

2013 - 2014 QUARTER ONE

Parent
Academy
of St. Lucie County

Empowering Parents Every Day!



Parents enrolled in health literacy class learn health terms.



Ruth "Danny" Pierre-Louis discusses healthcare with students.

Empowering Healthy Families

Through a grant awarded by Florida Blue and the Florida Literacy Coalition, Parent Academy of St. Lucie County has twenty-six parents enrolled in a ten-week health literacy class. The class is helping these parents, primarily ESL adult learners, acquire information and resources that will help them navigate the medical system and make informed health decisions for their families.

There is a growing recognition among health care providers and adult educators around the country that limited English language can have a significant impact on one's health. According to the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy's report, fourteen percent of adults have below basic health literacy skills. Parent Academy is joining with Florida Blue and the Florida Literacy Coalition as well as the Department of Health in St. Lucie County, HANDS Clinic, Florida Community Health Centers, Inc., and Healthy Kids of St. Lucie County to provide every St. Lucie County family with the skills and tools to utilize health care effectively.



Parents play a game to reinforce health literacy skills.

Celebrating accomplishment

Parents enrolled in pre GED, beginning ESL and intermediate ESL classes recently celebrated their advancement to the next level in their adult education studies. Parent Academy instructors Isabella Escalona and Joan Moore were excited to recognize not only each parent's accomplishment, but also their commitment to learning. "Each day our parents are better able to help their children in school and are getting closer to their goals of better job opportunities and obtaining their GED", says Isabella Escalona, Parent Academy Program Specialist and adult education teacher. "Several of our students have already successfully transitioned to Indian River State College to continue their adult education studies and that is our goal", continues Escalona. "We are very proud of all of them."

Special thanks to Myrna Rodriguez and Kevin Singletary, ALPI Head Start, and Teresa Ledezma, Centro San Juan Diego Church, for helping us honor our parents.





Parents attend a *Destination Reading & Math* workshop

Empowering digital learning

Parent Academy of St. Lucie County is partnering with St. Lucie Public Schools and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Inc. to ensure that parents are knowledgeable of all of the digital learning resources that will support their child's academic achievement. The *Destination Reading and Math* workshop is offered on an ongoing basis. Parents receive hands-on practice in accessing the program as well as ways to use it at home.

Rep. Larry Lee, Jr. & some new friends



Rep. Larry Lee, Jr. and Parent Academy parent learners

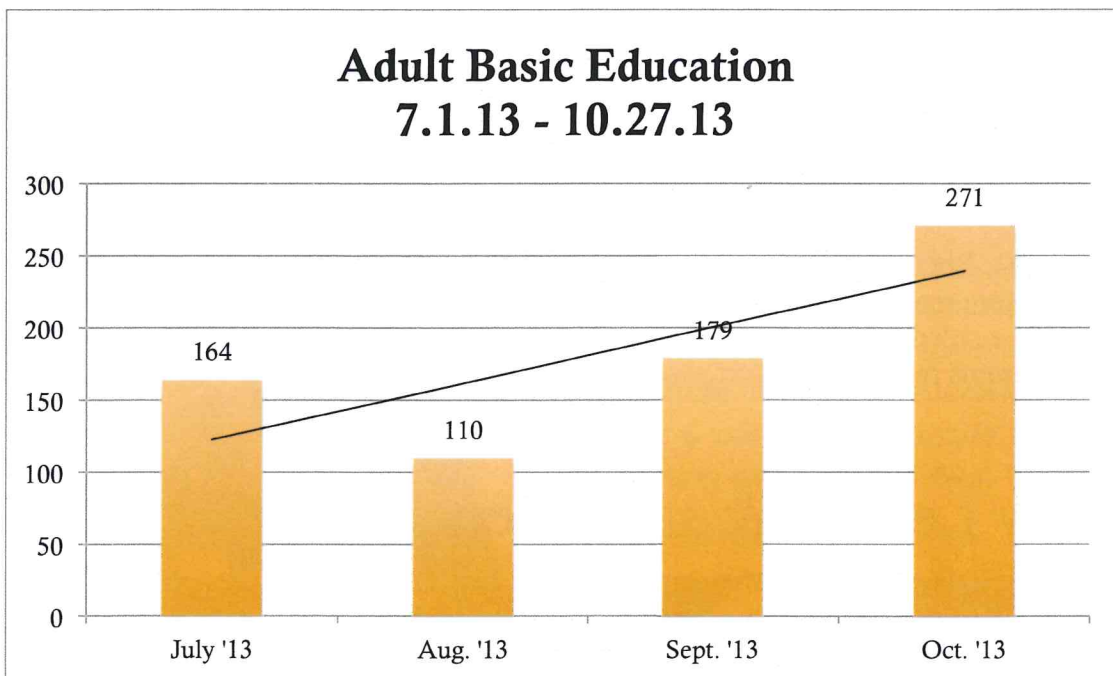
Parent Academy pre GED students were thrilled to have the Honorable Larry Lee, Jr. present a lesson on state government. Rep. Lee reviewed how an idea becomes a bill and progresses to a vote in the House and Senate. He also applauded the class' commitment to learning so that they can better support their children and families. The adult learners embraced Rep. Lee's "pay it forward" challenge and continue to share ways they can contribute to the movement. Thank you, Rep. Lee, for our T-shirts and for taking the time to share your knowledge, experience and passion for improving our community, one kindness at a time.



Parent Academy's Wednesday evening ESL class

Adult education classes continue to grow

Parent Academy's adult education classes continue to expand. For the period of October 21 through October 24, 86 parents were at Parent Academy either in class or doing independent study. Executive Director Nancy Brown states that, "This shows that Parent Academy is fulfilling a true need in the community and one that is critical to student academic success and in moving families upward economically."



Parent Academy's adult learning program includes classes for pre GED, ESL, citizenship, healthy living and individual study. A primary goal of the program is to improve the literacy of parents so they can better help their children in school, obtain a higher wage jobs and to work towards their chosen career. As the parents grow in their skills and confidence, Parent Academy staff supports their transition to Indian River State College so that they can achieve their dreams. The chart above shows a 65.24% increase in adult basic education programs at Parent Academy for the period of July 1, 2013, through October 27, 2013, for a total of 724 parents.

Empowering Positive Parenting

Parents learn the science behind behavior in Parent Academy’s four-week *Positive Parenting* class. Led by certified behavior analyst Valerie Hall, the class teaches the principles that can be used to increase wanted behaviors and diminish those that are undesirable for every age child. Parents also have time to share and get individualized strategies to meet the needs that they are identifying.



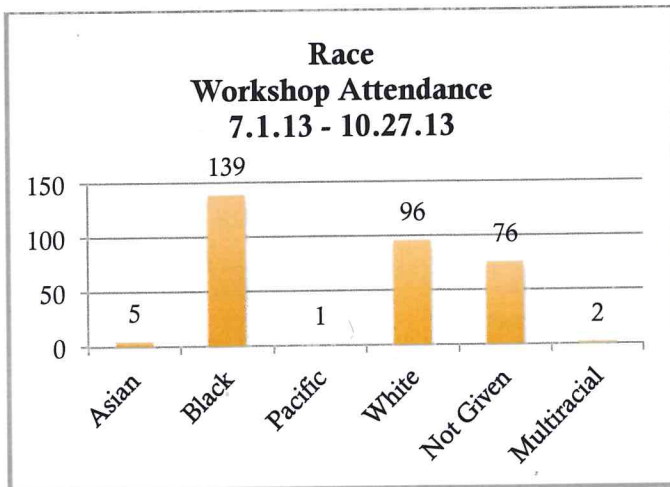
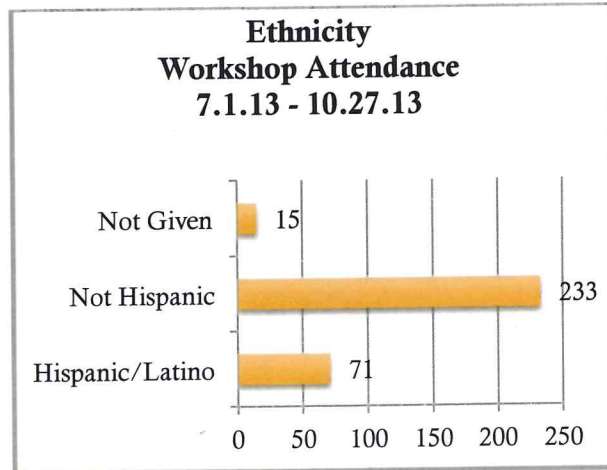
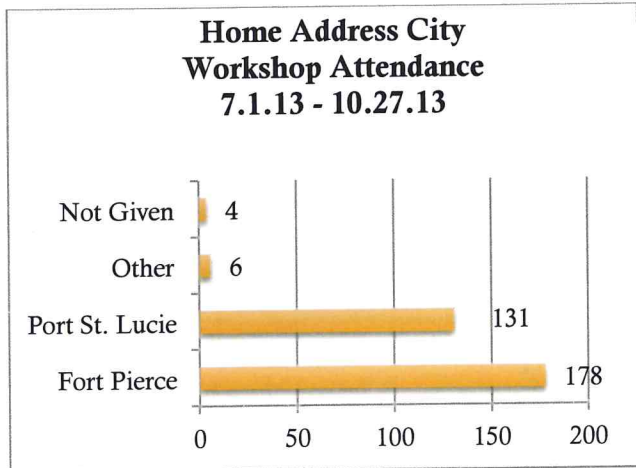
319 Parents attend Parent Academy Workshops/ 1,043 Total Parents Served

Workshop Category	# of Workshops	Attended	Evaluation Data		
			Evaluation Statement	% Agree	% Disagree
Social, Emotional, Behavioral	4	50	Information provided is useful to me as a parent.	100%	
			I would recommend this workshop to another parent.	100%	
			The instructor/facilitator was knowledgeable about the material presented.	100%	
Academic	11	79	Information provided is useful to me as a parent.	100%	
			I would recommend this workshop to another parent.	100%	
			The instructor/facilitator was knowledgeable about the material presented.	100%	
Health, Nutrition	8	190	Information provided is useful to me as a parent.	99.994%	.006%
			I would recommend this workshop to another parent.	100%	

319 St. Lucie County parents attended a Parent Academy workshop between July 1, 2013, and October 27, 2013. The chart above shows the number of workshops per type as well as parent evaluation data. Including the 724 parents working in an adult literacy program, Parent Academy served 1,043 parents between July 1, 2013, and October 27, 2013.

Parent Academy serves a diverse population

Data for parents attending a Parent Academy workshop indicate the diversity of parents participating in the many offered programs. The charts below show data for the city where these parents live as well as race and ethnicity information.



Common Zip codes Workshop Attendance 7.1.13 - 10.27.13

(Only includes zip codes with count of 10 or more)

Zip code	Attendees
34952	18
34953	49
34982	55
34983	45

How to contact Parent Academy of St. Lucie County

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Treasure Coast Early Learning Academy

United Way of St. Lucie County



Parent Academy also thanks St. Lucie Public Schools for their partnership, collaboration and leadership.

Parent Academy Board Members and their Affiliations

Brad Gould, Chair, Dean, Mead, Minton & Zwemer

Roger Baker, HANDS Clinic

Vice - Mayor Linda Bartz, City of Port St. Lucie; Roundtable of St. Lucie County

Terri Sloan-Bartz, Seacoast National Bank

Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council

Vashti "Jackie" Dunn, Treasure Coast Early Learning Academy

Suzanne Ensmann, Indian River State College

Hazel Hoylman, In the Image of Christ

Karen Knapp, United Way of St. Lucie County

Rep. Larry Lee, Jr., State Farm Insurance & Lighthouse Foundation

Craig Logue, Mariposa Elementary

Judi Miller, Big Brothers Big Sister

Edgar Morales, Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County

Roderick Natta, Title 1 Advisory Council

Craig Perry, Huntington Learning Center

R. Danny Pierre-Louis, Haitian Advisory Council

Eric Seibenick, Early Learning Coalition

Michelle Sheperd, Dean, Mead, Minton & Zwemer

Linda Tapia, Hispanic Advisory Council

Chris Taylor, Retired Educator

Queen Townsend, African-American Advisory Council

Olivia Watkins, Retired Educator

