Leadership Palm Beach County's Adult Program is an interactive leadership development experience that prepares 45 participants annually for more active leadership roles in our County. The program supports existing and emerging leaders who have made and/or are making long term commitments to leadership in our County and its many communities by providing them with a comprehensive foundation of local knowledge and contacts.

The Program's thought-provoking curriculum provides a framework for participants to develop their capacity to play effective leadership roles within the context of local issues. Each class day is planned and coordinated by a different group of alumni volunteers, allowing for enhanced networking opportunities with presenters and community experts, as well as LPBC Adult Program graduates.

The Class of 2007 started the year with an Opening Retreat that included workshops and presentations by leadership development professionals as well as the kind of team building activities that have become retreat mainstays. Rick Caldwell from Toward a More Perfect Union and Mrs. Grace Nelson, wife of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, spoke on the topics of diversity, inclusive leadership and the importance of community involvement. Paul Litten of the Atlanta-based consulting firm leadershipForward led a morning session on transformational leadership and best-practice approaches to engage fellow leaders in working toward shared goals.

Following the retreat, class members participated in nine monthly sessions, with each one-day session targeting a different industry. As in past years, participants gained great insight into the complexities of our County and the interconnectedness its systems through a combination of tours, lectures, panel discussions and on-site visits. This year, in addition to the education delivered throughout the day, participants benefited from a new agenda format – restructured from prior years to include key resources and websites for future learning, and contact information from or on each presenter to promote continued learning and engagement on the sessions' topics.

The Class Project selection process was also revised this year: a Request for Proposal was fielded to Palm Beach County nonprofits, who were invited to propose a pressing local issue for the Class to tackle. The focus was again on considering projects most likely to yield long term positive impact. This year's Class selected to partner with FoundCare, the Foundation for Comprehensive Community Care, to address the issue of healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured in our county.

Have a great idea for a class project? The RFP process for the Class of 2009 Class Project will be fielded early summer, 2008. Please visit our website to download an RFP, or contact our offices: 561.790.5722.

Recognizing the challenges facing Palm Beach County's healthcare system, the Class of 2007 selected to partner with FoundCare – a nonprofit healthcare group committed to increasing healthcare access for Palm Beach County's uninsured and underinsured. After meeting with key FoundCare executives and local experts to determine what would be of greatest value, the class selected to create educational resources which will be used by FoundCare and its supporters to raise awareness about the plight of the uninsured and underinsured, and the role that FoundCare will play in helping to build the home for Palm Beach County's first nonprofit, non-governmental, federally-qualified healthcare center.

The class chose to develop tools that could be used to help spread the word about the solutions that FoundCare would offer, and to engage other organizations and community leaders to become aware of the plight of the uninsured in our county. The class created presentations, talking points and video testimonials that will enable FoundCare to better educate elected officials, community leaders, business people, potential patients and many others about the value and need for federally qualified health centers in our county – in turn, engaging many more community members as informed and effective advocates. The Class also made a call to action to all members of the community: anyone interested in serving on a Speaker's Bureau with FoundCare is invited to contact Jim Sugarman, FoundCare Chief Development Officer, at 561.472.3022.