

JustPartners, Inc.

Annual Highlights

Growing Praise for Viable Futures Toolkit

"It is helping us think outside the box."

"It has enhanced our partnerships."

"It helped us identify resources and approaches used by other areas of the country."

"The Toolkit is exceptionally well thought out."

From Oregon to Colorado to Georgia — in over 13 states so far— the Viable Futures Toolkit produced by JPI has moved community conversations toward collaboration and away from silo-ed thinking and zero-sum competition for resources. Its approach to pressing community issues has brought together residents across generations and across racial/ethnic groups to

identify common ground for utilizing their community's financial, human, and environmental resources.

Two locales using the Toolkit's point of view for their work — the New Columbia neighborhood in Portland, OR (pictured here), and the Jefferson Area Board for Aging in Charlottesville, VA,



are the recipients of national awards for their visionary work. Learn more about what they've done, and what your community can do, at www.viablefuturestoolkit.org.

In February, 2008, the University of Florida's Askew Institute will devote its annual statewide policy conference to questions about effectively serving the state's four generations. Informed by the point of view of the *Viable Futures Toolkit*, the conference is expected to generate policy ideas that recognize convergent interests across Florida's increasingly diverse age and racial groups, as well as foster resident mobilization for implementing ideas from the Toolkit at the local level.

Primary funding for the Toolkit comes from the blue moon fund, with additional support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Child Advocates Advance Racial Equity

JPI is proud to be part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Race Matters Team, whose efforts seek to close troubling gaps in well-being for vulnerable children of color. Through the provision of training and technical assistance to child advocacy organizations around the country

using the *Race Matters Toolkit*, the team has seen a growing number of organizations — from Washington to New Mexico to Wisconsin to Kentucky to North Carolina — become intentional about taking steps to reduce racial inequities.

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"With the right message, analysis, and tools, people will work toward racial equity."

From the *Race Matters Toolkit*





President's Message

Much of JPI's work offers guidance to increasingly interdependent stakeholders. Whether this refers to community groups or issue advocates who must share fixed asset pies, or racial/ ethnic groups who find themselves in proximity but not in coalition, or international groups who could benefit from one another's expertise and insights,

JPI's work build bridges, finds common or convergent ground, advances understanding and equity, and makes our interdependence work optimally for our family of clients and constituents.

This is true not only for the work we do with clients but also for the way we operate our company. We try to practice what we preach. To that end,

we have become more intentional about buying local, creating opportunity in our community, and becoming more environmentally conscious and active. To paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi, we strive to be the change we wish to see in the world. You can count on us for that, both now and in the future.

Joe Jenkins

Social Capital as a Key Asset for Elder Housing

Often the most abundant and replenishable resources in supportive housing for older adults is the talent of elders themselves. If organizations mobilize *social capital* in these settings, they can reduce their need and the need of residents for *financial capital*. This equation is especially critical in communities housing lower income elders.

premise in providing recommendations for a services plan for Baltimore's Stadium Place (pictured at left), a housing community of the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO). In addition to the other resources that organizations bring to the table, the talents of older residents remain a centerpiece for building and

sustaining caring communities This recognition underwrites the ability of residents not only to *age in place*, but also to *age in community*. And research documents that both individual and community social capital are good for residents' health.

This project was done in partnership with the Jefferson Area Board for Aging, Charlottesville, VA.



Child Advocates Advance Racial Equity (cont. from p.1)

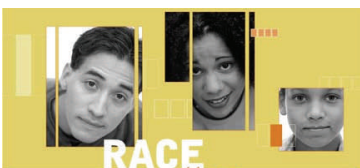
This work has prompted essential but previously untaken actions, including:

- Examining every social issue for its disparate impact by race
- Uncovering the "back stories" about how racial inequities get produced and maintained

- Moving solutions from being "race-silent" to ones that address the differing circumstances of children, families, and communities across race/ethnicity
- Revising organizational processes so that a focus on racial

equity becomes "hard-wired" as a routine function

The *Race Matters Toolkit* has given advocates a systematic way to better their results. As one remarked, "Every minute of extra work is well worth it – otherwise, how can we say we are addressing all children in our work?"



New Publications in 2007

JPI added to its product offerings in 2007 within its portfolios on Racial Equity and Age-Inclusive Communities.

Complementing the highly regarded *Race Matters Toolkit* (see story on p.1) is a new series entitled *MORE Race Matters*. The inaugural issues, supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, offer organizations guidance for achieving staff and board diversity (Issue #1) and racially equitable purchasing practices (Issue #2).



The portfolio on Age-Inclusive Communities added *Elders as Resources for Children & Families*. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this product highlights policies and practices that promote inter-generational support, especially for vulnerable families. The blue moon fund supported the development of a case study of



Charlottesville, VA's use of the Viable Futures Toolkit, entitled *Creating a Viable Future*.

All new products are available to download at www.justpartners.org.



Ivorian President Selected for U.S.- Modeled University

The installation in May of Dr. Saliou Toure as the First President of the International University of Grand Bassam (UIGB) in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, successfully concluded JPI's multi-year contract to get the Uni-

versity up and running. Currently in its third year of full operation, UIGB is poised to graduate its first class of seniors in 2009.

JPI's responsibility for operational and academic development positioned the insti-

tution for accreditation and established its reputation for good governance, transparency, and accountability. As former Minister of Higher Education, President Toure is a perfect choice to continue the work.

Vice President's Message

People are amazing. So are tools. When you put them together, anything envisioned can be created. The cover stories in this issue describe how toolkits have helped people come together to bridge advocacy interests or begin to close racial divides. Good toolkits

enable people to believe again that change is possible, even on the toughest issues.

In our work we meet many people who embrace values like equity and collaboration but are unsure about how to move in those directions. It is a privilege to combine our skills in Toolkit development

and technical assistance with the aspirations of good people armed with a knowledge of good ideas. JPI's spirit remains strong because of the incremental successes we see regularly on the long road to meaningful social change.

Paula Dressel



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JPI Supports Other Baltimore Area Nonprofits

JPI's commitment to give back to the Baltimore community focuses in part on support for grassroots nonprofits, whose work strengthens the fabric of our families, our neighborhoods, and the region. We all benefit when area residents and places are strong.

In 2007 JPI was pleased to support the McElderry Park Community Association in the city and the Arbutus-based program called Would U Listen? in the county. The McElderry Park

Community Association promotes housing and economic development, as well as fostering civic engagement and leadership development in East Baltimore. Through discussions and group activities, Would U Listen? offers guidance and skills development for life's essential relationships, whether at home, school, work, or in the neighborhood. Groups for young people, men, and women engage the needs, concerns, hopes, hurts, desires and dreams of participants in ways that strengthen their lives and the quality of their relationships.

Joe Jenkins presents Will Gilmer of Would U Listen? with JPI donation for its programs fostering relational skills for youth, men, and women



John Randall of the McElderry Park Community Association accepts JPI donation from Joe Jenkins in support of its community building work



JPI's Expanding Line of Toolkits

Remember this quote from Alice in Wonderland? *"If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there."* Sometimes even when we know where we want to go, we still may not be sure what road to take that will get us there. JPI is glad to help.

We produce tools and other guides that use the best research, the most promising policy and

practice, grounded experience, and the values of equity, justice, and interdependence in order to give highly practical, user-friendly directions for some of today's most pressing social problems and needs.

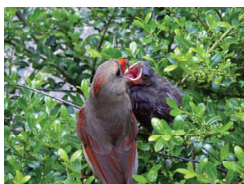
The cover stories in this issue talk about how two of our earlier products are changing organizational and community work around the nation. In 2007 we also produced a *Re-*

sponsible Relocation Road Map and an outline for a *Guide for Community Justice Ministry* for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Plans on deck for 2008 include tools that will capture some of the best work from disaster recovery so that communities can better prepare for emergencies.

Let us know if we can help you share your good work more widely.



Recognizing Promise



Nurturing Potential

