

OneJax Annual Report

September 1, 2007

Our organization began this year by concluding the initial stage of our strategic planning process for our re-birth as a local organization. We adopted the name "OneJax" and a byline, "Different Together", to more clearly state who we are to the community. We adopted as our *Mission* that "OneJax is an interfaith organization that promotes respect and understanding among people of different religions, races, cultures and beliefs." We also adopted our *Guiding Principles* as follows:

<i>"Respect</i>	We respect and value every person's human dignity
<i>Unity</i>	We celebrate our common humanity and we honor our differences;
<i>Courage</i>	We stand together and speak out when oppression hurts people;
<i>Integrity</i>	We live the principles we talk about in our everyday lives;
<i>Accountability</i>	We act responsibly with those we serve and with those who support us."

Finally, we developed our *Overarching Goals* of Advocacy, Community Building and Education (our "ACE" program) for how we would meet our Mission.

Our goals for this year included continuing to build support in the community and expanding our budget and program offerings. Here are some of our activities and accomplishments from our first year as OneJax:

- **Staffing** - We hired Bobbie O'Connor as a result of a national search for an Executive Director as of August 1, 2006. Later in the year, we hired Deidre Lane as a Program Director to more directly support our Metrotown, LOUD and Student Outreach programs. Our office manager, Kathi Gram, continues to be a valuable member of our team.
- **Programming** -
 - Our first Oneness of Humanity event, which was named after one of our founders and past Chair, Duane Dumbleton, was attended by over 250 people at FCCJ Kent Campus in September, 2006. The Program, "One Arab, One Jew, Two Very Funny Guys" featured an Arab and a Jewish comedian who tour the country together to demonstrate the importance of unity and a sense of humor in working together. The second annual Oneness of Humanity event is scheduled for October 16, 2007 at FCCJ Kent Campus, and will feature the authors of the nationally acclaimed book, *The Faith Club*.
 - We held an Interfaith Dialogue in October 2006 at Congregation Ahavath Chesed (a/k/a The Jewish Temple) in which local religious leaders discussed the issue of public prayer. We recognize that this was the first step in this

important dialogue for our community and will continue to facilitate further dialogue on this issue.

- Our Interfaith Thanksgiving/Gratitude Service was held on November 14, 2006 at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral and was attended by over 300 people. In this service, ten different faith leaders from our community expressed how their different faiths express gratitude. This year's service will be held on November 15, 2007 at the historic Mt. Zion AME Church.
- A new program called "Curious Youth—Faiths United Together" was initiated by our Board, along with the leaders of the local congregations of St. Johns Cathedral, Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, St. Stephens AME Church, and The Jewish Temple. The program provides a safe and honest place for teens from different religious congregations to learn from each other about their faiths. This is a program that has just begun and we hope to continue to expand its reach.
- We held a successful Humanitarian Awards Dinner on May 24, 2007 at the Hyatt with over 600 supporters in attendance to honor the contributions of David Stein, Sister DeSales Wisnewski, Henri Landwirth and MaliVai Washington to our community.
- Metrotown, now in its 16th year, was held on July 9-12, 2007 at Riverside Presbyterian Church as a four-day intensive team diversity program. It continues to be a successful program as its graduates join LOUD and expand what they learn and our Mission throughout their high schools and our community. We greatly appreciate the grants we received from the Jaguars Foundation and United Way of Northeast Florida to support this program.
- The Leaders of United Diversity (LOUD), an ongoing program for Metrotown graduates, has been reactivated and met several times. We plan to expand it into different schools and make it into a continuing program.
- We were awarded a grant to help facilitate a program by the Aspen Institute to teach the leaders of our community more about structural racism and how to break down the barriers that separate us. These efforts have been in the planning stage for a year and will come to fruition in this new fiscal year.
- We have received a reflective practices grant from the Jacksonville Community Foundation and will assess what areas of difference are most divisive to our community and why our community has not seen more change in these areas. We will further reflect on how faith leaders have helped or hindered this process and how going forward they can help to develop values that promote respect and understanding for difference. This process will serve the community by assessing needs, building awareness and providing education (based on the assessment), and using this information as an impetus for future programs of OneJax and other organizations as appropriate.

- **Advocacy** - The Board and staff have spent a good amount of time determining how our agency will advocate for its mission. Throughout the year, the agency advocated the importance of its mission in response to events behind the scenes as well as in the programs noted above. We have now received a generous grant from Delores and Wayne Weaver to assist us in being more proactive in advocacy programs and have retained an expert consultant and created a special task force of Board members to begin this process.
- **Strategic Planning** - The Board has established a strategic plan for the coming year and will continue to set and achieve goals to further our mission in the community. We greatly appreciate the support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida in our strategic planning efforts.
- **Finances** - Our Humanitarian Awards Dinner was successful in raising \$250,000 for OneJax. Special thanks to our lead dinner sponsor, MPS Group. We also received grants this year from the Aspen Institute, Delores and Wayne Weaver, The Jaguars Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, The United Way of Northeast Florida and the Jacksonville Community Foundation that will increase our ability to grow and foster our mission. We regrettably lost our public service grant as the City of Jacksonville cut back on community funding, and are planning a membership initiative to help fill that gap.

Our budget grew from \$324,000 in 2006-2007 to \$480,070 for the coming 2007-2008 fiscal year. The Board has passed a balanced budget, and while we continue to have a need to grow our technology capabilities and staff to provide further programs in support for our mission, it is our intention to work within our budget. Our Board has grown to 30 members and our members increased their personal giving to the agency by over 50% last year. We have initiated a Board of Advisors, which was led by the Honorable Harvey Schlesinger this past year. We hope to further build our Board and volunteer base and involve all segments of the community in our activities.

Many thanks for the support you have shown OneJax as we grow and develop as a local organization.

Respectfully submitted,



Marc M. Mayo
Chairman
OneJax
2006-2007