

For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

United Way
of Northeast Florida



Contact:

Craig TerBlanche, Communications Manager (904) 390-3226

Janet Owens, Vice President of Marketing and Communications (904) 390-3245

Connie Hodges, President and CEO (904) 390-3218

United Way and MountainTop Address Issues of Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace

JACKSONVILLE, FL – United Way President Connie Hodges recently announced the two United Way agency partners selected for the first round of consulting and training under the 2006 United Way-MountainTop Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. This program is sponsored through a collaboration with United Way of Northeast Florida and MountainTop Institute and is offered to members of United Way’s Agency Directors Association (UWADA).

The agencies selected for the 2006 Program are Girl Scouts of Gateway Council and HabiJax.

“This is a groundbreaking opportunity for United Way and Jacksonville’s nonprofit community,” said Shirley Stetson, Vice President of MountainTop Institute.

The program is funded through a grant to MountainTop Institute from the City of Jacksonville Public Service Grant program. MountainTop Institute is a Jacksonville-based nonprofit which provides consulting, training, research and education on issues of diversity and inclusion. UWADA is the association whose members are Executive Directors of the 73 United Way certified agencies.

The program for which Girl Scouts of Gateway Council and HabiJax have qualified is designed to help community-based organizations greatly strengthen their ability to understand and to serve communities that are becoming increasingly diverse.

“An increase in cultural competence has been shown to expand organizations’ ability to serve the community,” said Bryant Rollins, President/CEO of MountainTop Institute.

The program consists of three elements:

1. Diversity Assessment – Environmental Scan
2. Diversity/Teambuilding Training for Agency Staff
3. Follow-up Consulting

"I'm extremely gratified that United Way is able to offer this valuable resource to two of our agency partners," said Connie Hodges, President of United Way of Northeast Florida.

Hope to Expand

"We hope to expand this program next year to include more United Way-certified agencies with UWADA as the vehicle," said Bryant Rollins, MountainTop's President and CEO. "This is a significant partnership that will benefit all of the communities of Jacksonville. We are delighted to be in a position to offer this important resource to HabiJax and to the Girl Scouts, who do such important work in our city," he said.

Selection Criteria

Selection for the Diversity & Inclusion Initiative was based on a one-day Diversity Leadership Summit conducted by MountainTop Institute for UWADA in June. Agencies that participated in that event became eligible to apply for the full program.

United Way of Northeast Florida works in partnership with volunteers, community organizations, and leaders to tackle critical issues facing children, youth, and families. United Way makes lasting changes that improve the lives of one in three people in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and northern St. Johns counties. In addition, United Way leads United Way 2-1-1, a 24/7 information referral hotline; Life: Act 2, a proactive response to an exploding senior population; Full Service Schools, a community approach to removing barriers to academic success. For more information, call 904-390-3200 or visit www.aboutunitedway.org.

###

Craig TerBlanche
Communications Manager

1301 Riverplace Blvd., Ste. 400
P.O. Box 41428, Jacksonville, FL
32203-1428
Tel: (904)390-3226
Fax: (904)390-7373
craigt@uwnefl.org

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and the property of United Way of NE Florida and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering the email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error and any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately.

United Way
of Northeast Florida



--