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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***TRINITY CAFÉ AND TAMPA BAY BLACK BUSINESS INVESTMENT CORPORATION RECEIVE GRANTS FROM LEADERSHIP TAMPA ALUMNI***

TAMPA, FL – Trinity Café and Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation were presented grants of \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively, from Leadership Tampa Alumni (LTA), a committee of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. The grants were presented at the LTA Annual Meeting held at A LA Carte Event Pavilion on January 21, 2010.

The grants were awarded as part of Leadership Tampa Alumni's Philanthropy In Action (PIA) program. Launched in 2002, the PIA initiative was established through the vision of philanthropist Bob Blanchard, who challenged LTA to raise money in support of worthy non profits in the Tampa Bay area. The PIA initiative has further matured with a formal partnership with the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. To date LTA has donated \$80,000 to worthy organizations.

Through community partnerships, LTA was able to offer two grants. A traditional grant was awarded to Trinity Café, a non-denominational charity that has been a lifeline for the hungry and homeless in Tampa Bay since 2001, having served more than 594,000 restaurant-quality meals. They provide kindness and a touch of class for lives turned bleak by the streets. This grant will be used to purchase essential kitchen equipment, a heated holding cabinet and a hot food table, replacing equipment that is 25 years old. This will ensure Trinity Café is able to prepare and safely feed hungry men, women and children in 2010 and beyond.

A micro-lending grant, made available through a partnership with LTA, the Children's Board Foundation and the Verizon Foundation, provides funds for the establishment of a a micro-lending program to qualified low-income individuals. This grant was awarded to the Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation, Inc. (BBIC). The purpose of the BBIC is the advancement of the economic well-being of our region through the financing and identification of business opportunities for businesses owned and operated by African American residents of Hillsborough and Pinellas County. Funds loaned under this micro-lending project will be repaid to the grant recipient and subsequently loaned to other entrepreneurs for years to come. The University of Tampa School of Business will assist in mentoring the micro-lending project.

### ***About Leadership Tampa Alumni***

With more than 550 active members that have graduated from Leadership Tampa since its founding by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce in 1971, Leadership Tampa Alumni ([www.ltalumni.org](http://www.ltalumni.org)) provides ongoing opportunities for its members to remain actively involved in civic, business and professional activities that benefit the greater Tampa community. Members represent nearly every facet of local business and community life, including large corporations, small businesses, professional associations, government and social agencies.

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**LEADERSHIP TAMPA ALUMNI**  
*A Committee of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce*  
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Leadership Tampa Alumni Philanthropy in Action Committee members and the recipient of the Micro-Lending Grant.

From top left: Clark Jordan-Holmes, LTA; Bobby Davis, The Children's Board; Peter Rood, LTA; Pat Spears, LTA; Anne Adams, LTA; Lisa Semeyn, LTA; Sara Michaelson, LTA; Julie C. Smith, Verizon Vice President of External Affairs, Southeast Region; Frances A. Wimberly, President Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation, Inc.

Photo credit: Bridget Robertson



Leadership Tampa Alumni Philanthropy in Action Committee members and the recipient of the Traditional Grant

From top left: Clark Jordan-Holmes, LTA; Peter Rood, LTA; Anne Adams, LTA; Lisa Semeyn, LTA; Sara Michaelson, LTA; Pat Spears, LTA; Cindy Davis, Program Director, Trinity Café & Jeffrey Darrey, Chairman, Board of Directors, Trinity Café.

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