

# NEFRC

## Highlights

### Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

August 2007

#### Council invests in the lives of children who are victims of domestic abuse

Micah's Place is a communal living shelter and is located in a confidential location in Nassau County. It's inception was funded in part by the efforts of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, who was able to use affordable housing funding to help launch this vital service which serves not only our member county of Nassau, but surrounding areas as well. Micah's Place provides a warm home for victims of domestic violence and abuse and for their children.

In addition to provision of food and all other "survival needs," Micah's Place provides the children who are part of their program with a little comfort in the way of toys provided by donors throughout Northeast Florida. The NEFRC was pleased to be able to participate in these efforts as part of "Christmas in July" which allowed Council employees to bring in new toys, games, books and other necessary items for the children who stay at Micah's Place.

At the Council's August 2007 all-staff meeting, Katey Breen, Development Director of Micah's Place delivered a presentation about the shelter and accepted the Council's donations on behalf of the children. She commended staff on their generosity while testifying that these gifts would make a life-changing difference to these children.

For more information about Micah's Place, please visit [www.micahsplace.org](http://www.micahsplace.org) or contact Karolen Merritt at (904) 279-0885 X 161.



NEFRC staff present toys to the children of Micah's Place, a shelter in Nassau County that caters to the needs of women and children affected by domestic violence.

#### Council recommends Nassau County's Council on Aging to continue as the Community Transportation Coordinator

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged approved Nassau County Council on Aging as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for the next five-year term at its business meeting on August 6.



The Council went through a very thorough selection process which resulted in the recommendation that

Nassau County Council on Aging (COA) continue as CTC in the county. The recommendation was endorsed by the Nassau County Local Coordinating Board on June 1 and the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board on June 7, with the final decision determined by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Transportation for our region's most needy individuals is a crucial community service. Council staff looks forward to working with Nassau County COA to serve the people who need transportation the most. Its contract is scheduled to begin October 1, 2007.

For more information, please contact Jeanie Palmer at (904) 279-0885 X 146.

#### SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, October 11, 2007

2007  
ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION  
*Regional Leadership Awards*

7:00 p.m.

St. Johns County Convention Center at World Golf Village

## **Northeast Florida Regional Council works with the St. Johns River Greenprint for Putnam County**

The Trust for Public Land is working closely with local leaders in the community to make informed decisions about land conservation priorities. A group of local community members has formed The St. Johns River Greenprint for Putnam County. This group has analyzed public goals for parks and open spaces, including quality of life goals. Greenprinting identifies unprotected areas that offer the highest conservation benefit based on locally identified goals and criteria.

During the most recent meeting, which was held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, the stakeholders reviewed the progress made on the greenprint and reached a decision on the final overall map of priorities. They also presented conservation strategies to help fund land acquisition and park amenity improvement projects.

Please contact Jonathon Goyings at (904)279-0882 X 163 for more information.

## **Healthy Families Jacksonville commended for accurate data input**

In the annual Quality Assurance Report, Healthy Families Florida commended the Healthy Families Jacksonville (HFJ) Data Center for its "very effective protocol for entering and reviewing data to ensure data accuracy... the project is commended for accurate data." Healthy Families Florida is a community-based, voluntary home visiting program. As evidence-based program, it is designed to promote positive parent/child interaction and healthy childhood growth and development in order to prevent child abuse and neglect. Healthy Families Jacksonville (HFJ) serves families in targeted zip codes in Jacksonville.

The data entry that HFJ Data Center provides assists the program in tracking its families' needs and program outcomes. The HFJ Data Center, operated by the Northeast Florida Regional Council staff through a grant from the Jacksonville Children's Commission, has provided this service to HFJ for over six years.

Please contact Katie Wehr at (904) 279-0885 X 128 for more information



## **NEFRC participated in St. Johns County School Districts EOC exercise**

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the St. Johns County School District (STCSD) participated in a Critical Incident Tabletop Exercise at the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Approximately 100 people were involved in the training exercise, which was held in conjunction with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Fire and Rescue Services and Emergency Management Services (EMS).

The tabletop exercises provided an informal and low stress method of simulating a crisis environment and facilitating group problem solving. The purpose of the exercise was to improve the school district's plans and procedures used in dealing with a critical incident.

The event was conducted by Jeff Alexander, Director of Emergency Preparedness Programs for the Northeast Regional Council. It was funded through a grant from the EOC and designed specifically for the SJCSO.

Please contact Ana Estrada at (904) 279-0885 X 136.



Jeff Alexander presenting at EOC exercise on August 1, 2007

## **Emergency Preparedness hosted a technical workshop and luncheon**

CEO, Brian Teeple, welcomed 42 participants to the Council on August 9, when the Emergency Preparedness Division hosted reps from all seven counties in our region, plus staffers from the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Management, Red Cross, and others at combined technical workshop and lunch meeting. Jeff Alexander, Emergency Preparedness Director for the Northeast Florida Regional Council, facilitated the program.

The purpose of the workshop was to coordinate our intra-regional efforts for the Regional Evacuation Study, as part of the larger Statewide Evacuation Study Program underway all across the state. Regional stakeholders had an opportunity to directly participate in the technical planning and decision-making needed to advance our Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program goals and objectives, as well as to network and renew critical working relationships. For more information, please contact Steve McMikle at (904) 279-0885 X 149.

## **Local Emergency Planning Committee added six new members to the Training Committee**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council hosted the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. During the meeting, the committee added six additional members to the Training Committee. The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. On the agenda for this meeting the committee will endorse a set of guidelines to approve hazardous materials training with state funded Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant money.

The LEPC is also in the process of nominating a 2007 Thomas Yatabe Award winner. This award is given out once a year for outstanding achievement, accomplishment or superior participation in hazardous materials awareness in the community by a member or alternate of LEPC, organization, industry or business.

For more information, please contact Heather Golightly at (904) 279-0885 X 113.