

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Carolyn Eastman: 813-531-0502  
Rick Lence: 813-476-9537  
Children's Board of Hillsborough County

### ***91-year-old, South Tampa Native and Community Activist Receives top "Hero for Hillsborough's Children Award" at 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Children's Board Hillsborough County***



**Tampa, FL** – The Children's Board, the largest child-serving agency in Tampa Bay, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> with the presentation of three "Heroes for Hillsborough's Children" awards. Two outstanding high school students were honored, as well as **91-year-old community activist Colleen Bevis who was instrumental in the founding of the Children's Board.**

- **Colleen Bevis, 91-year-old community activist received "Visionary Leader for Children Award"**

As a Tampa native, Bevis never ran for elected office. Instead, she preferred to volunteer her time to lead others. In her 50 years of service to her community and state, Bevis guided countless people in agencies, boards, commissions, committees, task forces and councils. She led the fight for children's rights, better educational facilities and opportunities for all children – and was a catalyst for improved children's services in Hillsborough County and Florida.

"Almost every human services organization in Hillsborough County bares her mark," said Dr. Luanne Panacek, C.E.O. of the Children's Board. "Under her leadership and influence, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County was born."

400 citizens were present at the ceremony and celebration which was held at Higgins Hall.

**[Interviews with Bevis can be arranged by calling Carolyn Eastman at 813-531-0502 or Rick Lence at 813-476-9537.](#)**

Your Children's Board is the lead county agency that promotes the health, safety and well being of our community's children and families. Supported by dedicated property tax revenue, the Board funds more than 180 programs offering critical prevention and early intervention services to Hillsborough County families. In the last decade, the Board has invested \$34 million of taxpayer dollars to generate \$201 million new dollars into our community. That's a return on investment of almost \$6 for every dollar directly benefiting children and families. The Children's Board is recognized nationally for its contributions to best practices in policies and programs aiding children and families.

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