

# PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Promoting economic growth, leadership and education within the City of Portsmouth

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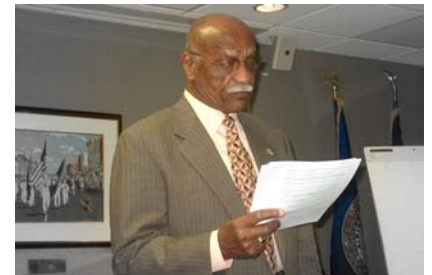
## LEFCOE LEADERSHIP: *AN ENDURING LEGACY*



Since 1997 the Portsmouth Partnership's Lefcoe Leadership class ([www.lefcoeleaders.org](http://www.lefcoeleaders.org)) has attracted participants of all ages who share a common desire to become more involved in their community. With a focus on Portsmouth's history, its government and its management, the 12-week course has brought to light many exciting aspects of the community previously unknown even to lifetime Portsmouth residents. But perhaps the class's greatest product is its legacy of service and

enduring friendships: of the program's **264 graduates**, the 110 who responded to a 2008 survey indicated that they **currently fill 185 posts in 95 organizations**.

Led since 1997 by Mr. Horace Savage, retired Portsmouth educator, each year's class covers subjects ranging from local, state and federal government to economic development, the history of Portsmouth, regionalism and volunteerism. Program Coordinator Betty Jo Gwaltney, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Partnership, schedules weekly presentations made by active and retired city, state and national government figures as well as developers, historians and the leaders of local non-profits. The class text, Max DuPree's *Leadership is an Art*, is complemented by presentations which focus on effective leadership and team building. Trustees include President David Tynch, Vice-President Don Comer, Treasurer Steven Minter, and Secretary Mallory Kahler, plus Diane Griffin, Michael Blachman, Peggy Murphy, Phil Rudisill, and John Tynch, III, Louise Walden and Junius Williams.



Horace Savage



Beyond merely absorbing the information covered in these Wednesday night sessions, however, each year's class must choose one or more **hands-on projects** which must be designed, funded and completed before the 12-week period's end. Many projects have supported the ongoing work of established organizations. For example, the class of **2003** chose to purchase, prepare and serve meals (pictured at left) for the **OASIS** Feed the Homeless program ([www.portsmouthfamilies.com](http://www.portsmouthfamilies.com)).



The class of **2005** pursued three separate projects: hosting a luncheon honoring our local **Coast Guard** members' service; performing maintenance work and repair on the city's **Safety Town** (pictured at left); and providing money for the first annual **\$1,000 student scholarship** to be added to the **Lefcoe Alumni Association's** annual **SAIL Award**.

The class of 2004 was particularly taken with Portsmouth's history and, accordingly, produced a DVD which tells Portsmouth's story in rich detail (available through the Portsmouth Partnership at 397-8473). Along similar lines, one Lefcoe '04 grad offered to set up a database for the Naval Shipyard Museum's use in tracking the museum's subscribers.

Other projects employ the class members' hands-on efforts to produce something that is tangible and lasting. The class of 2006, in addition to hosting both Career Day programs at the city's three high schools and a NEAT community policing summit, also constructed an Infinity Garden for the EDMARC Hospice for Children ([www.edmarc.org](http://www.edmarc.org)), pictured at right. Class members designed this beautifully landscaped garden, raised the money to buy materials, and built it from start to finish.



When the class of 2007 chose to haul and spread gravel at the Hoffer Creek Wildlife Refuge's ([www.hofflercreek.org](http://www.hofflercreek.org)) Welcome Center they went one step further and invited kids from the Friends of the Juvenile Court ([www.fopjc.org](http://www.fopjc.org)) program to assist with the work (pictured at left) and share in a picnic when the work was done. Today, Hoffer Creek continues to grow its facility, while five Lefcoe grads now serve on the board of the Friends of the Juvenile Court. The 2007 class also contributed to the city's Esther Murdaugh Wilson Memorial Room's photographic archive, housed at the Library's main branch on Court Street ([www.portsmouthpubliclibrary.org](http://www.portsmouthpubliclibrary.org)).



This year's 2008 class took note of the trash which accumulates along the city's downtown Elizabeth River shoreline. After completing an intensive drive to clean up existing trash (pictured at left), they stationed long-handled nets at the downtown waterfront office of the Elizabeth River Project ([www.elizabethriver.org](http://www.elizabethriver.org)), thus making it possible for others to maintain a clean waterfront on an ongoing basis while raising the public's awareness - and inviting the public's participation - in the process.

The Lefcoe Alumni Association has taken community service to a new level through several continuing programs. Recognition of three individuals within the Portsmouth School System whose contributions extend beyond the norm is marked by the annual Support and Assistance in Instructional Leadership (SAIL) Award, which presents \$1,000 to each recipient in addition to a \$1,000 student scholarship. Also, each year the Alumni and Portsmouth's Chamber of Commerce measure trends in teacher pay, teacher retention and school accreditation.



Working in cooperation with WGNT-TV, the Alums host televised pre-election forums for both City Council and School Board candidates. And, in September of 2007, working with the support of Bon Secours Maryview Hospital and the Maryview Foundation Clinic the Alums hosted the first City-Wide Health Fair at I.C. Norcom High School (pictured above), providing blood screenings, exercise instruction and healthy cooking tips for all who attended - free of charge.

The goal of the Lefcoe Leadership Program is "to identify, educate and encourage future leaders within the City of Portsmouth." It is the City's good fortune that the energy and dedication of the program's graduates bring that goal to life as they work to build a lasting legacy of cooperation and service.

Applications (due Oct 24) are available at [admin@portsmouthpartnership.org](mailto:admin@portsmouthpartnership.org) or [www.lefcoeleaders.org](http://www.lefcoeleaders.org).



**GPDC 10 years 1,000 jobs \$8,000,000 tax revenue**

