

# Grassroots Leadership Initiative

## Our Vision

To be a community where new voices are heard

## Our Mission

To help emerging leaders develop personal capacity and connections to lead in the context of community

The Grassroots Leadership Initiative (GLI) is a leadership development program that cultivates community leaders from the grassroots level in Sarasota and Manatee Counties to work for positive social change. GLI Alumni are equipped with new leadership skills and access to influential decision makers and their organizations.

Since 2006 grassroots leaders have engaged as GLI Fellows in a free, year-long program of leadership education, mentoring and networking opportunities which meet 2 to 3 times per month. Community projects are initiated by Fellows that address important issues and apply leadership skills to make a meaningful difference by focusing on assets and possibilities. GLI empowers a diverse group of emerging community leaders to use their voices to affect local decisions that shape our community.

## Contact GLI

1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 202  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
Phone: 941-365-8751  
Fax: 941-365-8592  
E-mail: [slaidlaw@scopexcel.org](mailto:slaidlaw@scopexcel.org)  
[www.GLIsuncoast.org](http://www.GLIsuncoast.org)

For more information please contact:  
Stacey Laidlaw, Project Coordinator

## Grassroots Leadership Initiative Steering Committee

Hon. **Fredd Atkins** - City of Sarasota

**Nickie Brown** - 2006 GLI Alumna

**Natalia Cava** - 2007 GLI Alumna

**Jim Delgado** - Kallins, Little, Delgado & Opstal

**E. Keith DuBose** - Matthews, Eastmoore, Hardy, Crauwels & Garcia, P.A.

**Tim Dutton** - SCOPE

**Dr. Peter French** - University of South Florida

**Nicole Martin** - 2006 GLI Alumna

**Diane McFarlin** - Herald-Tribune Media Group

**Hon. Elliott Metcalfe** - Public Defender for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Florida

**Tracy O'Neil** - Kerkering Barberio & Co., P.A.

**Tom Tryon** - Herald-Tribune Media Group

**Alex Young** - United Way of Sarasota County

## Founding Partners



# Grassroots Leadership Initiative



Cultivating  
Community Leaders  
from the *Grassroots* in  
Manatee & Sarasota  
Counties



# Grassroots Leadership Initiative

**A GLI Fellow** is a citizen of Manatee or Sarasota County who:

- makes community involvement a high priority,
- has a desire to improve the quality of life for all,
- values justice, equity and inclusion, and
- can commit time to develop as a leader on behalf of others.

GLI Fellows are emerging leaders who desire to provide leadership around important community issues but without broadening their leadership skills and local network through GLI, their full leadership potential may never be realized.

## GLI Mentors

The GLI Mentor offers coaching and guidance for the development and growth of a GLI Fellow. Mentors provide the bridging link between the workshops and the resources needed for the progress of essential leadership skills to become an effective grassroots leader and spokesperson for their community. The Fellow and Mentor meet at least once a month outside of the schedule program and continue the partnership for one year.



## Networking Sessions

The networking sessions of GLI bring the Fellows together with local decision-makers and their organizations from Sarasota and Manatee Counties. This is an opportunity to build bridges, share ideas and learn from experienced local leaders from business, government, non-profit organizations and other areas.

## Community Project

Fellows participate in small groups or individually lead community projects with other volunteers to develop, enhance and extend essential skills.

## Leadership Workshop Topics

The Leadership workshops offer practical training and information about community leadership.

- Our Community & Leadership
- Local Government Systems
- Communication Skills
- Relationship Building & Diplomacy
- Citizenship
- Vision & Mission
- Public Speaking
- Team Building & Motivation
- Meetings Facilitation & Conflict Resolution
- Data Collection, Measurement & Analysis
- Budgeting & Fundraising
- Media & Informing the Public

Visit [www.GLIsuncoast.org](http://www.GLIsuncoast.org) to apply for the next GLI Class

*The Grassroots Leadership Initiative (GLI) is a partnership of the **Herald-Tribune Media Group, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, SCOPE, United Way of Sarasota County, and University of South Florida.** They and many other businesses and individuals support GLI because they want to invest in the social fabric of our community through grassroots leadership. By broadening the discourse with a diverse group of leaders, our entire community will realize its economic and creative potential.*

## Get involved with GLI by:

- Volunteering as a GLI Mentor or workshop facilitator
- Sponsoring a GLI Fellow for \$2,500
- Sponsoring a Leadership workshop or networking session for \$5,000
- Offering other levels of financial or in-kind support