



2008-2009 Annual Report

Inside the Institute: A Year in Review

In February 2008, the **Public Policy Institute of Marion County** (PPI) kicked off a six-month study process focused on kinship care within our Ocala/Marion County. Under the guidance of Study Coordinator Jean Imes and the leadership of co-chairs Patti Lumpkin and William D’Aiuto, the study committee met weekly hosting nineteen guest speakers including noted author and kinship care expert, Helene LeBrecque Ellis. Over the course of the study process, the study committee identified critical barriers to support and services for both caregivers and the vulnerable populations they serve: children and the elderly. During the final phase of the study, the committee outlined a key recommendation aimed at alleviating issues related to access and support.

In September, the *2009 Kinship Care Study* was released to the public at the 3rd Annual Kids Central Inc. Kinship Care Seminar held at the Klein Conference Center at Central Florida Community College. Additional public presentations tentatively scheduled include the Marion County Senior Alliance and the Marion County Children’s Alliance— organizations critical to the successful implementation of study recommendations. The study committee is slated to reconvene in fall, 2009 to continue the study process by outlining a plan of action to support implementation of study recommendations outlined in the report. Free copies of the report, along with previous Public Policy Institute studies are available online at <http://ppiofmarioncounty.cf.edu>.

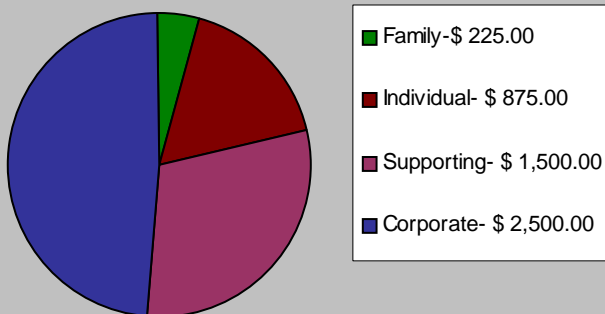
Sustaining the Institute: The Future of PPI

To ensure continued citizen-engagement and long-term sustainability of the organization, the Public Policy Institute 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 throughout the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

2008-2009 Funding Campaign Revenue: \$ 52,000

2008-2009 Membership Revenue: \$ 5,100

2008-2009 Membership Revenue
By Category



Vision

To provide leadership in developing and implementing short-term and long-term solutions for an improved community.

Mission Statement

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community, and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process.

2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mission and Vision: A Decade of Citizen Engagement

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Established in 1999, the Public Policy Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan organization focused on providing careful analysis of the issues and trends that shape and affect public policy. Housed at Central Florida Community College, the Institute is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process.

Over the past decade, PPI has conducted studies and seminars on issues of critical importance to the community including youth violence, growth, senior issues, quality of life, access to healthcare, local government structure, affordable housing, and kinship care. 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.

Your participation is vital to the vision and mission of the Institute. In a continued effort to encourage effective public dialogue, and on behalf of the PPI Board of Directors, I encourage you to renew your commitment to an improved community by becoming an active member of the organization. If already a member, please take the time to renew your membership and to invite new leadership to join the PPI.

Your contribution is important for the future of the Institute.

Thank you for your support.



2008-2009 Studies and Seminars

- ◆ 2008 Local Government Structure Study:
What is Best for the Future of Marion County?
- ◆ 2008 Spring Seminar- *Taking Care of our Own:
Helping our Vulnerable Children*
 - ◆ 2009 Spring Seminar- *Kinship Care:
Caring for Our Children, Grandchildren,
Parents and Other Relatives*
- ◆ 2009 Kinship Care Study:
A Primer on Relative Caregiving in Our Community

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*For additional information about the Institute
or to download a free copy of any PPI study,
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