

DELTA PACE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PACE, MISSISSIPPI

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS - In the past two years, Pace has:

1. Incorporated and chartered the Delta Pace Community Association as a local non-profit development corporation and elected a local bi-racial Board of Directors.
2. Opened a community laundromat in an abandoned gas station that has shown a profit each month for eight months.
3. Repainted all the storefronts in the downtown business district.
4. Leased another building to expand the laundromat to twice its current size.
5. Renovated a vacant building for use as a new restaurant.
6. Submitted a proposal for an EDA Technical Assistance grant for a complete market analysis and proposals for new commerce and industry.
7. Built a new City Hall with an EDA Public Works grant.
8. Secured EPA funding for a 201 Facility Plan for a sewer system and completed Step One of the study; and secured a commitment from EPA for 75% of the costs of constructing the system.
9. Completed a 20-year Comprehensive Plan that includes codes and ordinances, annexation, public improvements plan, utilities plan, recreation plans, and community facilities plan.
10. Received funding from NDWP for a Public Utilities study that has been completed.
11. Submitted a local and private bill to the state legislature that has been passed, authorizing the transfer of the water system from the Pace Water Association to the Town of Pace.
12. Generated over \$250,000 in local capital improvements through volunteer labor and private sector contributions and in-kind donations of materials, equipment, and supplies.
13. Initiated adult training through national and international trips, literacy classes, methods training, skills upgrading, and leadership in statewide town meetings.
14. Sponsored new groups and reorganized old groups - Jaycees, PTA, Delta Pace Community Association, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Youth Service Corps.
15. Involved many outside organizations in the local project - Xerox Corporation, Redd Pest Control, Bolivar County Health Department, Jackson Paper Company, Lakeside United Methodist Church (Pine Bluff, Arkansas) to name but a few.
16. Renovated a building with local volunteers, secured a Title XX grant, hired a 10-person staff, and opened a licensed Day Care Center for twenty-four one and two year old children.
17. Held in excess of 30 Saturday workdays in which 10 to 75 local citizens of all ages and both races participated each time in beautification, renovation, demolition, and clean-up projects.
18. Organized weekly guild meetings (task forces in health, education, welfare, commerce, industry, and agriculture) and stake meetings (5 community neighborhoods) to ensure community leadership and participation.

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

DELTA PACE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PACE, MISSISSIPPI

BASIC OBJECTIVES:

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

The momentum in Pace's economic redevelopment has been generated and sustained out of sheer will power on the part of the community with no outside funding. The next steps must deal with three critical issues: 1) the intensification of on-site training of new and established businesses in managerial and marketing skills to expand their businesses and increase their capacity for production and sales, and therefore, more jobs; 2) the initiation of more new businesses and industries, with adequate facilities, to provide services and job opportunities currently absent in the area; and 3) the rapid completion of the Public Improvements Program to generate a favorable climate in which lending institutions and investors will move with confidence. The community has proposed the following next steps to address these needs:

LOCAL COMMERCIAL REDEVELOPMENT proposes:

- Purchase of an existing 3000 square foot building in the central business district for use as a small department store (3 new jobs)
- Renovation of an existing 6000 square foot building in the middle of the central business district to be used as a Commercial Center for incubator businesses and industries, DPCA offices and activities, and as a training center (8 new jobs initially)
- Installation of equipment and facilities for a Gas Station/Bait Shop on Highway 8 (3 new jobs)
- Purchase of 20 acres of land on Highway 8, zoned Highway Commercial, by the Delta Pace Community Association for future location of a Shopping Mall and other commercial development
- Construction of a 6200 square foot highway shopping mall with four new businesses (12 new jobs)

NEW INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT proposes:

- Development of an industrial park with an access road, elevated water tank, new water well, fire hydrants, and water and sewer lines and at the same time serve low-income minority areas with adequate water services
- Initiation of a local construction and contracting company (4 new jobs)
- Launching of a concrete products industry with a local retail outlet store (4-6 new jobs initially)

ECONOMIC SUPPORT SERVICES proposes:

- Beginning a Commercial School in the Commercial Center for business training in management, marketing, and secretarial skills
- Expansion of the Adult Training Institute to include basic math and 15 new participants
- Hiring a full-time Delta Pace Community Association Administrator for management of grants, loans, and program activities (1 new job)
- Building a new facility for the Day Care Center to expand the program from 24 to 50 children and from 10 staff to 17 (7 new jobs)
- Securing a grant for the local match of the Day Care Center Title XX grant (preserves 10 existing jobs)

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM proposes:

- Obtaining a grant to cover the matching costs of providing a 23-acre park in the center of town as a recreational center for the entire county (1 new job)
- Obtain the professional legal services necessary to insure adoption of new codes and ordinances, proper preparation and presentation of