

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2012, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that Pasco County and the Pasco County Housing Authority were one of the recipients of the 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to create a transformation plan for the Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee neighborhoods.



For nearly four years prior to the receipt of the grant, Pasco County, the Pasco County Housing Authority, many stakeholder agencies and local residents had been actively engaged in implementing the Lacoochee-Trilby Strategic Master Plan, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on November 17,

2009. Since October 2012, the initial visioning completed as a result of the strategic planning process has continued through the unique identification of people, neighborhood, housing, and community engagement strategies as part of the Choice Neighborhoods initiative to develop a comprehensive transformation plan for the neighborhoods.

At its core, the Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee Transformation Plan is a resident-driven plan that focuses on the area’s unique characteristics, capitalizes on existing partners, and identifies opportunities for the improvement of quality of life.

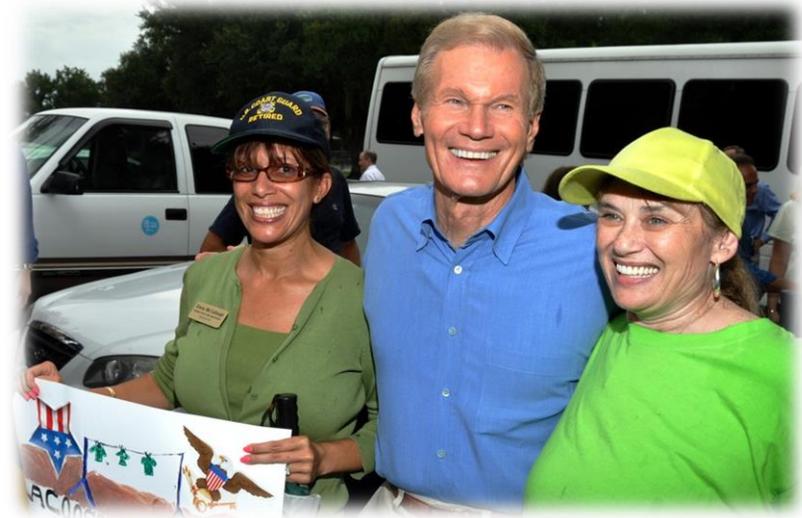
The Choice Neighborhood initiative was developed with Pasco County as the grantee and planning lead, with the Pasco County Housing Authority as co-grantee. The Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee Steering Committee, an existing grassroots community group, served as key stakeholders, reviewing concepts and chapters, providing feedback and direction on plan objectives, and maintaining accountability throughout the planning process.

The **Leadership Team** responsible for the development of the Goals, Objectives, and Action Strategies to implement the People, Housing, Neighborhood, and Community Engagement Plans represent the diversity that exists within and around the Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee Communities. The facilitators for each of these teams worked in collaboration with Pasco County,

the Pasco County Housing Authority, and area residents in the development of the plans.



Recognizing the importance of meaningful resident and community participation, a **Resident Outreach Coordinator** was contracted by the Pasco County Housing Authority to serve as the team lead for the community engagement team. The resident engagement coordinator not only served as the catalyst for significant involvement of Pasco County Housing Authority residents, but also served to involve not for profit agencies into the planning process and implement strategies that would immediately improve quality of life for residents in the Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee community.



The Lacoochee-Trilby-Trilacoochee Transformation Plan addresses specific issues pertaining to the communities it serves, including lack of employment and economic development opportunities, lack of consistent education and information about social service agencies and programs, failing elementary, middle, and high schools, and substandard infrastructure such as roads and potable water. However, among the tangible concerns related the neighborhood’s current conditions, there has been and will continue to be a sense of community pride and engagement among its residents. The concepts of “Unity” and “One Community” have not only been in existence since the dawn of the strategic planning process, but have been the fabric that has held the community together since its inception.

The most significant asset in the community has been the construction of the Lacoochee Community Center. This center

was the “golden ticket” for the community, bringing together residents, funding opportunities, government agencies, local businesses, and not for profit agency partners to develop and construct the 16,000 square foot center. This center provides a home for the Boys and Girls Club, a primary medical home in Premier Community HealthCare Group, Inc., a library, a computer lab, an office for the Pasco County Sheriff’s Officer Friendly, and other arts and cultural programs. Opened completely to the public in early 2015, multiple partnerships have already been developed to utilize the center.

