

Leah Ward-Lee
Co-Founder & Executive Director
The \$1,000 Start-Ups Consortium

The \$1,000 Start-Ups program provides entrepreneurship, financial management and life skills training at no cost to adults with up to \$1,000 business start-up funding to those who complete the program. The program includes a Prototype Fair and three small business fairs held at the Peck Center in Fernandina Beach. Local small businesses are invited to display at no cost and bring money into the traditionally underserved community.

Leah is the author of both the book and course *\$1,000 Start-Ups: 60 Business for Micro-Entrepreneurs ... and How to Start Them*, used in the entrepreneurship section of the \$1,000 Start-Ups program.

She is a retired U.S. Army Officer, who began her service during the Vietnam Conflict and retired at the end of Desert Storm.

She has bachelor's degrees in Business & Organizational Development, a master's degree in Computer Information Services from Boston University, and a master's degree in Healthcare Administration/Business from Baylor University. She completed her residency at Brooke Army Medical Center.

She subsequently had a career as a business and technology executive with thirty years of experience with public, private, and government organizations who has owned and operated LWL Enterprises, Inc, a management consulting and publishing firm, since 1998.

Capitalizing on her extensive knowledge regarding the business use of technology on a wide range of business and technical issues, she became the Chief Information Officer and Vice President for Equifax Healthcare Information Services, Centra Benefit Services, and LSG Sky Chefs.

Following that, she began her practice as an independent management consultant. Through her ability to quickly understand and communicate even the most complex issues and develop implementable and sustainable solutions, she delivered more than \$2 billion in earnings to her client organizations, most of which were Fortune 500 companies.