



2006-2007  
FINAL REPORT

*June 30, 2007*

### **About JCCI *Forward***

Established in July of 2000, JCCI *Forward* is an initiative of Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (JCCI) that seeks to engage men and women ages 25-45 in civic involvement and to prepare them for their future roles as community leaders. JCCI *Forward* is an ideal way to interact with city leaders, to experience leadership development, and to build a network of friends and associates who all share the common goal of improving our community.

### **Mission**

To empower emerging leaders and community-minded individuals to affect positive change in Northeast Florida through a platform of results-oriented issue forums and leadership development programs.

### **Activities & Events**

JCCI *Forward* provides the information, tools, and resources needed to develop strong community leadership skills and to help affect positive change in our community. Like JCCI, JCCI *Forward* hosts its own community forums and workshops, all with the three-fold aim of studying the issues which are central to our community's growth, providing an opportunity to meet, interact and work with our community's existing leadership structure, and focusing on the skills critical to assuming a leadership role in our community's future. Networking Socials allow members to connect with each other, strengthen relationships, and learn more about JCCI *Forward*. Mystery Guest Lunches provide participants with access to local leaders in the intimate setting of lunch with a community leader. Food For Thought gatherings offer an additional way for members to connect, network, and discuss community issues.

### **Issue Forums**

Issue Forums offer participants a venue to interact with respected community leaders and resource experts on issues of concern to Northeast Florida's citizens. Participants explore issues critical to the community's growth, seek understanding of related problems, and come to consensus on proposed action plans implemented for positive change.

### **Leadership Development Workshops**

Leadership Development Workshops are half-day seminars devoted to keeping JCCI *Forward* members involved, engaged, and connected to our community. These workshops offer a foundation for leadership skills by offering members the opportunity to learn and better understand the community in which we live through expert presenters in their fields of endeavor.

### **Leadership Development Trainings**

Leadership Trainings offer JCCI *Forward* members the opportunity to learn and improve their community leadership skills, such as facilitation, consensus-building, and how to run effective meetings.

### **Leadership Opportunities**

While JCCI *Forward* is a JCCI initiative, *Forward* maintains its own Executive Committee (EC). The EC established committees that further the *Forward* mission and allow members to hold leadership positions. Additionally, Issue Forum Chairs and Management Teams provide participants with more leadership opportunities in planning and facilitation.

### ***Forward* Thinking...**

JCCI *Forward* is planning its 2007-08 calendar year, including its next series of Issue Forums, trainings and workshops. Current JCCI *Forward* members and the general public are encouraged to participate in the upcoming events and activities. More information is on the JCCI *Forward* website, <http://www.jcci.org/forward> or contact JCCI at 396-3052.

In 2006-2007, JCCI *Forward* learned more about Jacksonville's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community. Who is Jacksonville's GLBT community and what is their status in and impact on the broader community? This was the first time that the GLBT community was addressed in Jacksonville in an open dialogue. Some thought the topic might be too difficult for discussion but participants found it a rich and robust experience. The group did not discuss morality or values because consensus on deeply-held personal beliefs was not needed.

However, creating consensus on the status and impact of GLBT lives in Jacksonville is urgently needed. After six weeks of resource speakers and discussion, the committee learned that, besides the census data on same-sex households, there are limited data regarding the GLBT community. The issue forum reported intolerance and discrimination in the workplace, in schools, churches and healthcare services. In addition, GLBT partners lack the rights and protections afforded heterosexual marriage.

**Action Goals & Strategies**

The Committee met and after reviewing the report findings, decided to address community action in the following ways:

- Develop measures of the status and impact of the GLBT community in Jacksonville and track progress of these measures over time. Use *Out in Jacksonville* report as a benchmark;
- Educate the greater community about GLBT protection for all.; and
- Create a Speakers Bureau to give a 'face' to the GLBT community in Jacksonville.

An action team was formed at the end of the issue forum to take these steps on a local level.

**Issue Forum Participants**

**Clanzenetta "Mickey" Brown**, Chair      **Joseph Nairon**, Vice Chair

**Committee Members:**

(attended two or more meetings)

David Andress  
Dan Ashdon  
Garrett Boardman  
Edi Castro  
Richard Ceriello  
Toni Chadwell  
Minor Chamblin  
Robert Charlton  
Michael Connolly  
James Conner\*\*  
Jim Crooks  
Laura Crooks  
Gary DeBusk  
Shane Denmark

Beth Figuera  
Brian Fuller  
Fionnuala Geoghegan  
Brenda Hauk  
Tricia Highfill  
Owen Holmes  
Ken Hurley  
Laura Lane\*  
Mark Lemmenes  
Kathleen McKenzie  
Dan Merkan\*  
Jill Matejcek\*  
Jimmy Midyette\*  
Bobbie O'Connor  
Helen Parnell  
Alain Raymond

Karen Rieley  
Emily Rokosch  
Frieda Saraga  
Michelle Simkulet  
Kevin Washington  
Cindy Watson  
Barbara Whitehead  
J. Allen Wilkes  
Dottie Wilson  
Amanda Zievis  
Joshua Zmroczek

\* - Management Team  
\*\* - Action Team Leader

**Resource Speakers:**

*David Andress – HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator, Duval County Health Department*  
*Edi Castro - Wachovia, Team Leader*  
*Gary DeBusk – Pastor, Christ Church of Peace*  
*Very Reverend Edward Harrison - Dean, St John's Cathedral*  
*Josephine Jackson, J.D. – Equity Officer, Office of Equal Opportunity, Duval County Public Schools*  
*Honorable Judge John Merrett, Duval County 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court*  
*Emily Rokosch - Coordinator, LGBT Resource Center, University of North Florida*  
*Bryant Rollins - MountainTop Institute*  
*Dr. Leon Seymore – Minister, Tabernacle of the Temples Fellowship*  
*Nadine Smith - Executive Director, Equality Florida*  
*Cindy Watson – Executive Director, JASMYN*  
*Stephen Wilson - Communications Consultant*  
*Richmond Wynn - Coordinator of Outreach and Consultation, University of Florida Counseling Center*

Recently, Jacksonville’s high homicide rate has received the attention of city government, the media and citizens. But in 2005, the number of suicides was higher than homicides. Duval County recorded a high of 124 suicides for all age groups, compared to 105 homicides. Why is there no public outcry about the high numbers of suicides in our community?

To explore this issue, the committee sought to identify the extent of youth suicide, and suicide attempts in Northeast Florida; to understand the warning signs and causes of teen suicide; to explore mental health assessment and treatment of teens; to review existing teen suicide intervention and prevention programs in Northeast Florida; and to explore suicide intervention and prevention in other communities by identifying best practices which can be applied to our local efforts.

In Florida, the 2005 Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report recorded youth suicide as the third leading cause of death for Floridians age 15-24 years, behind unintended accidents and homicides.

This issue forum identified three key findings:

- Suicide is the most preventable cause of death. Education and intervention are important.
- Ninety-percent of those who take their lives are depressed or have untreated mental health issues that have not been recognized and/or adequately treated. However, not all persons with mental illness are suicidal.
- Duval County and Northeast Florida do not have adequate prevention programs, adequate psychiatric and psychological support, or follow-up with children who have attempted to take their lives.

**Action Goals and Strategies**

The Committee met and after reviewing the report findings, decided to address community action in the following ways:

- Short-term: Create an e-mail announcing the report and youth suicide warning signs and start an e-mail chain by committee members to the larger community and beyond.
- Longer-term: Create a Speakers Bureau for education about youth suicide.

**Issue Forum Participants**

**Jennifer Mansfield**, Chair

**Rudy Jamison**, Vice Chair

**Committee Members:**

(attended two or more meetings)

Susan Byrne\*\*

Robert Charlton

Mike Clark\*

Michael Connolly

Leah Donelan

Shelly Fine

Marcus Haile\*

Pat Hogan

Helen Jackson

Heather Lawson

Wes Mills\*

Becky Nathanson

Darwin Porter

Jack Rinehart

Angela Vickers

Harris Warren\*

Ken Wilson

Amanda Zievis

Roberta Zipperer\*\*

\* - Management Team

\*\* - Action Team Leader

**Resource Speakers**

Robert Arnold – United Way 2-1-1

Susan Byrne – President & CEO, Mental Health America of Northeast Florida,

Michael De La Hunt – Pediatric Psychiatrist, Nemours Medical Director, Adolescent Inpatient Unit

Wayne Ezell – Reader Advocate, *The Florida Times-Union*

Pam Harrington – Founder, The Beth Foundation, Inc.

Bill Janes – Director, Florida Office of Drug Control

Derrick Lewis – Detective Sergeant, Jacksonville Sherriff’s Office

Laura Meyer – Suicide prevention training specialist

Michelle Murphy – Asst. Professor, University of North Florida, School Counseling

Heather Lawson – School Psychologist, Duval County Public Schools Crisis Team

Reverend John L. Young – Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**

### **River City's Revolution** *Through and Around Jacksonville Government* **December 8, 2006 11 – 4 pm**

Participants in the half-day leadership development workshop, held at Jacksonville's City Hall, were welcomed by Lad Daniels, City Council member. Steven Rohan, Deputy General Council, walked participants through Jacksonville's history and milestones in consolidation. "The Role of Citizens in our Government" helped participants understand how citizens can make a difference and influence city government (Sandy Golding, Art Graham, Adam Hollingsworth, and Angie Vannatter). The afternoon panel sessions offered a choice of case studies in citizen activism. The panels included citizen activists, city council members, and city staff. The Cecil Field reactivation referendum (John Daigle, Alberta Hipps, Glorious Johnson, and Adam Hollingsworth) or "There ought to be a law" on ways citizens can make the law themselves when necessary (Suzanne Jenkins, Bill Brinton, Sandy Golding). Jacksonville Historical Society's Emily Lisska completed the day with a guided tour of historic City Hall, the Council Chambers, and the Mayor's Office.

### **You Don't Know Jacksonville!** *Urban Safari* **June 6, 2007 1:00 – 5:00 pm**

This leadership development field trip offered participants an opportunity to learn about the past, present and future of downtown Jacksonville. Participants were immersed in the arts, culture, history, economic development and residential growth that comprise Jacksonville's urban experience. The afternoon was comprised of a walking tour with Amy Harrell, Director of Improvement District Services, Downtown Vision Inc.; water tour with Jimmy Orth, Executive Director, St. Johns Riverkeeper; downtown revitalization with Tony Allegretti, President, Consulting, Allegretti Consulting Inc. featuring a visit to a downtown development project (Hayden Burns library) and discuss the keys to urban development; and visions of the future presentation with Lindsey Ballas, Business Development Manager, Jacksonville Economic Development Commission. The afternoon included a tour of the historic Florida Theatre and completed with an invitation to Downtown ArtWalk.

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS**

Leadership Trainings offer JCCI *Forward* members the opportunity to learn and improve their community leadership skills, such as facilitation, consensus-building, and how to run effective meetings.

### **Trainings**

- Effective Meetings – Skip Cramer
- Facilitation & Consensus Building – Skip Cramer
- Strategic Planning – Jana Ertrachter
- All A-BOARD! 3-part nonprofit board training with board visit
- Motivating and Mobilizing Volunteers – Rachel Wical

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION**

The 2006 Strategic Implementation Team presented its five-year recommendations for 2006-2011 to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations and implemented many of the changes in regard to the 2006-07 Issue Forum process. The success of these changes was reviewed in June 2007 for possible improvements in the coming year. In regard to the structure of the JCCI *Forward* Committees, no changes were made but the committee agreed to review the recommendations for the upcoming year.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

A variety of social events held throughout the year, offered additional opportunities to JCCI *Forward* participants. Including:

**Networking Socials** allow members to connect with each other, strengthen relationships, and learn more about JCCI *Forward*. This year, socials were held at Fuseboxx (August), Deep Blue (December), 9<sup>th</sup> & Main (January), and River City Brewing Company (June).

**Food For Thought** gatherings give participants the opportunity to network and discuss topics of the day. Topics included *Out After Dark*, *Election Reflections*, *Surveillance-Privacy Lost?* and *Get Healthy Jacksonville*. Food for Thought dinners are held in various city locations including Boomtown, 9<sup>th</sup> & Main, The Casbah Café, and Mossfire Grill.

**Mystery Guest Lunches** provide participants' the opportunity to engage with local leaders in an intimate lunch setting, hosted by JCCI's Executive Director, Skip Cramer. This year's mystery guests included:

- Mike Weinstein - President, Take Stock in Children
- John Culbreth - Director of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation, Entertainment, and Conservation
- Emily Lisska - Executive Director, Jacksonville Historical Society
- Wally Lee - Executive Director, Greater Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
- Madeline Scales-Taylor - Community Relations Administrator, Mayo Clinic

### **A special THANK YOU! to the 2006-07 Supporters of JCCI Forward**

**The City of Jacksonville**  
*Program Operations*

**Stellar Foundation**  
*Leadership Training Series*

**The Auchter Company**  
*River City Revolution Workshop*

**Interline Brands**  
*You Don't Know Jacksonville! Workshop*

**The Florida Times-Union**  
*Youth Suicide: Hidden Crisis Issue Forum*

**Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.**  
**Presser, Lahnen & Edelman**  
**JCCI Forward Executive Committee**  
*Networking Socials*

***...and all our Members!***

#### **Additional Thanks to:**

*Jana Ertrachter, Ertrachter Group*  
*Rachel Wical, Corporate trainer*  
*Rena Coughlin & Leah Donelan, Nonprofit Center*  
*Michael Boylan, WJCT*  
*Judy Smith, Volunteer Jacksonville*  
*Cleve Warren, Essential Capital Finance, Inc.*  
*JCCI Board of Directors mentors*  
*Boomtown*

*9th & Main*  
*Deep Blue*  
*The Florida Theatre*  
*Fuseboxx*  
*The Miller Electric Company*  
*River City Brewing Company*  
*Tom & Betty's Restaurant*

**Thank you to ALL the resource speakers, presenters, and supporters  
for donating their time and resources throughout the year!**

## 2006-2007 JCCI *FORWARD* COMMITTEES

### **Executive Committee**

Jill Jinks, Chair (Jul – Sept 2006)\*  
Jordan Crane Boss, Chair (Oct – Mar 2007)\*  
Michael Connolly, Chair-select and Acting Chair  
(Apr – Jun 2007) and Vice Chair Issue Forums  
Kay Ehas, Immediate Past Chair  
Brian Fuller, Vice Chair Action Plans

Fionnuala Geoghegan, Vice Chair Recruitment  
Ajani Dunn, Vice Chair Leadership Workshops  
Jennifer Gornto, Vice Chair Marketing & Communications  
Heather McEachen, Vice Chair Trainings

\* Due to relocation out of area

### **Action Plans** (see *issue forum committees pages 3 and 4*)

Brian Fuller, Chair

### **Marketing & Communications Committee**

Jennifer Gornto, Chair  
Ajani Dunn

Christy Jackson  
Andrew Stenson

### **Fundraising**

Brian Fuller  
Michael Connolly

Ajani Dunn  
Fionnuala Geoghegan

### **Issue Forums** (see *issue forums committees pages 3 & 4*)

Michael Connolly, Chair

### **Leadership Development Workshops Committee**

Ajani Dunn, Chair  
Gregory Bruce  
Christopher Davis

Nikia Johnson  
Jennifer MacPhee  
Scott O'Loughlin

Tatyana Ta

### **Recruitment Committee**

Fionnuala Geoghegan, Chair  
Tiffany Bateh  
Nichole Baughman

Robert Clutter  
Amy German

Marie Walford

### **Social Committee**

Elexia Coleman-Moss, Chair  
Christian Baird  
Brant Boatright

Daphne Colbert  
Geretha Mayers  
April Moore

Grace Segers

### **Training Committee**

Heather McEachen, Chair  
Heather Corey  
Keli Coughlin

Jamie Laster  
Nancy Murray  
Marcus Smith

Tatyana Ta  
Rhonda Williams

### **JCCI Board Forward Liaison**

Carla Marlier

***Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who make this program possible!***

### **JCCI Forward Staff**

*Executive Director:* Charles R. "Skip" Cramer  
*Forward Planner:* Karen Kempf  
*Administrative Assistant:* Sandra Edwards  
*Communications Director:* Samantha Allick  
*Development Director:* Cheryl Murphy