

## Reinventing Retirement

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be a panel of local experts discussing how we can apply this research to Sarasota County. All in attendance will have the opportunity to explore their connection to these issues through a series of conversations about their role in building Sarasota County's future around issues of aging and "retirement.". A continental breakfast and box lunch is included in the \$15 ticket. Please call SCOPE in advance to RSVP 365-8751.

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**1**

- LEADERSHIP SHIFTING BELIEFS
- STRENGTHEN MY COMMUNITY
- REINVENTING RETIREMENT

**2**

- INDEPENDENCE + COMMUNITY = MOBILITY
- OPTIONS + COMMUNITY DESIGN
- AGING DOCUMENTARY
- COMMUNITY FORUM KICK-OFF
- THE GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

**3**

- SPOTLIGHT ON SCOPE VOLUNTEER
- COMMUNITY REPORT CARD

**4**

- DONOR LIST
- SCOPE DIRECTORS & STAFF

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# TelesCOPE

Focusing Today on Tomorrow's Future

WINTER 2006-2007

## What Can I Do To Strengthen My Community?

- *Make gifts of time.*
- *Answer surveys when asked.*
- *Attend school plays.*
- *Turn off the TV and talk with friends or family.*
- *Accept or extend an invitation.*
- *Tell friends and family about social capital and why it matters.*
- *Become a story-reader or baby-rocker at a local childcare center or neighborhood pre-school.*
- *Join a gardening club.*
- *Get to know your children's teachers.*
- *Say "hi" to people in elevators.*

## Leadership Shifting Beliefs and Practices

By Tim Dutton, Executive Director, SCOPE



I suffer from chronic optimism that helps me look past the broken stuff and see what works, is starting to work, or maybe could work and I figure that we (like-minded people) can build on that. I see this as a time of new possibilities, of great hope and the promise of transformation.

At the same time, some of the current systems and their underlying beliefs and practices are making it very difficult to create the world we want to see. Existing models in economics, management and ultimately human systems are built on scientific principles whose dominant metaphor is the machine. A few basic laws and principles make the machine work – one is: the whole is the sum of its parts. This works well with actual machines but complex living systems involve issues of choice and creativity that are unpredictable.

Those familiar tenets say we exist as individuals outside of a complex community context, free from the obligations of interdependence. Ultimately we are motivated by greed, selfishness and fear. Another says control and management through hierarchy is the best way to organize people and finally that a zero-sum philosophy (I lose if you gain) is the operating system of society.

My hope is based upon a shift away from those beliefs toward a belief in people to commit to community, to non-zero ideology and to the knowledge that biological metaphors have replaced the machine for insight and explanation. This hope is grounded in a sense that we live in a world of abundance rather than one of scarcity that dictates winners and losers.

This shift also asks for leaders who will acknowledge, affirm and encourage the capacities, creativity, and talents and skills of people. Each community around the world has a sprinkling of people who are determined to lead differently. A recent article by Margaret Wheatley speaks about the trials that this pioneer leader faces in community. Aside from the loneliness, Wheatley sees five challenges such a leader will face when others are confronted by a new world view.

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## Reinventing Retirement

“Retirement” is quickly becoming an outdated, unappealing, and downright meaningless word to more and more people of traditional “retirement age.” For a variety of reasons, an end to employment is not an option. For some people, the cost of living and health insurance makes retirement prohibitive. For others, the desire to remain active, engaged, and contributing in a meaningful way to the community keeps them busy well into “the golden years.”

The Mature Mind, a recent book by internationally renowned expert on aging and creativity, Dr. Gene Cohen, concludes

that the lines between “career” and “retirement” have been blurred significantly. “Some people never retire in the classic sense,” explains Cohen, “they continue writing, teaching, coaching, or performing... not because they have to, but because they want to.”

The challenge lays in making sure that opportunities exist to remain engaged and productive in one’s later years. Fortunately, Sarasota County has a wealth of options to build on – from lifelong learning programs like Sarasota County Institute for Lifelong Learning to dance classes and photography

instruction at the Senior Friendship Centers.

Dr. Cohen’s research shows different ways that communities can support active aging. He will share his findings at SCOPE’s Winter Forum on February 26th, 2007 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Chelsea Center in Sarasota. This Forum is sponsored by The Pickard Circle of Light Fund of The Community Foundation of Sarasota County with contributor The United Way of Sarasota County.

Following Dr. Cohen in the program will

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# Independence + Community Connection = Mobility Options + Community Design

It is probably safe to say that most folks traveled in their own cars to the Community Assembly on mobility in October. Yet there was a nagging sense that someday each person would likely have to stop driving and rely on another mode of transportation. Conversations were lively as we asked participants questions focused on personal and community mobility.

One question explored what features people would like in an alternative transportation option. The following is a sampling of responses:

- Rides available in a timely manner
- Low cost
- Bartering for rides
- Travel in private vehicles
- Small buses
- Education on using the bus services
- Taxi discounts
- Door-to-door service
- Flexibility in destinations and times
- Neighborhood networks

Other discussion centered on the importance of community design – senior housing near commercial centers, walk ability with paths and sidewalks, transit-oriented design, and safe travel lanes for bicycles, electric scooters, or golf carts.

The realization of a need for multiple sources of transportation was readily apparent and the hope for possible solutions keen.

For more of these conversations visit [www.scopexcel.org](http://www.scopexcel.org), click on Aging: The Possibilities and go to “Meeting Summaries.” You can get involved by calling SCOPE at 365-8751.

## AGING DOCUMENTARY

Thanks to North Port Performing Arts Center, Venice Little Theatre and the Glenridge Performing Arts Center for hosting community showings of the local film documentary Aging: The Possibilities in November. This documentary showcases group conversations that have directed the themes of SCOPE’s initiative. The power of citizen-driven efforts are highlighted through a volunteer caregiver respite program in North Port and helping seniors age in place at The Winds of St. Armands. Also, community members share their passions about life-long learning and universal design. SCOPE thanks producer Kimberly Stocker of The Education Channel for this exciting collaboration. This local documentary is now available at [www.scopexcel.org](http://www.scopexcel.org) or can be purchased from The Education Channel at 361-6355.

## Community Forum Kick-Off a Great Success



Bo Kim and Jackie Woods

The Coalition for Inclusion and Diversity (CID)

Community Forum kick-off on November 15 was a great success! Thank

you to everyone who helped make it so – that means all of you who attended and who supported from behind the scenes.

Nearly a hundred people, from different age groups and ethnic and racial backgrounds came and connected to CID activities related to inclusion and diversity. The event brought the membership of CID together and inspired ideas for creative, local action. Participants filled out “asset inventories,” surveys listing their individual talents, passions, and topics of interest. They discussed ways to use these “assets” for promoting inclusion and diversity in the community. The “Marketplace of Diversity” activity, concluded with listing the “assets” as a starting point for new potential projects and partnerships.

The next CID Community Forum is scheduled for early 2007. Riding on the momentum of the kick-off, the CID has four projects to involve interested community members:

### 1. FREE WORKSHOPS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF DIVERSITY ISSUES

Through generous sponsorship and volunteer hours, the CID along with Embracing Our Differences offers any community group workshops that explore issues of diversity, assumptions and systems of privilege in our society.

### 2. COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM

Who responds to a hate crime when one occurs in our community? Who writes a letter to the editor? Who makes a stand about what will and will not be tolerated in our community? A network of volunteers is organizing now to respond rapidly and appropriately in the Sarasota County area.

### 3. PEACE EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN LOCAL SCHOOLS



Jackie Woods, Eva Slane and Tim Dawkins

a group of local residents is working to incorporate a peace-centered education curriculum in area schools.

Following a successful model operated by the Peace Education foundation in Miami,

### 4. YOUTH INITIATIVE

From sending local youth to a diversity leadership camp to encouraging youth/adult dialogue on diversity, a number of CID members are exploring ways to engage youth in promoting an inclusive and diverse community.

*Thank you to the sponsors who made the event possible: United Way of Sarasota County, Ruden McClosky, and the restaurants who donated food: Maria's Chicken, Brother Lance's, El Habanero, and Tropical Thai.*

## The Grassroots Leadership Initiative

On January 18, the inaugural class of the Grassroots Leadership Initiative (GLI) graduated and will put their passion for community into action. Here are some words from our graduating fellows about their GLI experience:



*“GLI has given me the necessary resources to utilize my leadership skills in a magnitude that exceeds any personal or professional opportunity that I have ever experienced. If you ever find yourself asking if leaders are born as leaders, or if leaders are made, simply ask a GLI fellow. GLI has allowed me to cultivate my leadership abilities, thus enhancing my gifts to the community.”* Nicole Martin

*“GLI has helped me to learn not to be afraid to speak up, that my opinion is important and that no matter who we are in society, we can make a difference. I am learning to take risks in my way of implementing change and to look out side the box for answers.”*

Terri Davis



We look forward to the difference the GLI Alumni will make in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

### Welcome to the 2007 Class of GLI Fellows!

Elizabeth Barber	Jose Godinez	Patty Snyder-Atkins
Rebekah Brightbill	Wendy Hernandez	Pola Sommers
Haile Burke	LaShone McDowell	Fernando Torres
Natalia Cava	James McKelly	Jennifer Tucker
Jeff Darwin	Debby Miedema	Judith Williams
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	Hunter Ruffin	

## Spotlight On SCOPE Volunteer

You will see Millie Small at city commission meetings, attending classes or workshops, and helping out her neighbors. Millie has been involved with SCOPE since it's founding, she was a member of the community studies on Traffic Flow & Congestion, Redevelopment & Infill, and Aging: the Possibilities.

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

At my age, I bring a different perspective to discussion. A lot of people involved in the community now are my kids or grandkids age. I enjoy meeting so many wonderful people here. I'm often the oldest person in a group of people, but I don't feel out of place, there's always interesting discussion.

### Why are you involved in the community?

It's fun. I have always been curious about how decisions are made relating to all levels of government. I get upset with people who complain but never attend public hearings or have never been to city hall. Some people tell me "All you do is go to meetings." But I always tell them "I've never been to a meeting where I didn't learn something." I enjoy it, I enjoy people.

### What are your off-the-beaten path treasures that you can't resist?

Parks. Some of my friends warn people, "If Millie drives you, you may not come directly home. She'll take you to visit a park..." Some of my favorites are the North Water Tower Park, Whitaker Gateway Park, and Bayfront Park to watch the little ones play in the water fountains. I love the waterfront here.

### What is a favorite saying of yours?

My friend has a bumper sticker that says "When the people lead, the leaders will follow." I think that's a lot of what SCOPE's about.

## Leadership Shifting

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- *New leaders must invent the future while dealing with the past.* Without a model or roadmap the invention process is difficult and messy and it involves dealing with existing problems.

- *It is difficult to break with tradition.*

We are trained and familiar with our experiences and practices. Even with authentic commitment to new approaches it is easy to default back to what is safe.

- *Supporters want leaders to look familiar.*

We want leaders to be idealized heroes who stand at the front and take us where we want to go. We confuse charisma and authority with leadership. We support, emotionally and financially those people who fit the image of the "hero" leader.

- *There is no room for failure.*

We want results now: efficient and measurable. It is rare to find patience for experimentation and exploration. If Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand were asked today, would they invest in Columbus' voyage?

- *We want them to fail.*

For us to acknowledge that a belief system with new practices is successful means we have to change. Often that brings out a zealous protection of prevailing approaches and practices.

We will continue to explore leadership; the ways it can help transform community and how each of us can create a community that nurtures it.

## Community Report Card

The new format for The Community Report Card (CRC) starts in 2007. With the first CRC in 2001, we decided that in five years we would revisit the indicator selection process. We learned a lot during the past five years and we've used that knowledge to create a new process for selecting and releasing indicators. In fact, this process has already engaged over 100 Sarasota County residents – and this is just the beginning!

The format is divided into four subject areas: the natural, built, economic, and social environments. Starting in March, each of these areas will be highlighted for three months. SCOPE will release indicators and data each month accompanied by in-depth analysis, graphics, and maps. At the end of each three-month period, SCOPE will hold an event to give the community a chance to discuss the data trends and what it means for Sarasota County.

Data about the natural environment will be available in March, April and May. Get involved by sending an e-mail to [scope@scopexcel.org](mailto:scope@scopexcel.org).

We hope to engage more people with this next edition of the CRC and look forward to presenting you with your first look at it in March 2007!

CRC: 2000-2006		CRC: 2007
Eight Topic Areas	→	Four Topic Areas
One Annual Report	→	12+ Monthly Reports
One Breakfast	→	Four Forums
Quick Overview of Hundreds of Indicators	→	Detailed analysis of our community via specific indicators

The 2007 CRC will also feature online message boards to promote discussion of each month's indicators.



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