



RISE Staff Highlights - 2022

Engagement

- Identified and engaged 141 long-term residents in the Northend, Coleman Park and Pleasant City Communities. This group and their families with deep community roots are a priority for allocation of limited available resources.
- RISE Community Resource Center (RCRC) Renovation – negotiated a contract with the City of WPB to manage space; recruited tenants; utilized a Lost Tree Foundation grant for renovations, furniture, technology, etc.; recruited hundreds of volunteers to paint, put together furniture, etc.
- RCRC Open House - held a grand opening for over 200 attendees in September 2022. Vendors included the American Heart Association, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Community Partners of S FL (CPSFL), UF Nutrition, T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society, Health Council of SE FL, Children’s Services Council and National Coalition of 100 Black Women. The RCRC will become a one stop shop for RISE area residents to connect with Education, Employment, Housing and Wellness providers that help families to achieve their goals.
- Historic Roosevelt H.S. Campus Restoration – built trust and facilitated discussion and conducted surveys with residents and more than 12 community organizations to create a consensus for desired activities on campus, i.e. state of the art wellness clinic; vocational training; library and cultural center, etc.
- Reinventing Elementary Schools – Led community outreach to invite parents to reconsider Roosevelt Elementary, the 1st school in the project based learning pilot program, which launched August 2022. Recruited and led 22 volunteers to knock on over 550 homes and invite 175 families to learn about improvements at the school.
- 2022 MLK Day of Service – 33 volunteers visited more than 500 homes and invited residents to participate in their Coleman Park and Pinewood area Neighborhood Associations, while PBA students picked up trash.
- Interviewed more than 130 residents and worked with more than 45 families to help them achieve goals.
- Social Media – improved RISE’s storytelling through our website and social media platforms
- Recruited and deployed more than 370 volunteers to be of service in the RISE communities.
- FL Purpose-Built Communities Statewide Network – RISE is partnering with our peer organizations in Orlando, Tallahassee and Jacksonville, to share ideas and advocate for more resources to support our work.

Education

- Space Camp at the Gloria Williams Pleasant City Community Center – middle school students conduct experiments, learn coding and other skills and expand their minds through a partnership with the Center and BLUECUBE Aerospace.
- Digital Literacy Classes – RISE partnered with CPSFL’s Digital Literacy team to offer classes, technology, Wi-Fi, etc. to help local seniors safely and productively navigate the internet. Eighteen seniors graduated in 2022.

- Arts Classes – partnered with Artists of Palm Beach and recruited more than 30 residents to enjoy arts classes at the RCRC.
- Girl Scouts Troop – worked with Temple Beth El and the Regional Girl Scouts to launch and recruit for the 1st new Girl Scouts troop in the Northend, to help our young girls to become all that they can be.
- Oral History Project – identifying teens and elders to tell the story of Coleman Park, through the words and lived experiences of our seniors.
- 2022 Toy Drive – collected over 1,400 gifts for our Northmore, Roosevelt and Pleasant City Elementary students, to ensure that each child would have a gift for the holidays. Many thanks to our generous donors.

Employment

- Referred 35 residents to Career Source at the RCRC, for employment support.
- Referred 42 families with school age children to CPSFL’s Securing Our Future Initiative (SOFI), for career development, wrap around services, etc.
- Orthodox Zion Church Job Fairs – helped plan with church staff and recruited more than 40 residents for 2 career fairs that offered employment, job training, interviewing skills, etc.
- Mayor’s Jump Start Academy Entrepreneurship Program – recruited residents to learn how to become entrepreneurs.
- Helped 19 adults and 16 teens (working with Urban Youth Impact) to find or improve their employment.

Housing

- Home ownership
 - o Invited more than 190 residents to home ownership programs or purchase opportunities
 - o Referred more than 70 residents to the Merry Place townhomes opportunity in Pleasant City
 - o Helped 5 residents to purchase new townhomes at Merry Place
- Home Repairs – referred 15 residents to Habitat for Humanity.
- Rentals -Worked with more than 45 residents and helped 17 residents to find rentals.
- Homeless - Worked with 28 homeless residents and helped 11 to find shelter
- CPSFL/RISE Highlighting Home Event – over 60 families and 250 individuals learned about rental and home ownership options and how to eliminate barriers from vendors like CPSFL, Citi, Career Source and others at the RCRC.
- Code violations – helped 5 residents to resolve code violations and remain in their homes
- Multi-property Resident Housing Repairs
 - o Identified residents in Coleman Park struggling with making multiple properties productive assets
 - o Working with partners on solutions to help residents convert properties into affordable housing

Health and Wellness

- Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Pantry – delivers diapers, formula, information and more, monthly at the RCRC. This has become a top location for these services in Palm Beach County, thanks to RISE team outreach and recruitment, serving more than 340 families.
- Together We RISE Wellness Program – developed a hands-on program for RISE area residents that will wrap a family up with Mental Health, Nutrition, Diabetes and Hypertension programs, services, supplies, classes, incentives, access to care, etc. for those who qualify. Partner orgs. Include - CPSFL, American Heart Assoc., Diabetes Coalition, NAMI, Health Care District, Living Hungry and Palm Beach Atlantic University.
- RISE Community Garden - resident members maintain a small demonstration garden that educates the community about how to create a garden at home and improve access to healthy foods.
- FAMU Nutrition Series – The RCRC hosted this series of 9 classes to educate our community on improved health and wellness.
- American Heart Association Walk – a RISE team participated to promote mobility and improved health for our staff and residents.
- RISE Ambassadors delivered Thanksgiving meals to families in our service area.