

August 8, 2003

To the Gulf Power Foundation:

The Greater Pensacola Front Porch Community is comprised of the City of Pensacola and Escambia County residents. The community is primarily low income and the typical home is an off-grade, wood frame house that is quite old, with a majority being in serious despair. Many elderly residents live in severely substandard housing that is typically deteriorated beyond the point of economic repair. Over 45 percent of the housing units in the area are marginal rental properties, which are often poorly maintained by absentee landlords. Vacant, frequently dilapidated housing units and abandoned neighborhood commercial establishments are a constant dilemma given the high rates of drug-related crime in the community. Many vacant residential and commercial parcels/lots can be found throughout the community; however, due to the persistent social and economic problems that plague the area, it is very difficult to obtain private sector investment.

Though faced with a myriad of problems and issues, the residents of the Greater Pensacola Community have readily accepted the challenge to work together to make the community a better place to live and work by organizing the creation of jobs; improving community involvement; improving environmental conditions; providing a conducive learning environment in our schools and working through a community watch program to prevent violence and drug related crimes.

The purpose of this request is to support the Governor's Front Porch Initiative in the Pensacola area, as well as partner with the community to assist with educational and revitalization efforts. Additionally, this request is not only to provide support for projects, as outlined in the community action plan, but is also assist the Front Porch Community Liaison in her current role as stated by the Governor's office. We recommend that 20% of the total amount donated be applied to the funding of the Community Liaison with the balance going to operational needs. Without her efforts, the initiative would be at a loss. I respectfully request funds totaling \$5000 to donate to the Governor's Front Porch Initiative.

Sincerely,

*Susan N. Story*