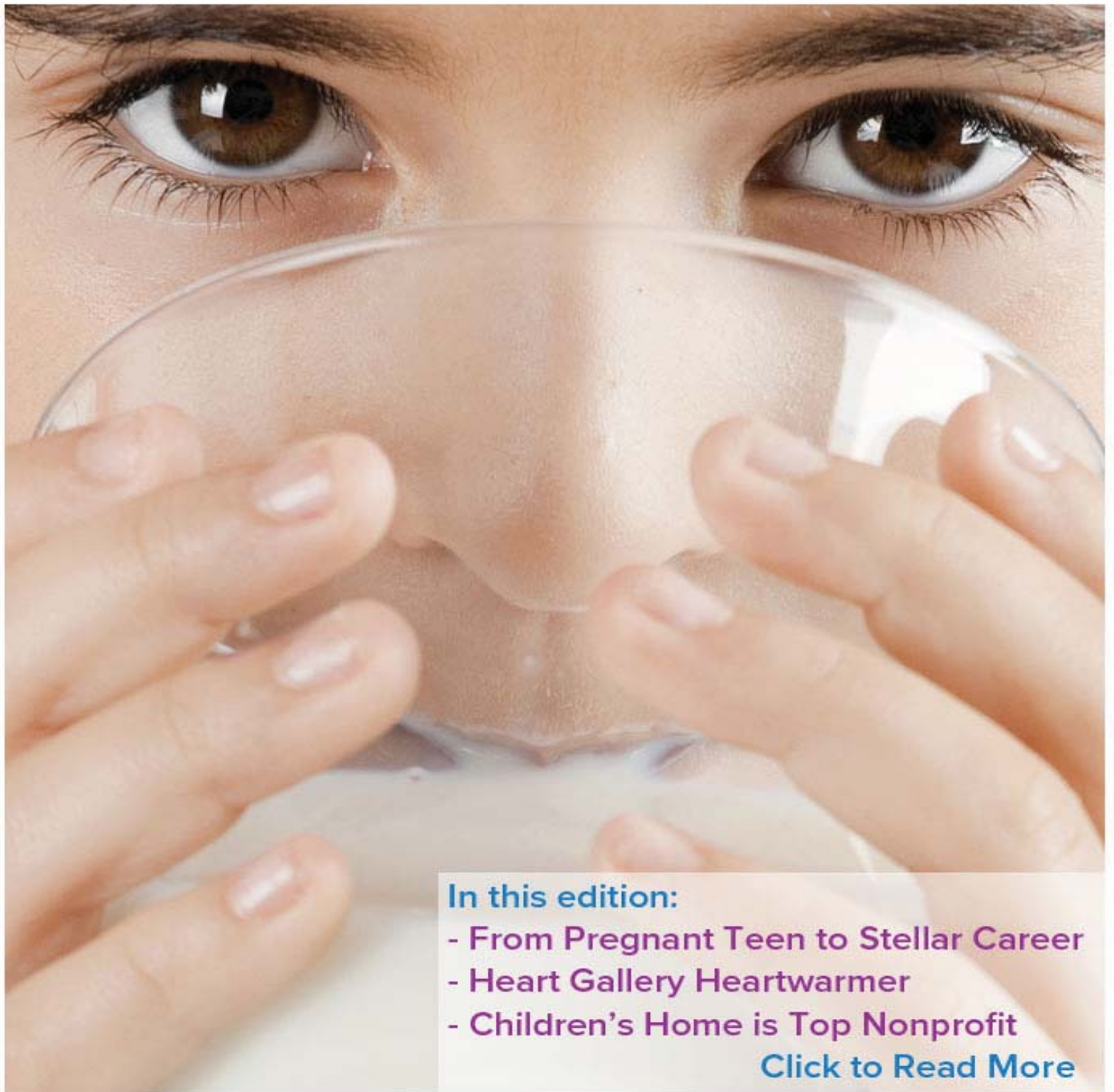


TEEN'S MILK SMILE = SUCCESS



In this edition:

- From Pregnant Teen to Stellar Career
- Heart Gallery Heartwarmer
- Children's Home is Top Nonprofit

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Achieve the Dream Stories

Lutz Teen Will Be Milk Mustache Ambassador

Victoria Leggett, a 14-year-old ninth-grader planning to attend Steinbrenner High in the fall, was among an elite group of teenage girls recently selected in an online contest to become the next 'Milk Mustache' celebrities and milk ambassadors.

"I love it," Victoria said, smiling. "It's so exciting." Victoria and eight other girls from across the country were named winners of the National Milk Mustache "Got Milk?" campaign search for "The Power of 9." The girls recently traveled to New York City for a "Got Milk?" photo shoot. They are scheduled to make their national debut in a "Milk Mustache" ad in the pages of Seventeen Magazine this fall.

Victoria, who likes drinking reduced-fat milk, and her family were told the ad will appear in the magazine's September issue, they said. Being the subject of so much attention was not how Victoria expected to complete the eighth grade at Bartels Middle in New Tampa.



(Victoria Leggett at the "Got Milk?" photo shoot in New York. Picture provided by the Leggett family to the St. Petersburg Times.)

She wears hearing aids to compensate for a 25 percent loss of hearing and plans to take advantage of the opportunity to speak out about her disability. Her classmates at Bartels supported the idea. "They said I was inspiring to them because I have a disability," Victoria said.

Victoria said she thinks it's cute sporting the famed white mustache. She hopes the opportunity will lead to greater fame. "I think I can inspire girls all over America to follow your dreams, no matter what you could be struggling with," Victoria said.

See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/community-news/2011/jun/27/MENEWSO3-tampa-teen-latest-milk-mustache-star-ar-240128/>.

From Teen Mom to Air Force Colonel, City Official

Tonja Brickhouse heads up Tampa's department of solid waste and environmental program management, a large division.

But some people never expected her to amount to much. She was one of five children born to a young mother. Mary Holmes-Graves worked hard as a nurse to keep her children off public assistance. Still, Brickhouse endured others' judgment.

"Nobody expected anything from me." Instead of crush-



Tonja Brickhouse (Photo by St. Petersburg Times)

ing under negative labels, Brickhouse studied harder and earned more titles: student government president, award-winning public speaker, cheerleader.

In 11th grade, she ignored the changes in her body. The doctor told her she was almost seven months' pregnant — at age 16. "You're starting out just like me," her mother told her. But she also told her daughter not to give up. She could still achieve everything she planned. It's a message that Brickhouse passes on to those stumbling along the way, just as she did.

She tied for top student in her high school class. She graduated from the University of Virginia as president of her sorority and in Air Force ROTC. Brickhouse went into the Air Force and was an officer for 25 years, becoming the first African-American to serve as chief of the air transportation division.

In 2008 she started a new career with the City. Then-Assistant Police Chief Jane Castor told her about Alpha House of Tampa, a nonprofit agency for mothers and children. Brickhouse joined the board of directors. Today, Brickhouse is passionate about the need to break "negative generational cycles" that cause some children to repeat the mistakes of their parents."

See <http://tiny.cc/3scy7>.

Heart Gallery Teenager with Cerebral Palsy Finds Loving, Adoptive Family

The McClinton family opened its hearts and adopted Jalen Gibson, an 18-year-old **Children's Board** Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay teen. Jalen, seated second from the right, was born with cerebral palsy and spent about 13 years in foster care. His new family includes, from left, Antonio, mother Lisette, Alexander, father Albert (also born with cerebral palsy), and Adrian.

See the full story at <http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/article1177871.ece>.

(Photo by St. Petersburg Times.)



Riverview Teen Qualifies for Nat'l Women's Golf Event

Julia McQuilken has been around golf courses her entire life. More specifically, she has been a fixture at the Summerfield Crossings Golf Club in Riverview since before she could walk. McQuilken, 16, recently qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. The tournament - which took place in Oregon - was McQuilken's first U.S. Golf Association event.

The event was the next step in what McQuilken hopes will become a professional golf career. Her father said he first noticed her potential when McQuilken was 5. See <http://tiny.cc/17tf9>.

The Children's Home Named a Business Journal Non-Profit of the Year

The Children's Home Inc. is this year's winner of the Tampa Bay Business Journal's Non-Profit of the Year in the Crisis Resources category. The Children's Home works to create a community where children and families feel loved, nurtured and safe through its residential center and its outreach programs and services. It is among seven organizations named a TBBJ Non-Profit of the Year; others include the Ronald McDonald House, Computer Mentors and the University Area Community Development Center.

See <http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news/2011/06/23/2011-nonprofit-of-the-year-winners-named.html>

Established in 1892 and led by acting CEO Jim Hart, the Children's Home houses and provides intensive therapy to about 100 abused, neglected or abandoned children each year. Its staff of 60 cares for about 50 youngsters, age 6 to 17, at any given time. Referred by community-based agencies, the children come from all around Tampa Bay.

Todd Boulanger, residential director, said the children are cared for in a "primary caregiver model" that seeks to replicate a traditional family, with one adult taking on the role of parent for three or four children. This approach, combined with "wrap-around therapy," he said, "helps a child to be able to re-enter a family." It is also credited with reducing the length of time that a child spends in the Children's Home facility from "many years" to eight to 10 months.

As a child moves closer to joining a family, the Children's Home works with the foster or adopting family with whom the child will live to effect the smoothest possible transition. These "forever" families are found by the Children's Home's S.E.A.R.C.H. team. The acronym stands for "so every available ready child has a home." The organization also helps to reunify children in the child welfare system with relatives who are able to care for them.

While its residential facility is the best known facet of the Children's Home, Boulanger said the nonprofit's outreach programs reach far more children and families — some 12,000 individuals in 2010. The programs that provide early intervention and preventative care include Parents as Partners, Healthy Families and Pinellas Support Team. An important program, said Boulanger, is Kinship Care, which provides help to about 1,000 grandparents in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties who are raising their grandchildren.

"Many of these people never expected to be raising children again," said Boulanger. But when circumstances make a grandparent a child's primary caregiver, the Children's Home helps by holding monthly get-togethers where people in similar situations can hear expert advice and find support through sharing experiences.



Acting CEO Jim Hart talks with recreation director Marshall Schroeder. (Photo by Tampa Bay Business Journal.)

While the grandparents talk about how best to balance their new lives, the children receive tutoring.

The Children's Home has an annual budget of about \$11 million. Funding comes from individual donations, contracts and grants from other agencies, and corporate support from a number of companies, including Advantica and Publix Supermarkets. (The **Children's Board** is a funder.)

The Children's Home often knows it has done its job when it is no longer needed. Merrill Stewart, director of development, said the organization works toward the point where children "understand the best scenario and are ready to leave."

See the story online at <http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/print-edition/2011/06/24/the-childrens-home-from-early.html>

Iraida Carrion Named USF's Top Social Work Educator -

<http://news.usf.edu/article/templates/?a=3535&z=120>

Brandon Dad Named Father of the Year -

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/community-news/2010/jul/05/na-father-of-year-honored-for-aiding-others-in-nee-ar-49985/>

Local News

Children's Board Faces Smaller Budget for Fiscal Year 2012

The **Children's Board of Hillsborough County**, which in recent years has largely absorbed cuts in its budget and dipped into reserves to pay social service providers, faces deeper cuts in fiscal year 2012 (Oct. 1, 2011 — June 30, 2012) because of declining property tax revenue, staff told Board members in a preliminary budget proposal on June 23. The **Children's Board** has seen about 24 percent in reductions since 2008. Also proposed: more collaboration among providers for submitting proposals for funding in fiscal year 2012.

"We've tried everything we could do to protect our providers from reductions, said Amy Petrla, director of programs. The **Children's Board** final budget proposal will be presented by staff to the Board on August 25.

See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/hillsborough-childrens-board-considers-big-cuts-to-providers/1177023> and <http://www2.tbo.com/news/news/2011/jun/23/1/hillsborough-agency-urges-cutting-funds-for-childr-ar-239494/>

JWB Children's Services Council Will Float Idea of Millage Increase

The Juvenile Welfare Board, which collects millions in property taxes every year to help at-risk youth, is considering asking for more money from Pinellas County homeowners. But before its board members commit to asking for an increase, they will hold two hearings to weigh how homeowners feel about paying more.

As property values have continued to fall, the agency has collected fewer property tax dollars — about \$20 million less over the past five years, JWB officials say. Darkening the picture is the fact that an \$18 million emergency spending fund established three years ago is expected to go dry in 2012. This year the agency, which served about 42,000 children in 2010, is reducing its budget by about \$10.5 million, half of that in programs. The agency expects that about 500 fewer kids and teens will benefit from its programs next year.

The agency's proposed \$49 million budget won't be finalized until September. Increasing the tax rate would allow the agency to collect about \$9 million more in 2011-2012. The current tax rate is about \$0.7915 for every \$1,000 of assessed, taxable value, or about \$79.15 for a home valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption. An increase to \$0.95, which the JWB is considering, would increase the homeowner's bill to \$95.

Programs that are being cut or eliminated were not working well, officials said. Some will be replicated in other forms through new partnerships with nonprofit agencies, said Lisa Sahulka, the JWB director of contract management. "What we are looking for is how to provide better services with less money," Sahulka said.

See the full story at <http://tiny.cc/q9t3u>

County Faces Lower Property Tax Values & Tax Collections, Fewer Rec Centers

In a newspaper article that began with the number of employees retiring from Hillsborough County effective July 1, the topic turned to the county's loss of property and sales tax. As of Jan. 1, taxable property value within the county totaled about \$62 billion, down 4.3 percent from \$65 billion the previous year, according to the property appraiser's office. The lower valuations mean Hillsborough will next year collect about \$17 million less in property taxes, which fund about 30 percent of the county's operating expenses.

The county's Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department is expected to take the biggest hit with a proposed consolidation of 42 recreation centers into 12 regional ones, translating into layoffs of 27 percent of its staff and outsourcing of maintenance work. The parks department also has proposed eliminating its after-school programs, which cost the county \$8 million a year and serve fewer than 2,000 children. The Hillsborough school district said that it can absorb those children into its after-school programs..

See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/breaking-news/2011/jun/28/MENEWSO1-163-opt-to-retain-from-jobs-in-county-ar-240381/>

County, Tampa Lose Tax Revenues As Cable and Telephone Use Decline -

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/politics/2011/jun/22/cities-counties-losing-tax-money-as-phone-and-cabl-ar-238957/>

It's a Tough Market for Tampa Bay Teens Seeking Summer Jobs -

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/its-a-tough-market-for-tampa-bay-teens-seeking-summer-jobs/1176374>

Children's Board Links to Jobs, Events, Facebook, Twitter

Go to www.facebook.com/MyCBHC and see the latest **Children's Board Facebook** postings. Follow the **Children's Board** on **Twitter** at www.twitter.com/MyCBHC.

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities - Go to http://www.childrensboard.org/jobs_volunteer_opportunities.aspx and click on the top link for updated postings in Hillsborough County.

Calendar - Go to <http://www.childrensboard.org/calendar.aspx> to access the upcoming community and provider calendar. Click on the top link for the latest events and trainings, in chronological order.

Child Abuse Council Honors Cornelia Corbett in Naming Ceremony

The Child Abuse Council, a non-profit based in South Tampa that builds stronger families in the Tampa Bay region through its prevention and family education programs, honored Cornelia Corbett by naming the house on its property after her during a ceremony on June 21. Council Executive Director Paul D'Agostino made the announcement. In 2010 Corbett was named the Metro Civitan Club's Citizen of the Year for her long involvement with the Child Abuse Council, which is funded by the **Children's Board**. Find out more about the Child Abuse Council at <http://www.child-abuse-council.org/>.



(Pictured at right: Richard and Cornelia Corbett by the new signage.)

Sister Claire is a Longtime Children's Advocate

A front page story in the Tampa Tribune featured 67-year-old Sister Claire LeBoeuf on her devotion to children's advocacy even as she recently underwent a kidney transplant. "She's always been ahead of her time on her thinking," says Luanne Panacek, chief executive officer of the **Children's Board**.

See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/news/2011/jun/30/MENEWSO1-sisterly-act-ar-240839/>.

Brothers Want People to Understand the Problems Facing Foster Children

Two brothers from Trinidad, who were in foster care for nine years in that country, now as adults want to be inspirations for today's foster kids. Chad and Geofran Carrington spoke at Kids Charity of Tampa Bay fundraiser for A Kid's Place shelter on June 18 and were featured in a column in the St. Petersburg Times by Ernest Hooper. The Carringtons, who each do watch and jewelry repair, want to be an inspiration to children in foster care

See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/brothers-want-people-to-understand-problems-facing-foster-children/1175701>



Gorski Column: Temperament - Survival of the Best Fit

This month's On Call column with the **Children's Board's** Dr. Peter Gorski examines the impact of temperament on development. Traditionally, we screen and evaluate children's abilities. In reality, their behavioral style, the foundation of personality, influences how effectively abilities get put to use.

Dr. Gorski says the right fit between ourselves and our environments in large measure determines our social, educational and economic success.

See http://www.childrensboard.org/on_call_dr_gorski.aspx.

Children's Board KidzCreate Exhibit with Autistic Kids is on YouTube

The **Children's Board** KidzCreate Gallery's recent exhibit with Sydney's school for Autism in Tampa is now on YouTube. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rDIZ3vUWgo>.

See the Healthy Start Coalition e-Connect Summer Newsletter -

<http://www.healthystartcoalition.org/Assets/Documents/HSC%20Newsletter%20for%20Website.pdf>.

Read the July Newsletter from the Family Justice Center -

<http://www.fjchc.org/newsletter/July2011.htm/>.

The ESE Parent Press July E-Newsletter is Just a Click Away -

http://fdlrs.mysdhc.org/publications/parent_press/pp_0711.pdf.

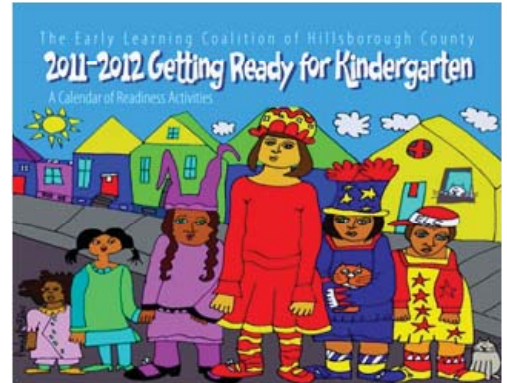
Check out the USF Child and Family Studies Quarterly News Online -

<http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/materials/Quarterly2011-06.pdf>.

ELC Produces Calendar for Parents of Kids in VPK

The Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County has published the 2011-2012 ELCHC Kindergarten Readiness Calendar. This calendar is designed to assist the parents of 4 and 5-year-olds ready their children to enter kindergarten. Every family that enrolls in VPK will receive the calendar.

The calendar is an academic year calendar that runs from August 2011 to August 2012. Each month focuses on a different learning topic with suggested activities that support Florida's early learning standards. Each month also includes a list of children's books that relate to the month's learning topic. Artist Polly Allen donated the artwork. For more information contact Tracie White at twhite@elchc.org.



Hillsborough Joins Statewide Improvement in School Grades

Despite generally tougher tests put in place this year, Florida school grades remained relatively stable statewide for middle and elementary schools, according to recent results. More than three-quarters of schools received an A or B, with the number of A-rated elementary schools growing by 82 and the number of F schools dropping from 44 to 31.

See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/k12/hillsborough-joins-statewide-improvements-in-school-grades/1178276>.

Hillsborough County's Bully Busters Program Wins National Award -

http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/communications/news/releaseoutput.cfm?r_id=1058.

Donors, Volunteers Lead \$250,000 Renovation of Ronald McDonald House -

http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/communications/news/releaseoutput.cfm?r_id=1058.

Metropolitan Ministries Catered Lunch Program Helps the Needy -

Metropolitan Ministries' nonprofit food bank's staff and clients run Inside the Box, which launched late last year with a \$25,000 award from the **Children's Board**. See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/article1175450.ece>.

Children's Board ASO Hosts Resource Fair

The **Children's Board** Administrative Services Organization (ASO) hosted a resource fair for its new service providers on June 20 at the **Children's Board**.

The ASO is a financial tool used to help children and their families identify, select, arrange, and pay for supports and services with qualified community providers.

ASO services include funds management, accounts payable services, data management, detailed financial reporting, provider credentialing and network management, and quality assurance.



Family Law Forms and Packets Are Available Online or at the Courthouse

Effective June 29, Supreme Court family law forms and packets are available for sale at the Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court Business Center in room 630 of the Edgecomb Courthouse in downtown Tampa. Reference books will be available for litigants to choose what form or packet best fits their needs. The packets contain complete self help instructions.

The clerk's office is longer selling forms or packets at any location. Packets are also available at no charge on the clerk's website at <http://www.hillsclerk.com/publicweb/forms.aspx#FamilyLaw>.

Neighborhood News



Central Tampa FSRC Hosts Hurricane Preparedness Workshop

The Central Tampa Family Support & Resource Center at the **Children's Board** hosted a special presentation by the Red Cross and TECO about hurricane preparedness, "What You Need to Know," on June 29.

It's hurricane season from now until November. Are you and your family ready? Your **Children's Board's** disaster preparedness web page has links to many online resources.

To check it out, go to the **Children's Board** website at www.childrensboard.org and click on the link to "Disaster Preparedness."

Program Helps Teens in Certain Zip Codes Find Jobs

The M.A.P. (Mentoring Adolescents to Progress) program provides free comprehensive employment services for youth ages 15-18 living in the following ZIP codes: 33511, 33569, 33604, 33605, 33607, 33610, 33612, 33614, 33617 or 33619.

The program, funded by the Department of Juvenile Justice and operated by Goodwill, helps young people find jobs that are right for them. Eligible teens learn where and how to apply for employment as well as tips for keeping a job. They also are provided with transportation assistance and the right clothing for interviews and work. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Call (813) 367-5513 or email MAP@goodwillsuncoast.com.

Advocacy

Commentary: Invest in Youth to Boost Economy

Joseph W. Clark, president of the Eckerd Family Foundation, and Gary Stangler, executive director of Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, wrote a commentary published in the Tampa Tribune about the need to invest in youth to boost the economy. Among their points:

- Currently 20 percent of America's youth are at risk of disconnection from their schools, communities and families. What does America look like without 20 percent of our young people contributing to it? A failure.
- These 14- to 24-year-olds typically arrive at the distinction of "at risk" through separate but, too often, dangerously intertwining paths: being precariously close to or dropping out of high school, involvement with the juvenile-justice system or placement in the foster-care system. Without skillful interventions, children who are grasping for stability will have a hard time succeeding as adults in the workplace.
- We have a moral and fiscal responsibility to keep our children engaged in society. In these tough times, state and local governments must budget carefully and protect programs with proven, successful outcomes and a demonstrated ability to save taxpayer money.
- Over his or her working life, a high school dropout can cost taxpayers \$319,000, compared with a high school graduate who contributes \$261,000. Cumulatively and annually, high school dropouts cost society about \$8 billion through benefits such as SNAP (formerly food stamps).
- Within the state of Florida, there is evidence of successful approaches. Locally, the Hillsborough County Juvenile Justice Task Force is examining how the use of civil citations as a pre-arrest diversion and intervention can create better outcomes for youth who may be at risk to enter the juvenile-justice system. Not only will this be a more productive outcome for our youth, but it should be quite cost-effective as well.
- Every year, an estimated 30,000 young people "age out" of foster care without the financial or life skills needed to be self-sufficient. Youth transitioning from foster care suffer significantly higher rates of incarceration, homelessness, school drop-out, unemployment and unintended pregnancy. Efforts such as those of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and Connected by 25 Hillsborough County help these children become responsible and accountable by engaging youth in leadership and advocacy opportunities, building assets with matched savings accounts and finding ways to connect youth to families.

See the full commentary at <http://www2.tbo.com/news/opinion/2011/jun/30/MEOPINO2-invest-in-youth-to-boost-economy-ar-240733/>.

State News

Florida Rates Most Elementary and Middle Schools an A or B

More than two-thirds of Florida's public elementary and middle schools received an A or B grade on the state's annual assessment this year, the Department of Education said. At the same time, few met the annual benchmarks for the percent of students reaching proficiency in math and reading under the federal No Child Left Behind law, which Congress has been struggling to reform and both Democrats and Republicans agree needs to be fixed.

In all, 58 percent of elementary schools received an A, 72 more than the previous year. Fifty-nine percent of middle schools received the top grade, 14 fewer than in 2010. Just one percent of the schools received an F while five percent received a D.

See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/college/at-high-school-graduations-girls-rule/1174705>.

Kids Suffer as Few of Florida's Dentists Accept Medicaid

For the second consecutive year, Florida received a failing grade from the Pew Center on the States for low Medicaid payments and other practices preventing low-income children from receiving dental care.

See www.fjchc.org/newsletter/June2011.htm.

Florida Adds Twitter to its Effort to Find Homes for Foster Children -

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/05/15/2218243/florida-adds-twitter-to-its-effort.html>.

National News

States Target Early Years to Reach 3rd Grade Reading Goals -

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/06/29/36literacy.h30.html?tkn=LTNF7ldOwZviTE7XD8MmC6W4V%2FIW32%2Bhgd%2B0&cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS>.

National League of Cities Joins Campaign for Reading at Grade Level -

<http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/iyef/early-childhood/campaign-for-grade-level-reading>.

Rich Home Environment Can Close Readiness Gap for Poor Children -

<http://app1.fldoe.org/summerfoodprogram/Default.asp>.

Opinion – The Key to a Good Education: Parents (Not Teachers) -

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-06-20-Parents-key-in-education_n.htm.

Handwriting Helps Develop Children’s Motor, Mental Skills -

Children are texting, tapping and typing on keyboards more than ever, leaving less time to master that old-fashioned skill known as handwriting. Handwriting can change how children learn and their brains develop. Indiana University researchers used neuroimaging scans to measure brain activation in preliterate preschool children who were shown letters. One group of children then practiced printing letters; the other children practiced seeing and saying the letters. After four weeks of training, the kids who practiced writing showed brain activation similar to an adult’s, said James, the study’s lead researcher. The printing practice also improved letter recognition, which is the No. 1 predictor of reading ability at age 5. Good handwriting can mean better grades. Studies show that the same mediocre paper is graded much higher if the handwriting is neat and much lower if the writing is not.

See <http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/mobile/?type=story&id=2015393974&>.

Tougher Crib Safety Standards Are in Effect -

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/news/2011/jun/28/T2NEWSO2-tougher-crib-safety-standards-in-effect-ar-240366/>.

Violent Shows, Nighttime TV Tied to Children’s Sleep Problems -

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/top/all/7305659.html>.

Study: Baby Fat Might Signal Adult Obesity -

<http://m2.tbo.com/content/2011/jun/24/T2NEWSO1-baby-fat-might-signal-adult-obesity/news-nationworld/>.

Apply by July 25 for Integrating Trauma-Informed and Trauma-Focused Grant -

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2011-ACF-ACYF-CO-0169>.

Poll: High School Students Rank Internet Top Medium for Educational Impact -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cbrkeKHqP4>.

Summer is the Most Dangerous Season for Active Teens and Teen Drivers -

<http://yourlife.usatoday.com/parenting-family/teen-ya/story/2011/06/Summertime-can-be-a-breaking-point-for-teen-safety/48115904/1?loc=interstitialskip>.

PARADE Magazine Special Report: Underage Drinking Epidemic -

<http://www.parade.com/health/2011/06/12-teen-drinking-epidemic.html>.

Check Out the Campaign to End Child Homelessness Newsletter -

Children who are homeless tell stories of living with uncertainty, chaos, and unpredictability.

See <http://tiny.cc/obg4w>.