



Imagine a family with no home, no shelter and very little money, starting each day not knowing where they will be at its end or how they will provide for the most basic of life's necessities. There are at least 738,514 people and 200,000 families in Cambridge and the greater Boston area who face this.

The 2014 Community Outlook Survey conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston concludes that seven out of ten Americans are one pay check away from being homeless.

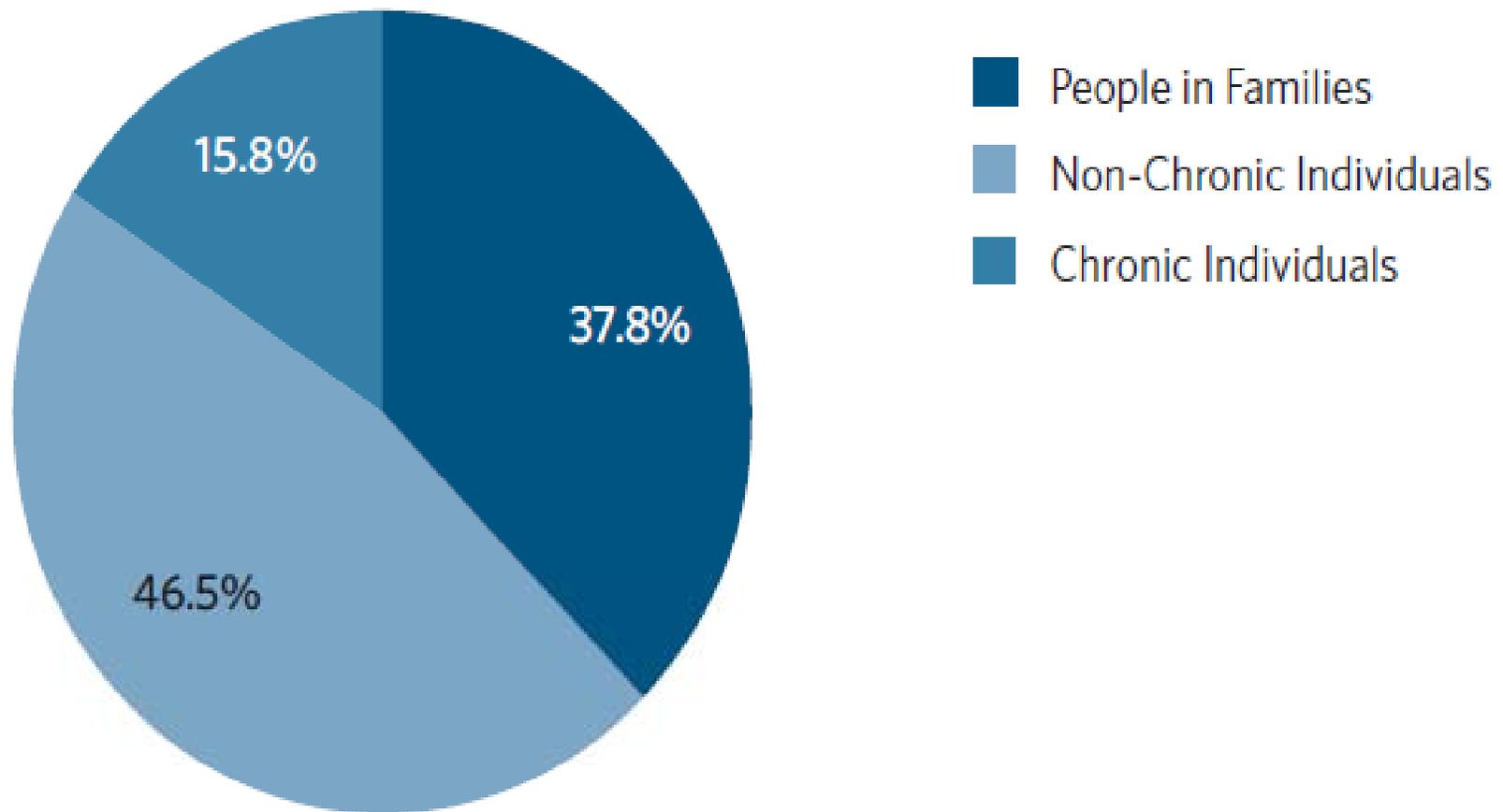
Job Security

job · se · cu · ri · ty

(noun):

- 1) a sense of protection from job loss**
- 2) SOMETHING THAT NO LONGER EXIST!!!**

Portions of Major Homeless Subpopulations



In Our Community

- In our community, 13% of seniors, 37% of children under the age of 18, 24% of people with disabilities, and 33% of veterans are living in poverty.
- Massachusetts saw the 5th highest increase in homelessness among all states between 2012-2014.
- On a single night in January 2014, five states, California, New York, Florida, Texas and Massachusetts accounted for more than half the homeless population in the United States.
- Here in the Cambridge and greater Boston region, approximately 88,000 children have no permanent home and 50,000 very low-income households are on the 5-year waiting list for the federal Section 8 housing voucher program. The waiting time is currently 11 years.

Table A

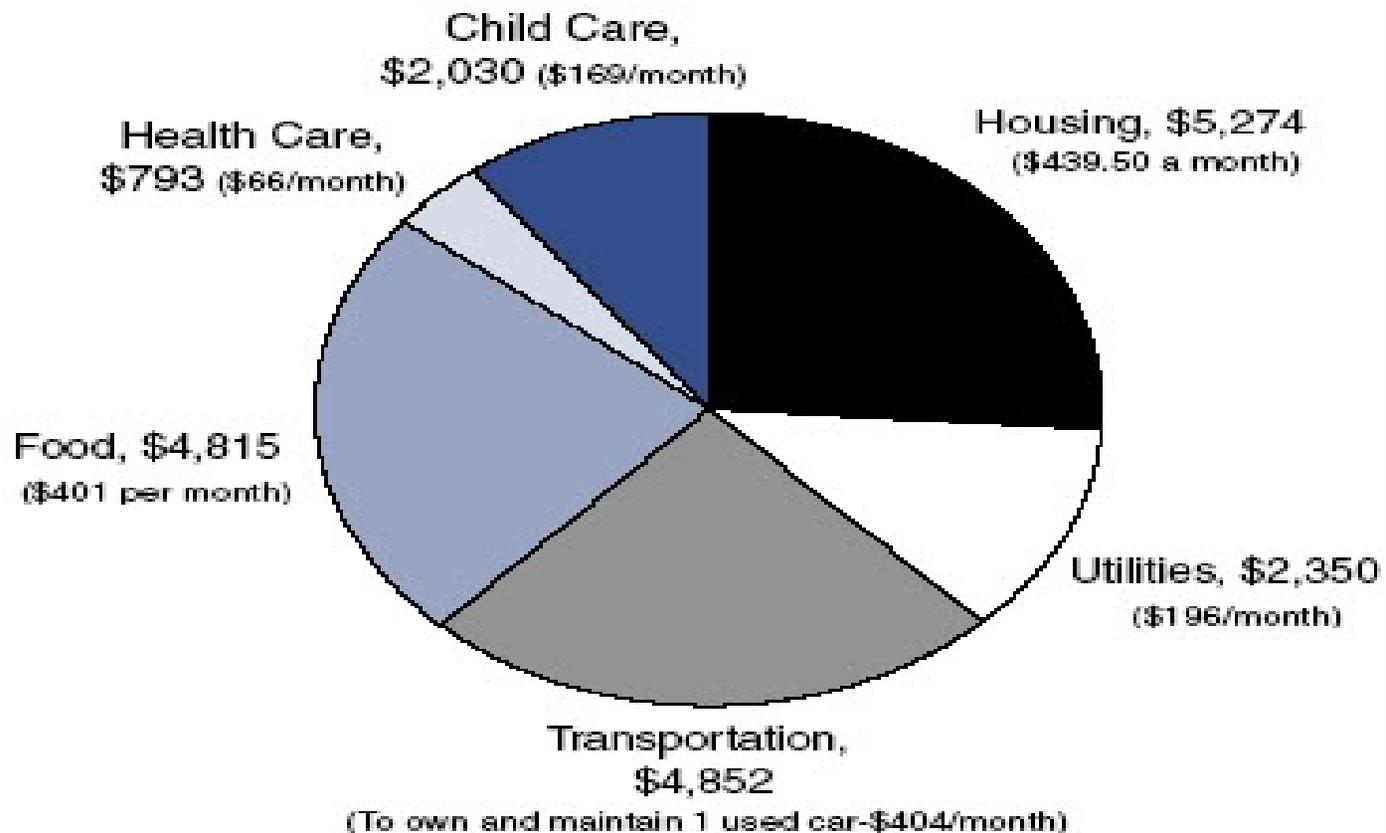
Top Ten States for Selected Income Inequality Measures

Greatest Income Inequality Between the Top and the Bottom, Late-2000s	Greatest Income Inequality Between the Top and the Middle, Late-2000s
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Mexico 2. Arizona 3. California 4. Georgia 5. New York 6. Louisiana 7. Texas 8. Massachusetts 9. Illinois 10. Mississippi 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Mexico 2. California 3. Georgia 4. Mississippi 5. Arizona 6. New York 7. Texas 8. Oklahoma 9. Tennessee 10. Louisiana
Greatest Increases in Income Inequality Between the Top and the Bottom, Late 1990s to Mid-2000s	Greatest Increases in Income Inequality Between the Top and the Middle, Late 1990s to Mid-2000s
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mississippi 2. South Dakota 3. Connecticut 4. Illinois 5. Alabama 6. Indiana 7. Massachusetts 8. Colorado 9. Kentucky 10. New Mexico 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mississippi 2. New Mexico 3. Illinois 4. South Dakota 5. Alabama 6. Connecticut 7. Missouri 8. Colorado 9. Florida 10. Oregon
Greatest Increases in Income Inequality Between the Top and the Bottom, Late 1970s to Mid-2000s	Greatest Increases in Income Inequality Between the Top and the Middle, Late 1970s to Mid-2000s
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connecticut 2. Massachusetts 3. New York 4. Kentucky 5. Illinois 6. California 7. West Virginia 8. Colorado 9. Rhode Island 10. Mississippi 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connecticut 2. California 3. Oklahoma 4. New York 5. New Mexico 6. Illinois 7. Oregon 8. Texas 9. Massachusetts 10. Rhode Island

Source: "Pulling Apart: A State-By-State Analysis Of Income Trends"

You do the math...

The federal government says a family of four making \$18,810 a year is living in poverty. But how far does \$18,810 go in America today?



Total: \$20,114. Does not include money for toiletries, school supplies, shoes, clothes, holiday gifts, education, life insurance, furnishings, recreation, cleaning supplies, or birthday gifts. What do you leave out?

Source: povertyusa.org

Founding Premise

Solutions At Work was established in 1989 by a group of homeless individuals who found the social services available at the time to be lacking. There were hand outs such as cots and sandwiches available, but very few opportunities to help people become more self-sufficient by taking control of their own lives and helping other people who face similar challenges.

Solutions At Work's founding premise is that people who have experienced homelessness or poverty must have an effective voice on their own behalf. Solutions At Work's primary objectives are to create a network of community support, promote and serve as a template for innovative and real solutions to combat and eliminate poverty and homelessness that can be readily implemented in communities, and provide transformative opportunities which empower people to be self sufficient and fully contributing members of society.

Mission & Vision

Solutions At Work is the ***only*** independent, nonprofit organization in Massachusetts dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness by providing individuals and families with resources and opportunities to strengthen their self-confidence, achieve self-sufficiency, and participate in helping others.

Solutions At Work envisions a community where people no longer experience poverty or homelessness.

Real Solutions

Unlike any other organization, Solutions at Work serves the entire spectrum of people experiencing poverty and homelessness and meets needs as defined by the people it assists, and its programs and services –most unavailable elsewhere– are designed, led and staffed by people who have experienced homelessness and poverty. Solutions At Work successfully models that bringing people together across a wide range of backgrounds can, and does, lead to real solutions to end homelessness and poverty.

Programs And Services

Solutions At Work's programs and services are focused on the root causes of poverty and homelessness and make available the following resources because countless local homeless and impoverished people have expressed time and again that these are precisely things they need to get their lives back on track:

The Children's Clothing Exchange Program

Helps low-income families deal with a high-cost, persistent item in their budget—clothing their children. The Children's Clothing Exchange is a unique barter system in which a parent/guardian can trade their children's outgrown items for age appropriate clothing, gear, equipment, books and toys.





The **Kids Space** is a cheerful, comfortable and safe place where children of all ages (and their families) can come and enjoy a book, play with toys and board games, participate in arts and crafts activities, interact and talk with other children, or just relax.



The SolutionsWear Program

Provides interview-appropriate clothing, shoes and accessories to men and women who are enrolled in area job-training programs, transitioning from military service, incarceration, health care or other institutional settings, and/or are unemployed, underemployed or laid off and going on job interviews to enter or re-enter the workforce.

The SolutionsWear program doesn't just provide business attire, it also helps people create a professional image and presence that bolsters their confidence, ensures success and improves their quality of life. It also offers homeless individuals a place to keep their belongings safe during an interview.





Before And After



The Moving Up Program

Provides low-cost moving services to people transitioning out of homelessness or those living in extreme poverty. The Moving Up program picks up and transports items from emergency shelters, hotels/motels, storage facilities, private homes, furniture banks, etc. The Moving Up program also provides work transition and job opportunities, job skills, training and professional development for homeless or impoverished people who would like to pursue a career/employment or start a business in the moving industry or other fields, to enable them to become financially stable and more active contributors to the larger fabric of society.



The Get Connected! Program

Refurbishes high-quality donated computers and printers and gives them free to those in poverty or moving out of homelessness to use to job search, find affordable housing, continue their education or stay in touch with their support network.

The Get Connected! program also provides job skills, education, training, professional development and work transition opportunities for homeless and impoverished people who would like to pursue a career/employment or start a business in the information technology/computer field, so that they can become more financially stable, self confident and employable.



The Speak Up! Program

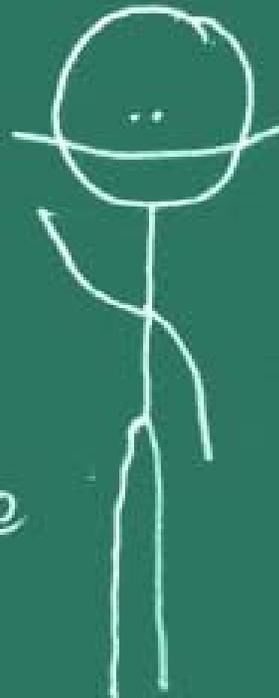
Raises awareness, counteracts stereotypes and dispels myths about homelessness and poverty by providing people with the opportunity to learn first hand from those who have experienced homelessness or poverty and from renown experts.

The Speak Up! program offers everything from one-on-one conversations to day-long “homelessness experiences”, fosters dialogue and provides an interactive & immersive experience for the participants/audience. The Speak Up! program is available to community organizations, clubs, business or corporate groups, school and university/college classes, scout groups, faith communities, professional association conferences, the media, etc.

check out my new
bracelet to raise awareness
about poverty.



poor people
are poor
cuz they're
lazy.



wow, that's
great. what does
it say?

In 2013, 28% of workers earned poverty-
level wages (\$11.06 or less an hour)

Source: "The State of Working America" Report

www.chalkboardmanifesto.com





Solutions At Work also partners with, serves and receives referrals from more than 175 nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and faith based communities, including the Cambridge Housing Authority, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Employment Options, Inc., On The Rise, ElderCorps, Interfaith Action, Inc., Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts, Rosie's Place, Transition House, City Mission Society, and the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

In addition, Solutions At Work partners with a number of colleges/universities, corporations and business entities, including Men's Warehouse, Whole Foods Market, Transatlantic Investment Management, Citigroup, Old Mutual, CORT Furniture, PI Worldwide, Tillingers, Harvard Business School and Social Enterprise Club Fellows Program and the Northeastern University Law School Alumni Association, who advertise and promote Solutions At Work's programs and services, donate new clothing and items, conduct clothing drives and mobilize volunteers to work on special projects for Solutions At Work.

Stories

❖ One week after receiving business attire and a series of professional image sessions through the SolutionsWear program, a man who had been unemployed and homeless for three years came to the Solutions At Work office to excitedly report that he had gotten a job. He had been diligently interviewing for jobs throughout the three years, but was never offered a position. He was certain that the SolutionsWear program was what changed his situation.

❖ A family in Boston with a new born baby was evicted from their apartment and became homeless when the father was laid off from his job and the family was unable to pay the rent. The Moving UP program moved the family into housing in Holyoke that the Department of Children and Families was able to secure for them. The DCF case worker told the Moving Up program staff that without the services of Solutions At Work, it would have been difficult for them to place the family in housing other than a temporary shelter.

❖ A woman who was a victim of domestic violence came to the Get Connected! program seeking a computer that she could have and use to study for the exam to obtain a drivers license. Her husband had taken their only car and the apartment she was able to afford to rent for herself and her children was not near public transportation, leaving her with no way to get to and from work. The local library only allowed use of a computer one hour a day, which was inadequate time for her to study and prepare for the exam. Solutions At Work facilitated the donation of a car for her from the National Consumer Law Center Working Cars For Working Families “More than Wheels” opportunity and through the Get Connected! program she was able to study for and pass the exam, obtain her drivers license and maintain her employment.

❖ While “shopping” at the Children’s Clothing Exchange, a single mother with three young daughters shared with the program staff that her daughters been bullied on numerous occasions because of their dilapidated clothing; she stated that Children’s Clothing Exchange program made a huge difference, not just because she could get “new” clothing for her daughters that she could not afford to buy, but that her daughters could have the same clothing other children have and hold their heads up proud, and as a result, the bullying stopped. Disadvantaged and homeless children face challenges many other children don’t ever experience.

❖ Tara’s Story



These are just five of the countless stories of how Solutions At Work helps people make real progress and empowers them to achieve self sufficiency and dignity.

In its 25 year history, Solutions at Work has assisted more than 120,000 people in Cambridge and the Greater Boston region and collected and distributed over \$17 million worth of in-kind donated clothing (children's clothing and adult business attire), coats, shoes, accessories, toys, books, baby/infant/toddler gear, computers and computer equipment to homeless, low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families.



Now imagine the family— armed with an amazing will to escape the streets and aided by the opportunities and resources Solutions At Work provides— made it out. They leave behind the streets, the shelters, and the fear to embark on a new journey of self-sufficiency and, at last, permanent housing. Through Solutions At Work this result occurs for families every day.

solutions at work

Working Together To End Homelessness and Poverty



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THE CONSERVATION ECONOMY®

A “Conservation Economy” is economic opportunities/jobs (beyond the concepts of eco-tourism and agri-entertainment) which capitalize on (without exploiting or exhausting) the natural resource and unique assets of a community while ensuring that those assets are preserved in perpetuity, thus ensuring the jobs will exist in perpetuity; are non-building based; are high paying; and define and maintain the community’s unique culture and character, provide for a sense of place, and enhance the quality of life (cornerstones of a sustainable community) of a region/area. The Conservation Economy® concept, approach and program combines Dr. Ernesto Sirolli’s (a world renowned economist) “enterprise facilitation” concepts and techniques (a powerful social technology that helps communities create economic diversity and sustainability that is people centered and locally controlled, and empowers people to achieve their personal dreams and aspirations) with land trust “grassroots” land and water preservation methodology, natural resource conservation and connectivity, community asset assessment/sustainable community resource/”state of the community” environmental scanning, and community empowerment principles, concepts, methods, techniques and approaches pioneered by Gail M. Sudore, C.F.R.E. (a nationally renowned consultant, author and leader, *Who’s Who In America* listee, and Congressional Order of Merit recipient). The Conservation Economy concept, approach and program also incorporates, with permission, selected principles and concepts articulated by author Lizabeth Shore in the book [Within Our Reach: Breaking The Cycle Of Disadvantage](#) and adheres to the standards of excellence and community empowerment leadership principles profiled by Marshall Goldsmith in [A Study In Excellence: Management In The Nonprofit Human Services](#).

Conservation Economy template projects focused on low income, impoverished and economically depressed communities and were conducted in Florida, New York, California, Minnesota and Wyoming and centered on the National Scenic Trail Lake Okeechobee Segment, Banner Lake Cultural Greenway, American Beach, Indian River Lagoon Estuary of National Significance, Delaplane Peninsula and St. Lucie River Blueway, and the Historic Okeechobee Battlefield and Seminole Indian War Historic Sites projects in Florida. Four of the projects are described below.

The National Scenic Trail, Florida Section and Lake Okeechobee Segment Project: This Conservation Economy project entailed securing conservation, recreation and scenic easements on properties in economically depressed communities around Lake Okeechobee which were central to the construction and completion of the Florida Section and Lake Okeechobee Segment of the National Scenic Trail, and the creation and development of economic opportunities and jobs centered on, spurred by and connected to the National Scenic Trail. The landowners were distrustful of and unwilling to work with government which prevented the completion of major sections of the trail for more than six years. All of the property owners agreed to work with the Florida Land Trust Network (note: Gail M. Sudore founded the FLTN and served as its President & CEO from 1998-2005), which enabled the State Of Florida to move forward with the stalled project. The FLTN was instrumental in getting the Florida Department Of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department Of Transportation to designate \$25 million towards the completion of the Trail and trailhead construction. County commissioners in the 11 counties surrounding the lake showed little interest in the trail project until the economic case the FLTN wrote and presented to the Treasure Coast and Southwest Florida Regional Planning Councils pointed out that the completion of the Trail would make the communities surrounding the lake eligible for \$150 million in additional federal funding for economic redevelopment/revitalization centered on the opportunities the trail would provide. The FLTN and Sirolli Institute International (note: Dr. Ernesto Sirolli is founder and President & CEO of the SII), in collaboration with the Palm Beach County Office Of Planning And Zoning, initiated a trail “roundtable” consisting of representatives from the various municipalities around the lake, which established an economic development master plan for the trail. Other principal partners who worked on the project included the Florida Department Of Environmental Protection Office Of Greenways And Trails, the Florida Department Of Transportation, the U.S. Department Of The Interior National Park

Service RTCA Office, the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, Florida Trail Association, the Western Tourism Alliance, and the Martin County Historical Society. A companion project was spurred by and as a result of the roundtable group. The Big Water Heritage Trail created a 500 mile long driving trail linking historical, cultural and ecological sites around Lake Okeechobee and promotes eco-tourism around the lake by directing visitors to interesting and significant sites and activities in the area. An advisory (standing) committee for the Big Water Heritage Trail project was established, which included representatives from the Seminole Indian Tribe, the City Of Pahokee, Glades County, the Henry County Library System, the City Of Moore Haven, the Okeechobee County Tourism Development Council, the Okeechobee Chamber Of Commerce, the City Of Belle Glade, The City Of South Bay, Martin County, and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. The FLTN, the Sirolli Institute International, the Palm Beach County Department Of Planning And Zoning, the U.S. National Park Service RTCA Office, and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWRPC) provided joint leadership for the Big Water Heritage Trail project; the SWRPC served as project coordinator.

The Historic Okeechobee Battlefield and Seminole Indian War Historic Sites: The Battle of Okeechobee, fought on Christmas Day 1837, was the largest and bloodiest battle of the Second Seminole War. A combined force of 1,032 U.S. Army and Missouri Volunteer soldiers led by Coronel Zachary Taylor assailed 480 Seminole warriors on this 1,000+ acre site located on SR 441 in Okeechobee County. Taylor's army drove the native Americans out of their prepared positions at a cost of 26 army soldiers killed and 122 wounded. An estimated 14 Seminoles were killed. The Battle of Okeechobee catapulted Taylor to the rank of General and eventually was used as part of his successful campaign for the presidency in 1848. While the Seminole Indian War lasted another five years, this was the last direct confrontation between the U.S. troops and the Seminoles attempting to retain their freedom. The battle precipitated congressional action in 1850 to move the last of the Native Americans west, completing the "Trail Of Tears" effort begun in 1835. The Okeechobee Battlefield was placed on the National Register Of Historic Places in the 1960's, but the site had not been preserved. As the City Of Okeechobee expanded eastward, the battlefield was encroached with roads and homes. In 2000, the National Trust For Historic Preservation designated the battlefield as one of the top ten most endangered historic sites in America. FLTN, working in partnership with the Friends of the Okeechobee Battlefield (FOB), took a lead role in the effort to preserve the battlefield and negotiated with the landowners to acquire the 63 parcels that comprised the battlefield site. FLTN also lent its expertise and provided the leadership to develop and implement a collaborative plan and raise funds through a capital campaign to acquire the land and achieve the potential of this unique national resource. This Conservation Economy project also involved the acquisition and preservation of and connectivity/integration with nine other historic sites throughout Florida (including the Miami Circle) which were significant to the Seminole Indian Wars. FLTN, SII, and FOB formed a collaboration with the (Florida) Archeological And Historical Conservancy, the National Trust For Historic Preservation, the American Battlefield Preservation Trust, the U.S. Department Of The Interior/National Park Service, the Florida Department Of Environmental Protection State Division Of Lands, Okeechobee County, and the Seminole Nation and Tribe to work for the designation (by the U.S. Congress) of the site as a national park/national monument and the establishment a Native American park "system" in Florida (similar to the Mound City/Hopewell/Fort Ancient Group in Ohio). In addition, the collaborative also worked with the National Museum of the Native American, Smithsonian Institution, University of Florida, McArthur Foundation, and Community Foundation for Palm Beach & Martin Counties, on the establishment of a national Native American research and cultural center which linked with other major Native America centers in Buffalo, NY (The Turtle Center), Albuquerque, NM (Indian Pueblo Cultural Center), Neah Bay, WA (Makah Cultural Research Center), and Dallas, TX (Native American Cultural Heritage Center).

The Banner Lake, Zora Neale Hurston And American Beach Cultural Greenways Projects: The Banner Lake Cultural Greenway Conservation Economy project involved the acquisition and preservation of a 61.29 acre parcel of land in the Banner Lake Neighborhood, a low income and predominately (African American) minority community, and other properties located in Hobe Sound, FL. The central property

was located adjacent to three other sites which housed the Dunbar Center for Early Childhood Education (a privately operated Headstart and Early Headstart Program center), Banner Lake Park (a county park), and the Banner Lake Community Center (a nonprofit organization-run community center featuring arts, cultural and recreation oriented programs for youth and adults). Remnants of the early baseball fields used by the Negro American League existed on the central parcel of property. A public-private partnership coalition was established and all of the sites and their individual, autonomous programs were combined (through an MOU agreement) and developed to serve as a economic cornerstone/“town center” and a ‘connector’ to create a large scale (passive) recreational greenway, integrating the properties, linking a number of culturally significant sites, providing for connectivity with Jonathan Dickenson State Park, the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, and the Loxahatche River wildlife corridor, and opening access to the public to the southeast side of Banner Lake Pond and the Florida Memorial Cemetery, an historical African American burial ground. This was the first land preservation and economic development project in the State of Florida that focused on the protection of African American cultural land assets. The Banner Lake project spurred residents of Amelia Island (north of Jacksonville, FL) to organize a campaign to preserve American Beach, a historically black beach. For more than three decades residents have fought development of the beach; condo encroachment shrunk the beach from its original 216 acres to 135 acres. Two of 120 cottage houses built in 1935 along the beach were placed on the National Historic Register in 1992. As part of this Conservation Economy project, FLTN and SII provided information, preservation strategies, negotiation strategy recommendations and advised a resident community activist/descendant of the founder of the American Beach cottage community who conducted the negotiations with the Amelia Island Plantation Company, owner of a significant portion of the beachfront property. As a result of the negotiations, the Amelia Island Plantation Company donated 8.5 acres of dunes to the U.S. National Park Service for permanent preservation and management. The entire American Beach cottage community, along with the Banner Lake Cultural Greenway, and the Zora Neale Hurston Historic Cultural Trail (located in Ft. Pierce, FL) were designated as the first locations on/to comprise the Florida Black Heritage Trail. The U.S. Department of Labor/Small Business Administration partnered with FLTN and SII and provided support for the establishment of small businesses and other “destination” services associated with the Florida Black Heritage Trail. The National Baseball League, American Baseball League and Florida Marlins Baseball Franchise were also partners on the project.

The Delaplane Peninsula & St. Lucie River Blueways Project: This Conservation Economy project was multiple property public acquisition project centered on the preservation of 69.9 acres and 9,400 linear feet of scenic and historical waterfront land on the Old South Fork of the St. Lucie River. The purpose of the project was to create a 10 mile long “blueway” connecting land owned by the Audubon Society and the South Florida Water Management District (acquired for Everglades restoration) to the north of the peninsula, with Martin County’s Halipatioke Regional Park, Hosford Park and other public recreation and conservation lands south of I-95 and Route 76 in the Treasure Coast region of Florida. The section of the river along the peninsula served as the location for the filming of the exterior nature scenes used in the classic movie “*The African Queen*” and is now considered a national treasure. Since the 1920's the film industry has been drawn to the area (a section of Hobe Sound was originally named “Olympia-Picture City”) because of the pristine and wild and scenic beauty of the river. According to film editing logs provided by Angelica Huston, Oscar winning actress and movie director John Huston’s daughter, Mr. Huston and 20th Century Fox chose to use the exterior nature scenes of the peninsula section of the St. Lucie River as a backdrop for studio filmed tank scenes because it looked (and still looks) more like what people (in test screenings) perceived as a wild and scenic *jungle* river than the river in Uganda/Belgian Congo where the sequences with the actors was filmed (timbered and denuded sections of forest and crocodiles which posed a danger to the actors and film crew while filming on the location river were noted in Mr. Huston’s log as his main reason for the use of exterior nature scenes). In addition, movie studio records document that the Old South Fork and peninsula section of the river was also used as the location for a number of other films, including “The Amazon Women Of The Jungle”, “Death Curse Of The Tartu”, “Tarzan’s Revenge” (1938 version), “Tarzan The Fearless And The Trappers”. The historical and economic significance of this community asset was unrecognized by public officials

and economic development experts and the entire area along the Old South Fork of the St. Lucie River was being actively promoted for (conventional) residential and commercial development and threatened by urban sprawl. FLTN and SII deemed that the economic development opportunities that could be gained by leaving the land in its natural state and undeveloped was extremely diverse and held tremendous potential; Hollywood film industry representatives and Ms. Huston projected that the film industry *alone* could bring \$40 million annually in net economic benefit to Martin County, \$24 million *more* than would be realized from all other conventional/traditional (ie: residential and commercial) economic development combined. As a direct result of FLTN's persistence in securing a grant award of \$5.9 million in funding from the State Of Florida's Florida Forever Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Program and leveraging that grant for additional funding from public and private sources, two parcels of land on the peninsula (totaling approximately 41 acres) were closed on and placed under conservation/recreation public use designation in May 2003 and are now under the ownership of Martin County. In addition, FLTN negotiated the establishment of permanent conservation easements on three parcels of land in private ownership to preserve the scenic qualities of the mainland opposite the peninsula. FLTN also proposed a project and secured state funding from the St. Lucie River Issues Team to reconnect the peninsula's lagoonal oxbow and restore the historic flow of the Old South Fork. FLTN and SII partnered with the world renowned Battelle (scientific) Institute (headquartered in Columbus, OH) to introduce and use a cutting edge, innovative river restoration technology developed by Battelle as a model for non-structural based, reusable/portable and cost efficient (spending to construct the conventionally/traditionally used methodology employed by the South Florida Water Management District averaged \$5 million per project vs. \$5,000 for same results accomplished by the FLTN/Battelle proposal/project, a significant cost reduction & saving for the state) oxbow reconnection methodology in Florida. Due to public policy advocacy work of the Trust For Public Land and the Florida Land Trust Network, in 2001 the Florida legislature authorized non-profit land trusts/land preservation organizations to be eligible for funding from and the participate in the FCT Program (which had been previously only open to municipal and county governments in Florida). The Delaplane Peninsula & St. Lucie River Blueways Project was selected through a highly competitive, lengthy and detailed grant proposal application/grant award process as one of the first land preservation projects to be funded through the FCT program in which the non-profit land trusts/land preservation organization would serve as the acquisition agent (note: three land trust sponsored projects were awarded funding in 2001); to date seventeen land trust/land preservation organization sponsored projects have received funding through the FCT program). The Delaplane Peninsula & St. Lucie River Blueways Project was the first multiple parcel, "blueways", and connectivity land acquisition project ever to be approved (and implemented) by the State Of Florida.

As a direct result of the National Scenic Trail Florida Section Lake Okeechobee Segment, Banner Lake Cultural Greenway, and Delaplane Peninsula & St. Lucie River Blueways Conservation Economy projects, the region has experienced one of the largest increases in economic/job growth (sustained) in the United States (on average, for every 1 job produced by conventional/traditional economic development means/approaches 50 new jobs were produced by the Conservation Economy approach) and now realizes the highest economic return (#1) in the nation generated from the film, still photography, outdoor magazine, advertising, cultural research, outdoor recreation and tourism industries.

The very first Conservation Economy©® project was centered on and spurred the establishment of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York. Seneca Falls was the birthplace of the women's rights movement and the inspiration for the Frank Capra movie "It's A Wonderful Life". Prior to the establishment of the Park, the major employers in the region consisted primarily of Kodak, Xerox, Gould's Pumps, the P & C grocery store chain, hospitals, Cornell University, Ithaca College, the University of Rochester, and the Rochester Institute of Technology. Due to a major economic downturn, many of the storefronts on Main Street in Seneca Falls were vacant at the time. The traditional economic approach was targeted to re-establishing and enhancing the manufacturing industry that had been prevalent historically in the Finger Lakes region, however, the raw materials needed for

manufacturing were no longer being produced in the region, the demand for the manufactured goods was waning, and there was significant conflict between manufacturing and tourism, which New York State was promoting as the economic future of the Finger Lakes Region. The women's suffragette movement and women's history was the greatest and most unique asset of the region. As a result of the project, not only was the Park established (which became a major tourism draw for the region) and downtown Seneca Falls revitalized through the attraction of a wide array of women-owned and women-oriented businesses, but five major national/international publishing companies that publish books and materials about women's history, two major internationally renown acting companies that portray famous women in history, three period costume manufacturing companies which provide costumes, props and set decoration pieces to Broadway, Hollywood and the movie and television industry, and an entirely new industry-women's studies (on the academic and research levels)- were created. The region also became a significant draw for the movie, documentary and television industry, attracting the likes of Ken Burns and other major film makers. This project and nontraditional approach accounted for the largest growth of economic development that occurred in New York State than had occurred over the past twenty five years through traditional economic development approaches/efforts.

In 2003, a documentary series on the new approach of, innovation in revitalizing low income/disadvantaged communities, and economic development success spurred by the Conservation Economy concept, template projects and program was filmed by PBS and aired for a national audience.

The Conservation Economy concept, approach, techniques and program and the Enterprise Facilitation program are copyrighted and patented programs of Gail M. Sudore and Dr. Ernesto Sirolli respectively. Copyrighted and patented 1998. All rights reserved.