



November 2020

# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

BRIGHT FUTURE MATCHING CAMPAIGN \* RAIL YARD DISTRICT \* LJ 2021  
\* YLJ 2021 \* ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT \* CLASS NOTES

The Leadership Jacksonville Office will be CLOSED November 26-27, 2020 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Reminder - Nominations for LJ 2022 are now open online.

## Celebrating Yvonne Moore

Yvonne Moore joined the Leadership Jacksonville staff as Administrative Assistant in January 2009. She quickly became a valued part of the team, working with hundreds of alumni and class members each year.

Yvonne oversaw much of LJ's transition to digital records and information delivery. After 11 years of keeping us all in line, Yvonne has announced her retirement, effective December 31, 2020. Please join us in wishing Yvonne the best!

A search is underway for Yvonne's replacement - if you know a super person who is interested, resumes should be sent to [jill@leadershipjax.org](mailto:jill@leadershipjax.org). The position statement is available for review.



**Yvonne Moore, Administrative Assistant**

## A Bright Future, Matching Campaign for Leadership



Leadership Jacksonville is excited to announce our online matching campaign, **A Bright Future** which will provide funding to empower community leaders to build a brighter future for Northeast Florida.

Leaders inspire others to see a bright future. Our campaign goal is to raise \$10,000 to fund programs that prepare these leaders. **Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, online donations from individuals, up to \$500 each, that are received between now and December 31, 2020 will be matched up to a total of \$25,000!**

**You can give online [here](#).**

*This is an opportunity to give an extra contribution to LJ that will double your impact in sustaining our organization.*

You can also find the "Bright Future" campaign button at the top of the LJ website in the menu area and on the home page. We are extremely grateful to **Eduardo Sarmiento** (LJ 2020) for designing our campaign logo.

**Please do us a favor by spreading the word about A Bright Future! Ask your family and friends to support Leadership Jacksonville by making a donation of any amount.**

**Contributions made on the regular payment page of the website won't be matched - so be sure to use the special link.**

## Rail Yard District Tour & Reception

More than 50 LJ alumni gathered to learn more about what's happening in the Rail Yard District with a self-guided tour followed by a reception at Rethreaded.

Thank you to **Community First Credit Union of Florida** for sponsoring the event and Eco Relics, Rethreaded and Tabula Rasa Brewing for hosting us all for the evening.

Leadership Jacksonville would like to thank our past and present alumni relations committee members for sharing ideas and thoughts that continue to keep alumni engaged.



Nadia Esha (NextGen 2019), Nicole Bryan, Jametoria Burton (LJ 2019), Kasey Wagner (LJ 2019) and Sel Buyuksarac (LJ 2019) (From left to right)



[www.CommunityFirstFL.org](http://www.CommunityFirstFL.org)

**Class of 2021**  
**Leading With Equity Day**



LJ Class 2021 Leading With Equity Day was held on October 22. Thank you **JEA Academy** for being our Program Day Sponsor. LJ 2021 focused on understanding the dimensions of diversity, inclusion as a culture, equity, intersectionality and privilege. Leadership Jacksonville recognizes that gaining knowledge of community issues and their complexities causes individuals to look within themselves to determine how to take action for the greater good. Thank you LJ 2021 for being present and discussing

a relevant topic surrounding our society's present-day issues.



**Class of 2021**  
**"Leading for a Lifetime" Program Day**

YLJ 2021 learned about public service, ethics and the local government legislative process on October 15, 2020. Local elected officials shared their passion and commitment to serve with students which sparked great conversations. Thank you to **Fidelity Investments** for continued support and program day sponsorship.



Smart move.®

**Coming Soon: Youth Leadership Jacksonville applications for the 2021-2022 school year will be provided to participating high schools in Baker, Clay, Duval and St. Johns counties. Contact Meg Folds for questions about YLJ and to find out the name of a school's point of contact.**

**Alumni Spotlight**

**Jennie Muniz**  
**Leadership Jacksonville**  
**Class of 2017**

Jennie Muniz is the Managing Director at Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP. She actively volunteers with Youth Leadership



Jacksonville and enjoys giving back by sharing what she has learned with others. Jennie has stayed involved with Leadership Jacksonville because she "loves the mission of building a better community and how we as leaders can contribute to that success." Going through Justice Day program activities such as first appearances and the jail tour made her think about rehabilitation and improving the justice

system. "It opened my eyes to many aspects of Jacksonville that I wasn't aware of." She learned to look at the Jacksonville community from a different angle particularly the arts community and the St. Johns River. Jennie shared she learned the St. Johns River could be capitalized on and how the river was vital to Jacksonville's success. Jennie sums up her LJ experience with one word, impactful.

Alumni Spotlight features short interviews with Leadership Jacksonville alumni.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Nominations are OPEN for LJ 2022**

Thursday, October 1, 2020 through Friday, December 11, 2020

### **Virtual YLJ 2021 Program Day**

Thursday, November 12, 2020

"Inside The System"

### **Virtual LJ 2021 Program Day**

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Governance Day

### **LJ Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**

November 26-27, 2020

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## CLASS NOTES

### **1986**

**Michael Korn** is the new Board Chair of OneJax, an Institute of the University of North Florida. He has also been selected to chair

the Florida Bar Rules of Judicial Administration Committee for the 2020-21 year.

### 1991

**Susan Ponder-Stansel** has been named president and CEO of Alivia Care, the new parent company of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. Susan has led Community Hospice for 31 years.

### 1992

**Janet Owens** posthumously received the Florida Times-Union's Arnolta J. "Mama" Williams Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual EVE Awards. Janet, who died in April 2020, was recognized for her years of service throughout the nonprofit sector, especially with LISC, Girls Scouts of Gateway Council, the United Way of Northeast Florida and Volunteer Jacksonville.



Brian Weiss (LJ 2020) and Harrison Conyers (LJ 2001)

### 2001

The **U.S. Department of the Navy** recognized **Harrison Conyers** with the Meritorious Public Service Award, a civilian citation. The award is the Navy's third-highest civilian recognition. It is presented to those who have made a substantial and positive impact on a specific activity or in a geographic location. At a ceremony at City Hall, **Capt. Brian Weiss**(LJ 2020), commanding officer of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, and Mayor Lenny Curry presented the medal to Harrison. Harrison serves as the Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department operations manager, As a department leader, he is the city's representative to veteran-serving organizations and initiatives; manages city services including the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program; and coordinates events including the Veterans Day Breakfast, Memorial Day Observance and Military Spouse Appreciation Day.



Kara Tucker (LJ 2020), Tyler Morris (LJ 2021) and Debbie Johnson (LJ 2011)

### 2004

In September **Tatiana Salvador** received The Florida Jurist: Recognizing Hispanic Excellence Award.

### 2007

**Trish Kapustka** has joined Fisher Design & Advertising as a Public Relations Specialist.

### 2010

**Sean Hall** has taken a position as State Sales Manager for Florida Fleet Technical Services.

### 2011

Congratulations to **Shannon Nazworth** who was named a Florida Times-Union EVE Award winner for her work at Ability Housing, helping to create affordable rental housing.

### 2016

**Sabeen Perwaiz** will serve as moderator at the virtual **Racial Health Equity Series: Bias in Health** conference on November 17, 2020. The conference is hosted by the Jacksonville Nonprofit Hospital Partnership and goals are to increase awareness and understanding of the community at-large and healthcare providers on racial factors that negatively impact the delivery of healthcare.

### 2019

**Lakesha Burton** received the Florida Commission on the Status of Women 2020 Spirit of Community Award for Duval County.

**Arthur Adams** was promoted to Senior Vice President of Sales at **CSX**. He joined the company in 2007 and was previously Vice President of Sales and Supply Chain Solutions. He maintains responsibilities for all sales portfolios within Agriculture and Food, Chemicals, Fertilizers, Paper and Forest, Metals, and Minerals, as well as leading Customer Engagement and TRANSFLO.

### 2020

**Tracy Williams** is now Senior Director, Provider Assets at GuideWell.

### 2021

**Carlton Robinson** has been named Chief Innovation Officer for JAX Chamber and he will lead the Venture Services Division.

**Jennifer Vanover** has been promoted to Senior Associate at GrayRobinson.

### Next Generation

**Ale'ta Turner's** (NextGen 2012) novella *Hold on Love, Lust is Calling* was selected and is featured in the local author's collection on the first floor of the Jacksonville Public Library, Main Branch.

**Javon Knight** (YLJ 2010 and Next Gen 2019) is a Government Relations intern with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

**Sabrina Marcos Smith** (NextGen 2019) has joined Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP as Associate Attorney.



Erik Kasper (LJ 2021) and Eric Mitchell (LJ 2021)



Thanks to all of our LJ alumni who are helping to get out the vote! You might have recognized Mincy Pollock (LJ 2020) ad when you drive past this billboard.

### Youth Leadership Jacksonville

**Valerie Starks** (YLJ 2016) is enrolled in the University of Central Florida MFA Film Production program. She is producer of *Egghead and Twinkie*, a coming-of-age comedy about coming out of the closet. The film is **crowdfunding** to cover the remaining production costs and seeking donations on their **wishlist**.

### Various

**Carol J. Alexander** (LJ 1998) was elected to join The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida Board of Trustees for a three-year term, starting in January 2021.

**Brian Davis** (LJ 1987) is chairman-elect of the board, in anticipation of becoming chairman in January 2022.

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## NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Our condolences to **Steve Betz** (LJ 2018) and his family upon the death of his son Anthony "Tony" Michael Betz on September 28.

Our condolences to **Kenyon Merritt** (LJ 1996) and her family upon the the death of her mother Marjorie Hagood Drake Varn on October 17.

Our condolences to **Mark Fry** (LJ 2017) and his family upon the death on October 23 of his father Edward C. Fry in Columbus, OH.

## LEADERS WANTED

### Changing Homelessness - Board of Directors

**Changing Homelessness** was formed in 1974 by a group of social service agencies and religious leaders, Incorporated in 2001 under the name Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville as a 501(c)(3) organization and lead agency for services in support of ending homelessness in Duval, Nassau and Clay counties.



The organization is now officially known as Changing Homelessness and led by **Dawn Gilman** (LJ 2018). The mission of Changing Homelessness is to guide the community effort and build capacity to prevent and end homelessness. As the area Lead Agency on Homelessness, they seek funding, foster communication, and provide training & data collection coordination to 40 member agencies that offer direct services to people in need.

In 2021 Changing Homelessness is seeking new members for its Board of Directors. Changing Homelessness is especially interested in discussing this opportunity with persons who have experienced homelessness and also seeks to ensure their board is comprised of representation of the community they serve. If interested, please reach out to Dawn Gilman at [dgilman@changinghomelessness.org](mailto:dgilman@changinghomelessness.org).



### First Coast Honor Flight, Inc. - Board of Directors

First Coast Honor Flight, a recently formed 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Northeast Florida, is seeking volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors in the following roles: Marketing & Public Relations, and Programs (logistics, event planning, and volunteer coordination).

First Coast Honor Flight is the first "Hub" in the nationwide Honor Flight Network to serve all of Northeast Florida. The sole mission of First Coast Honor Flight and the Honor Flight Network is to transport elderly and ill military Veterans to Washington, D.C., at no cost to them or their families, to visit the monuments and memorials which honor their service and sacrifice.

Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has carried almost 245,000 World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans on their "trip of a lifetime". Northeast Florida alone is home to an estimated 169,000 Veterans, more than 65,000 of whom are age 65 or older.

First Coast Honor Flight is planning its first flight in late Spring 2021 in hopes that public health conditions will allow safe travel. The safety and dignity of Veterans is their top priority.

If you would enjoy helping First Coast Honor Flight honor Northeast Florida's elderly Veterans, please contact Selena Hernandez-Haines, Hub President, by emailing [info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org) or by phone, 1-888-400-1185.

Please visit First Coast Honor Flight's website, [www.firstcoasthonorflight.org](http://www.firstcoasthonorflight.org), and Honor Flight Network's website, [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org), to learn more.

## MAKE A LJ DONATION

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs that will match the charitable contributions made by their employees. This is a great way to enhance the impact of your giving. Check with your employer for details.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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