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Telescope

Focusing Today on Tomorrow's Future

SPRING 2007

What Can I Do To Strengthen My Community?

- *Start a community garden*
- *Sing in a choir*
- *Volunteer in your child's classroom or chaperone a field trip*
- *Start a lunch gathering or a discussion group with co-workers*
- *Volunteer at the library*
- *Host a movie night*
- *Attend a public meeting*
- *Organize a fitness/ health group with your friends or co-workers*
- *Ask to see a friend's family photos*
- *Support local merchants*



SCOPE At Six Years: Reflecting Listening and Looking Forward

By Tim Dutton, Executive Director, SCOPE

The SCOPE Board will soon begin a heartfelt and healthy attempt to reflect on what SCOPE has done over the past six years and how to continue making a positive difference in the community. This reflection will be aided by some community "listening sessions" to hear about peoples' hopes for the future and their sense of what will help or hinder those hopes from becoming reality.

Why does this process matter? You probably know that SCOPE is committed to increasing community engagement in Sarasota County. The reason we are so committed to engagement and participation is that communities that are more engaged are healthier over all – they have higher test scores in the school system, increased public safety and even fewer colds. So how do we do raise the level of engagement in our community?

Several things have struck me over the past six years:

- People talk about apathy but I have yet to find someone who declares that they do not care about anything. Often people who care about things that are different from what I care about are considered to be apathetic. How do we discover what common things we care about? Then, how do we move those hopes into action and results?
- Over the past several years we have engaged thousands of people in looking at many community issues and opportunities. How do we as a community, reach and hear from those people who are not yet in the room?
- What are our assets? What is special about our community and how do we build on that?
- People often talk about resistance to change. I have come to feel that people are resistant

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The Winter Forum on Aging: Discovering Our Potential

"Life is what we make it. Always has been, always will be."

– AMERICAN FOLK ARTIST GRANDMA MOSES

After spending all afternoon in a museum, an elderly couple stepped outside to find a snow storm had blanketed the entire Washington D.C. area. The streets were nearly empty, taxis and busses had stopped running and most offices had closed up for the day. The snow storm presented a problem, but even more serious was the fact that they were visiting their son and did not know their way around very well. They called their son but no one was home. The couple managed to trudge their way to the

nearest Metro station but, at the end of the subway line there were no cabs or busses running due to the bad weather; that's when they spotted a pizza place and had a brilliant idea. Without hesitation they walked into the restaurant and ordered a cheese pizza with one condition: the driver deliver them along with the pizza to their son's home.

This is a real-life example of recent discoveries in neuroscience which show



Dr. Gene Cohen

that the aging brain is more flexible and adaptable than previously thought. Dr. Gene Cohen, internationally-known expert on aging and retirement, shared this story about his own parents to an audience of 250 people at SCOPE's recent Winter Forum on Aging.

He told the group about his research aimed

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Coalition for Inclusion & Diversity: Engaging Youth Leadership

The Coalition for Inclusion & Diversity (CID) has successfully mobilized the assets of the community to engage youth leadership in diversity. Over a dozen local partners including youth, nonprofits, governmental organizations and concerned citizens are at the table. Programs being pursued include: in-school workshops and diversity leadership summer camps. The role of the CID has been to convene community partners and facilitate a process that identifies what we care about, what we want to do and how to accomplish it through collaboration.

On March 14, 45 North Port High School students participated in a day long conference with activities that explored issues such as stereotypes, discrimination and effective communications skills. The facilitators of the workshop included six student leaders. More in-school conferences are being planned.

An ongoing project involves sending 10 Sarasota County youth to Camp Anytown, a diversity awareness and leadership focused summer camp. CommUnity Tampa Bay developed

and manages Camp Anytown, which has taught over 3,500 youth and received national recognition as a "Best Practice" by the U.S. Department of Education. During the week of July 8, camp participants are empowered to create inclusive and just communities while learning new skills and having fun. Participants return from camp with the expectation that they will sponsor activities in their school or community.

You can help by volunteering or donating money. The CID is looking for adult mentors to support the youth after they return from camp. Additionally, you can accompany the group to the camp as volunteers. Finally, we must raise \$800 dollars for each student's camp tuition. Can you or your business sponsor a youth or make some contribution towards our goal? The deadline to pay for the camp tuition is May 15.

Contact SCOPE at 941-365-8751 or jthomas@scopexcel to get involved.

Spotlight on a SCOPE Volunteer

Steve Smith is the President and Creative Director of Stephen A. Smith & Associates, a full-service advertising agency in Sarasota now celebrating 10 years in business. The firm produces the TeleSCOPE newsletter.

Smith's firm just completed the re-branding of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce and serves a varied mix of clients.

Smith was "Ad Man of the Year" and Past President of the Suncoast Advertising Federation.

What are the gifts, talents and skills that you use to help make Sarasota County a better place?

What I bring to the table is a creative perspective and willingness to collaborate. I also add the ability to come in as an objective outsider and get people to look at things differently.

Why are you involved in the community?

I really enjoy it. I can't imagine not being involved. Ever since I arrived here, the community has welcomed me, so being involved is a natural extension of what I do.



What is a special place here in Sarasota County for you?

The back room at Caragiulo's is one of my favorite places. We could solve all of the problems of the world over calamari and focaccia bread there.

What do you listen to in the car?

I listen to NPR but the CD's that have the most wear on them are Miles Davis, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Eric Clapton and Bucky Pizzarelli.

What do you dislike?

People who are narrow-minded, that's the root of a lot of the problems

in the world today. If you can't see the possibilities, if you're lacking that vision, you should get out of the way for people who do have the creativity and vision.

What is your most marked characteristic?

I always like to say that I'm not afraid to be the weirdest guy in the room. I like to think differently about situations and don't say, "I'll do the most conventional thing" but rather "How can I make a difference?"

Favorite Quote:

"A good ad should be like a good sermon: It must not only comfort the afflicted, it also must afflict the comfortable."

— BERNICE FITZ-GIBBON, MEMBER OF THE ADVERTISING HALL OF FAME



Artwork from this year's Embracing Our Differences exhibit.

CORY GALLAGHER

Visit Embracing Our Differences During the Month of April

SCOPE is proud to be a partner in "Embracing Our Differences," an outdoor art exhibit celebrating diversity. This is a juried art exhibit featuring more than 30 billboard-sized artworks and accompanying quotes from local artists, students and community members. In addition to the stunning artworks and thought-provoking quotes, SCOPE is helping host diversity-related workshops and films throughout the month of April. Visit SCOPE's online calendar for more details: <http://www.scopexcel.org>. Embracing Our Differences is free and open to the public. Visit Island Park in the City of Sarasota any time during the month of April to enjoy the exhibit.

Schedule Changes for the Community Report Card

The timeline for the Community Report Card has changed. Instead of March, the first indicators with data about the natural environment will be available in August. That means that the corresponding quarterly forum on the natural environment will be at the end of October of 2007.

SCOPE is looking for partners to help make these forums great. We can imagine that these quarterly conversations could be comprised of multiple sessions happening over several days. They could also include related events with the goal of engaging a diverse number of community members.

If you would like to sign up to receive the Community Report Card, or your organization is interested in being part of the related events, please contact Kate Irwin at SCOPE 941-365-8751.

Leadership Shifting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to change that they don't want and they welcome change that they do want. What outlets currently exist for us to discuss and build consensus about the kind of change we do or do not welcome?

- There are several conversations that just do not happen often enough. One that has often filled this column has to do with the nature of community leadership. What is community leadership? How does a community grow its leadership?
- Who is responsible for the success of our community? Our children? Our future?

So as you consider your answers to some of these questions, visit the SCOPE Web site and share your thoughts. One of the ways we will be listening is through our Web site. You can share your thoughts and inspiration directly by logging on to www.scopexcel.org. You will find a handful of questions that will allow your thoughts and ideas to be added to this process.

Another way to continue this dialogue is to invite SCOPE to speak at the next meeting of your group. Together as a community, with everyone engaged and participating, we have the capacity to make the changes that can make a better future. I hope you will add your voice to these conversations.

Save the Date for SCOPE's Annual Event!

Take out your calendar and save Tuesday evening, June 5, 2007 for the SCOPE Annual Event. This year's Annual Event will honor a Sarasota County resident with the prestigious "Boundary Crosser" award, the local equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize. Past honorees have included: Bob Richardson and Syd Adler. Who will be this year's honoree? Come to SCOPE's Annual Event at the Venice Community Center on the evening of Tuesday, June 5, 2007 to find out who the winner is and celebrate with SCOPE.



Melissa Williams-Robinson
with her 2006 GLI Mentor
Keith DuBose

2006 Grassroots Leadership Initiative Alumni Profile

Melissa Williams-Robinson, 2006 GLI Fellow

Melissa, a Sarasota native and Manatee County resident, began the fellowship program enthusiastically and with an open mind not knowing what to expect. She took her commitment to her GLI fellowship seriously by attending almost every workshop. Even when her only son was involved in a serious car accident that required surgeries and months of physical therapy, she stayed involved. Melissa's community project developed with the help of her mentor Keith DuBose and focused on a mentoring program that helps the African-American young men of the Tallevast community to become the best they could be. Her leadership has flourished as she has humbly taken on the role as President of the Tallevast Community Center Board of Directors, whose mission is to positively impact the lives of Tallevast's children and families. Congratulations Melissa for putting your passion into action!

Welcome and Thank You 2007 GLI Mentors

Larry Arnold	Suzanne Gregory	Richard Redding
Hon. Fredd Atkins	Doug Kerr	Anita Rogers
Catherine Clouse	Melynda Lee	Dennis Stover
Jim Delgado	Pastor Kelvin Lumpkin	Dr. Laurey Stryker
Keith DuBose	Trish McConnell	Hon. Charles Williams
Shelli Eddie	Dr. George Mims	
Anne Ferrier	Tracy O'Neil	
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Winter Forum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Nancy Schlossberg

at thinking beyond the problems of aging and looks toward its potential. "What's emerging," he said, "is a very talented group of people who are an under-recognized national resource."

Dr. Cohen has found that we can do great things in our '60s and '70s not in spite of our age, but because of it – that we have more experience, confidence and ingenuity as we age.

The day-long forum included a panel of local experts and roundtable conversations. It focused on how Sarasota County can transform itself to create more opportunities for its residents. A new initiative committed to the possibilities for successful aging, "Sarasota: A Community for All Generations," is working to move forward with the broad range of aging issues.

Many thanks go to the Pickard Circle of Light Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for sponsorship and Comcast, the United Way of Sarasota County and BettySays.com for their contributions.

Donor List

Thank you for supporting SCOPE!

SCOPE greatly appreciates those who have shown their generous support for SCOPE since July 1, 2006. Join your friends and neighbors, make the choice to support SCOPE this year!

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