Healthy Start projects, including the Magnolia Project and Hold-Out the Lifeline. His leadership on the district Health & Human Services Committee resulted in the piloting of the single-page Medicaid application in Northeast Florida and its subsequent adoption state-wide. Mr. Gilbert contributed countless hours as a volunteer to Healthy Start and many other groups in the community. Because of Mr. Gilbert's contributions as a volunteer, the Coalition's Executive Committee agreed it would be fitting to use this award to honor an individual or organization for outstanding voluntary contributions to the Coalition and mothers, babies and families in Northeast Florida.

The recipient of the 2006 edition of the award was Mr. George S. Lewis who had no prior knowledge the he was selected for the honor. Unprompted, Mr. Lewis gave a random tribute to Gilbert just moments before the award was given. He spoke eloquently of the numerous, valuable

contributions Gilbert had made to the health of mothers and babies and to the region as a whole. Lewis was visibly surprised when he was recognized as the recipient of the award.

Lewis himself has volunteered with the Coalition for more than ten years. He previously served as chairman and is the long-time chair of the Contracts & QI Committee which is responsible for funding and oversight of local Healthy Start programs in the 5-county area. He is an eager volunteer and remains committed to the mission of the organization that is proactive in identifying and addressing issues affecting maternal and child health in the region as well as Planning and implementing a comprehensive, quality system of Healthy Start services. For more information, please contact Carol Brady at (904) 279-0885 X 140.



George S. Lewis, left, receives the inaugural edition of the Philip H. Gilbert Award For Outstanding Voluntary Contributions to Healthy Start and Mothers, Babies and Families in Northeast Florida as presented by Healthy Start Coalition Chair, Joy Burgess, RN, MSN presented April 20.

Florida KidCare launches distribution of information to inform Florida residents of valuable service

Florida KidCare recently launched a campaign which included Public Service Announcements and printed notification to over 150,000 families throughout the region. The intent of these messages was to inform Florida residents of this valuable service which goes underutilized, due in large part to lack of funding to market and promote this benefit. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida provided an in-kind donation to cover the printing for all of the marketing material which were distributed. Through efforts of BCBSF and other generous supporters, Florida KidCare hopes to get the message out and prove that "insured children are healthier children." Contact Gwen Houldsworth at (904) 279-0885 X 139 for more information.

Exercise focuses on preparation for natural disaster or terrorism attack

On April 24, 2006, the Florida Regional Domestic Security Taskforce (RDSTF), held a regional exercise co-sponsored by Jacksonville Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

This exercise focused on the Incident Command response support provided by Duval and Clay Counties Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and the RDSTF functioning as a Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) group. The emphasis was intended to be the communication from the ICs to the EOCs for support and from the MAC to the EOCs for intelligence.

The exercise was a success and lasted from early morning to late afternoon. For more information, please contact Ed Preston at (904) 279-0885 X 155.

Leadership Academy embarks on second year

With a mission to build a strong, diverse, regional network of leaders with a shared commitment to collaboration and to connecting our communities to make Northeast Florida a better place to live and work, the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy has begun its planning for the Class of 2006-2007.

Applications are being accepted for the upcoming class which will be announced July 18, 2006. The Opening Retreat will be held September 11-12, 2006 at the World Golf Village. For more information or for an application, please contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 X 104.



The Northeast Florida Regional Council

Invites you to attend its

Come meet with Task Force Members and others who are playing a vital role in addressing the issue of Affordable Workforce Housing that is affecting all of our communities throughout the Northeast Florida Region.



Affordable Workforce Housing Task Force

"Kick Off"

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
in the Board Room of the Northeast Florida Regional Council
R.S.V.P. by Monday, May 8 to (904) 279-0885 X 152*

