



2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Inside the Institute: A Year in Review

In September 2009, following a six-month long, comprehensive, community and service agency-engaged research process, the Public Policy Institute of Marion County, Inc. (PPI) released the **2009 Kinship Care Study** in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Kids Central, Inc. **Kinship Care Seminar** held at the Klein Conference Center at the College of Central Florida. The release of this study represented the collaborative dedication and leadership of agency and organization representatives that provide kinship-related services in our community. Projects such as this, facilitated through the Institute on an annual basis, offer the citizenry of Marion County an opportunity to participate in improving the quality of life in our community, and in this case, focus their efforts on our most vulnerable populations.

Shortly after the release of the kinship care study, the PPI Board elected to focus the 2010 research project on revisiting a past endeavor in hopes of creating an up-to-date research tool that could further benefit a broad-base of agencies and organizations serving the citizens of Ocala/Marion County. The past endeavor, the **2005 Quality of Life Progress Report (QOL)**, was a comprehensive indicator project that included statistical data on ten critical categories including health, education, and economy. The 85-page report was offered to the community as a resource in supporting project development for community groups, service-providers, and non-profit organizations. The PPI Board also determined the update of the QOL project would be a subscriber accessible electronic database, providing current and timely information on critical indicator areas and would be maintained as an on-going resource by the Institute.

In fall 2009, a project management team was installed to oversee the year-long project tentatively slated for release in January 2011. For more information on the progress of the QOL update or to download a free copy of the 2005 report, visit PPI online at www.ppiofmarioncounty.org

Be Part of the Process: *Participation in PPI study committees and other projects is FREE and open to the public. To find out more about how you can get involved in the next project or to share feedback with the Institute regarding future study topics, visit the Institute online.*

Join the Institute: *Show your commitment to improving the quality of life for all in our community by becoming a sustaining member of the organization,. With your generous measure of support, you will provide necessary resources to help support ongoing endeavors like the QOL database, as well as future projects — each carefully focused on developing recommendations for solutions to the most critical issues facing Ocala/Marion County. Details regarding membership are available at PPI online or by calling the office.*

PPI Vision and Mission Statement:

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County, Inc. is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community, and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process. The vision of the Institute is to provide leadership in developing and implementing short-term and long-term solutions for an improved community.

The Future of PPI: Sustaining the Institute

The catalog of research established in over a decade of PPI studies and seminars on issues of critical importance to the community includes: youth violence, growth, senior issues, quality of life, access to healthcare, local government structure, affordable housing, kinship care, and indicator research. These studies have provided valued information to the community and in many cases resulted in the establishment of citizen-powered organizations that have continued the community conversation far beyond the pages of the published study.

To ensure continued citizen-engagement and long-term sustainability of the organization, the Public Policy Institute, Inc. initiated a funding campaign in fall, 2007. The ongoing campaign is focused on acquiring long-term financial support through public, private and corporate sponsorship. Though membership revenue reflects continued community support of the Institute, additional funding is needed to ensure future sustainability. In an effort to meet funding needs, strengthen community partnerships and encourage citizen involvement in the vision and mission of the organization, the campaign will continue for the next five fiscal years. For more information on supporting the Institute through the Annual Funding Campaign, please contact the Institute Director, Crystal Flynn, at 352-291-4433.

2009 - 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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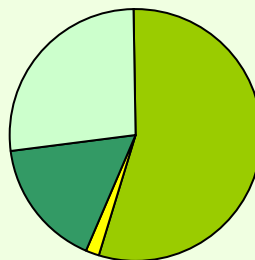
By the Numbers: 2009-2010 Financial Review

Membership Revenue: \$ 4,050

Funding Campaign Revenue: \$ 15, 500
(Actual revenue received of \$ 21,500 pledged.)

Previous Year Revenues:

2008-2009 Membership Revenue: \$ 5,100
 2008-2009 Funding Campaign Revenue: \$ 51,000



- Corporate: \$ 2,200.00
- Family: \$ 75.00
- Individual: \$ 675.00
- Sustaining: \$ 1,100.00

Mission and Vision: A Decade of Citizen Engagement—and Beyond

Charles R. Dassance, PhD. – PPI Board Chair



Over a decade ago, the Public Policy Institute of Marion County, Inc. was established to provide leadership in identifying recommendations for an improved community. The Institute has continued to serve our community as a non-profit, non-partisan, citizen-based organization focused on providing careful analysis of the issues and trends that shape and affect public policy. Housed in the Ewers Century Center at the College of Central Florida, the Institute is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process.

Your participation is vital to the vision and mission of the Institute. On behalf of the PPI Board of Directors, and in a continued effort to support and encourage effective public dialogue, I encourage you to remain an active member of the organization by renewing your membership. If already an active member, please take the time to share information about the Institute with your friends and colleagues and to invite new leadership to join the PPI. Your contribution is important for the future of the Institute. Thank you for your support!

What's Next: Study Topic Survey

To ensure that Public Policy Institute study topics are representative of community concerns, each year PPI conducts a survey of area leaders, organizations and the public to identify issues to consider. For more information on upcoming surveys and results, visit [PPI online](#), find us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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