

**OUR MISSION**

The Donors Forum of Northeast Florida creates a network to promote and strengthen philanthropy in our region. It seeks to inspire individual philanthropists, corporate donors, private and community foundations to share collective knowledge, explore the responsibilities of ethical grantmaking, develop a voice for promoting philanthropy and encourage collective action as appropriate to its members' respective philanthropic goals.

**MAYOR JOHN PEYTON ADDRESSES MEMBERS OF THE DONORS FORUM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA**

Northeast Florida is a wonderful place to live. We value the quality of life in our community and over the years have paid for citizen-approved investments in the infrastructure (the Better Jacksonville Plan) without turning to increased property taxes. Unfortunately, this is not the case throughout the state. In his campaign, Governor Crist pledged property tax reform to the citizens of Florida and in June, the state legislature passed property tax reform legislation which mandates a rollback of property tax rates to a formula calculated on 2006/2007 tax rates and provides for a statewide referendum on property taxes in January 2008. The referendum must be passed by 60% of the voters and, if successful, will become effective October 1, 2008.

On August 23, The Honorable John Peyton addressed the members of the Donors Forum of Northeast Florida to discuss the impact of this legislation on Duval County and more specifically on the city's support of the nonprofit sector in our community. The legislation creates a \$65 million shortfall in the Mayor's proposed budget. This shortfall could be eliminated through draconian cuts which would include eliminating public support to all nonprofits in the county through the public services grants program. As the former board chairman of two nonprofit organizations, the Mayor is keenly aware of the critical services that nonprofit organizations provide and their undisputed role in creating the quality of life we all enjoy.

Another solution is to reduce expenses through budget reductions and generate additional revenues through new fees, including a solid waste collection fee, a utility franchise fee, and a storm water fee. Over the years, other communities in Florida have instituted additional fees. Duval County has resisted generating additional revenue from service fees and has relied solely on property tax revenues.

According to Mayor Peyton, the time has come for us to diversify our revenue sources. Property taxes are no longer a reliable source of revenue; public safety and non-public safety costs continue to grow; non-public safety areas of the budget have absorbed the majority of cost cutting over the past years, and we cannot continue to cut funding and provide quality services. Our quality of life is at stake.



Susan Remmer Ryzewic (Remmer Family Foundation) and Cheryl Tupper (Arthur Vining Davis Foundation)



Peter Racine (Jaguars Foundation), Christina Drinkwater (Martin Gottlieb), Martha Barrett (Bank of America), and Helen Werking (Riverside Foundation)



Delores Barr Weaver (Weaver Family Foundation, Jaguars Foundation) and Josh McGraw (Donald C. McGraw Foundation)



The Honorable John S. Peyton

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday  
October 11  
ANNUAL TOUR  
PHILANTHROPY AND  
PUBLIC EDUCATION

Thursday  
December 13  
TBD

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David L. Pierson  
Vice President of Development  
The Community Foundation

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The Mayor also provided budget projections demonstrating that even with the addition of new service fees, the average homeowner will "still end up with money in his pocket."

Though new fees are never popular, the Mayor requested the support of the members of the Donors Forum as leaders in the community, and urged them to contact the members of City Council. Supporting new fees takes courage, and the members of City Council need to hear the voices of those who advocate for this alternative as well as those who oppose all new taxes. In order for City Council to act boldly they must know that they have support for this controversial stance.



Susan Towler (Blue Foundation)  
and Cleve Warren (Eartha M.M.  
White Legacy Fund)

## PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION



On October 11, members of the Donors Forum of Northeast Florida will have an opportunity to learn more about the role philanthropy is playing in advancing educational opportunities for students in the Duval County Public Schools. Also, members will have an opportunity to learn about ways they can become involved.

The tour will include visits to Arlington Middle School, Carter G. Woodson Elementary School, and Raines High School. Following the visit to Raines High School, participants will have an opportunity to talk with students, Superintendent Wise and other members of the Forum, who are actively

involved in advancing the educational opportunities for our students.

## GRANTMAKER NEWS AND NOTES

The trustees of the **Lucy Gooding Foundation** voted to contribute \$200,000 annually for five years for 'The Weaver Zone at the Bridge'. The campaign goal is 5.5 million dollars to buy, renovate, endow and operate the former Beulah Beal School building as a teen center.

The **Jaguars Foundation** and **Baptist Health** are partnering in the local implementation of the National Football League/American Heart Association's What Moves U initiative to address the problem of childhood obesity through programs that focus on physical fitness and healthy nutrition. Up to \$500,000 in grants to nonprofits will be made over the next three years, as well as piloting the NFL/AHA What Moves U curriculum in selected 6th grade classrooms in partnership with the Duval County Public Schools. The curriculum provides educational hands-on activities in the students' science, language arts, mathematics, social studies and physical education classes, designed to prevent and reduce the occurrence of childhood obesity.

On September 25, **The Community Foundation in Jacksonville** awarded the first Prize for Civic Engagement to William D. Brinton for his dedicated efforts to maintain a "Scenic America." He has led the efforts restricting billboard construction along our highways and requiring developers to replace trees that they cut down in the development process. The Prize for Civic Engagement recognizes and encourages citizens in Northeast Florida who speak out courageously for the common good on matters of civic importance.

In June, **J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver** made a gift of \$21 million to benefit 38 Jacksonville area nonprofit organizations. \$11 million will be used to support operating expenses for selected organizations over the next two years, and \$10 million will be used to establish endowments for selected organizations at **The Community Foundation**.

The **Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida** will announce the winners of the 2007 Sapphire Award recognizing excellence in community health programs on November 30, 2007, Hilton at Disney Village, Orlando, Florida. The honorees will be named from among the 42 nominated community health programs. Also, in June 2008, **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida** is hosting the first 2008 regional meeting of the Southeastern Council of Foundation's Corporate Foundations and Giving Programs in Jacksonville. Topics include leadership, ethics, organizational assessment and evaluation, volunteerism, communication, and more. For information on either of these programs, contact Susan Wildes at [susan.wildes@bcbsfl.com](mailto:susan.wildes@bcbsfl.com).

Through the leadership of **The Community Foundation**, the Jacksonville Public Library was able to secure a matching grant of \$15,000 from the **Kellogg Foundation** for Jacksonville Reads, a community reading program. This year's featured book is Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.