

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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Achieving the Dream

MacKinnon Honored as Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero

The Tampa Bay Lightning recognized Dottie Berger MacKinnon as a Lightning Community Hero during the first period of Nov. 4th's National Hockey League game against the Chicago Blackhawks.

MacKinnon, who received a \$50,000 donation from the Lightning Foundation and the Lightning Community Heroes program, will contribute the money to her charity of choice, A Kid's Place.

MacKinnon founded A Kid's Place in 2009 with the goal of instilling change and improving the quality of life for abandoned, abused and neglected children.

The initiative also aims to provide an enriching experience for kids that will instill hope, encourage growth, and provide opportunities for success. Today, A Kid's Place houses 60 kids as it continues to foster change in residential group care in the state of Florida.

See <http://lightning.nhl.com/club/news.htm?id=598958>.



U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, center was at the George M. Steinbrenner Boys & Girls Club in West Tampa for one of the local Lights on Afterschool rallies on Oct. 20, part of a nationwide celebration of out-of-school time programs. Also pictured, left to right: Boys & Girls Club Area Director Shervin Rassa, **Children's Board of Hillsborough County** Resource Development Manager Bobbi Davis, Dunbar Elementary Principal Krystal Carson, Jaila Capaz and DaMonyea Stephens of West Tampa Elementary, Ryan Mosley of Blake High School, Just Elementary Principal Carolyn Hill and Boys & Girls Club Program Director Jessica Groom.

Tampa Wins National Afterschool Programs Award, Celebrates 'Lights On Afterschool' Day

The National League of Cities has named Tampa one of the 27 most advanced cities in the U.S. for its efforts to coordinate afterschool opportunities for children and youth. The announcement is the result of a research report commissioned by the Wallace Foundation and published by the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families.

Other cities include Boston, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C. and Jacksonville, the only other Florida city represented. Six key elements identified by the Wallace Foundation as essential for building sustainable, coordinated

afterschool systems include: committed leadership, a public or private coordinating entity, multi-year planning, reliable information, expanding participation, and a commitment to quality.

The honor came as Tampa and Hillsborough County out-of-school programs took part in the nationwide Afterschool Alliance 12th Annual Lights On Afterschool rallies the afternoon of Oct. 20. The local rallies – held at Boys & Girls Clubs, schools, parks and recreation locations, and faith-based and other providers – brought attention to afterschool programs, which have suffered recent budget cuts across the country.

As part of the "Lights On" rallies the Suntrust Building in Tampa was fully lit the evening of Oct. 20.

"Afterschool programs inspire children to learn, keep kids safe and allow parents to work," said Bobbi Davis, resource development manager at the **Children's Board**, head of the Hillsborough Out-of-School Time committee and an ambassador with the Afterschool Alliance. Davis secured a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center, the only federal afterschool funding in the country, which goes through the **Children's Board** to benefit three Tampa Boys & Girls Clubs.

For more information about the National League of Cities announcement and the complete list of winners, go to <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/iyef/afterschool/municipal-leadership-for-afterschool-citywide-approaches-spreading-across-the-country>. For more information about the Afterschool Alliance Lights On Afterschool initiative, go to http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyStateFacts.cfm?state_abbrev=FL.

Local News

Hillsborough County to Celebrate National Adoption Day on Nov. 18

Read the Hillsborough Kids, Inc. (HKI) November newsletter to read how Hillsborough County will celebrate National Adoption Day on Nov. 18 at the George E. Edgecomb Court House in downtown Tampa.

See http://www.hillsboroughkids.org/fosterparent/FP%20Newsletters/2011_FPCconnection_11.pdf.

Children's Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay Exhibit is at Idlewild Baptist Church



The **Children's Board** Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay is on exhibit throughout the month of November at Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz. Idlewild is active in adoption support and hosts quarterly Hillsborough Kid's, Inc. faith-based MAPP classes that train prospective foster and adoptive parents.

Junior League Promotes Children's Board Heart Gallery Birthday Buddies

The **Children's Board** Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay Birthday Buddies program was recently featured on a local ABC News segment that shared how the Junior League is helping promote helping children in foster care celebrate their birthday.

See the video and online story at

http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_hillsborough/help-kids-who-have-never-celebrated-their-birthday-enjoy-the-party-they-deserve.

FDLRS Parent Press Newsletter Shares 'Disability Etiquette' -

<https://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/DisabilityEtiquette101.pdf>.

St. Joe's Children's Hospital Displays New Children's Board KidzCreate Exhibit

Marie Rebeck and her daughter, Kayla, admire the new installation at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of "Together We Grow," art from Sidney's School for Autism (children ages 3-6) created for the **Children's Board** KidzCreate Gallery of Children's Art.

KidzCreate artist Sherri Lundquist oversaw creation of the exhibit, the **Children's Board's** third at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. "Together We Grow" is the art of flowers and insects and depicts how we all grow and learn together. It's located on the second floor of the hospital. (Picture courtesy of St. Joseph's Children's Hospital.)



ECC Develops Android Phone App for Tracking Child Development

The Right On Track Child Development Guide has been developed as an application for Android phones by the Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County, Inc. (ECC) as a quick and easy to use resource for parents of young children who want to track some of the key milestones that their child(ren) should be reaching at calculated ages. This application calculates your child's age, taking prematurity into account when appropriate. You will then be prompted to view milestones appropriate for the calculated age. In addition, information related to specific developmental concerns will be provided. Observations of these concerns would be worth discussing with your child's pediatrician.

For users with a data connection and flash capabilities, there is an additional link to view a full web based listing of milestones, developmental concerns and activities geared towards promoting healthy development. Purchasing applications like this one through the Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County, Inc. helps to support the vast array of services that it is able to offer to young children and families in the community at little to no cost. The link to the Android phone app is https://market.android.com/details?id=appinventor.ai_gvanpelt2.RightOnTrack&feature=search_result

ECC is a program funded by the **Children's Board**. It has been providing developmental screening to young children since 1986. The mission of ECC is to promote the physical, social, emotional and mental health and well being of young children through leadership, training, early intervention and advocacy. For more information about ECC go to www.ecctampabay.org.



Dr. Gorski Bids the Tampa Bay Community Farewell

Dr. Peter Gorski of the **Children's Board**, child development expert and frequent commentator on child development issues, is leaving to take a position with the Children's Trust in Miami-Dade County.

In his last commentary for the **Children's Board**, Dr. Gorski bids a fond farewell to colleagues and community, leaving us with a few core principles to keep in mind for achieving our mission. "I will never forget your kindness. I will always cherish our fellowship. I will leave part of me here with you."

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

Children's Board Takes Part in Conga Caliente Hispanic Festival in Tampa



On Sunday, Nov. 6th, staff of the **Children's Board** spent the day at the Conga Caliente Hispanic Festival at Al Lopez Park in Tampa. Children's Board participation was made possible through a partnership with event sponsor Univision; the festival attendance was estimated at more than 30,000.



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Dreams Worth Growing

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.

Listen to This Week's Programs on CBHC Radio

Listen to this week's programming on CBHC Radio, the Internet radio station of the Children's Board. Click "Launch Player" at http://www.childrensboard.org/cbhc_radio.aspx3. For mobile media, go to: <http://icy2.abacast.com/childrensboard-radio-32.m3u>. See <http://www.hillsboroughkids.org/fosterparent/Pages/FosterResources.aspx>.

Read the Healthy Start Coalition November E-Connection Newsletter -

<http://www.fjchc.org/newsletter/Nov2011.htm>.

Community Foundation of Tampa Bay Awards \$315K in Grants

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay awarded \$315,000 to eight organizations to support at-risk youth and employment/job training initiatives. The largest grant, for \$75,000, went to the YMCA-Community Learning Center at Sulphur Springs Elementary School, a written statement said. Other recipients and grant amounts are:

- Boys & Girls Club of Tampa Bay-middle school program — \$50,000
- Hillsborough Education Foundation-Project Success — \$50,000
- David A. Straz Jr. Performing Arts Center/Metropolitan Ministries Partnership School — \$25,000
- Boys & Girls Club of Tampa Bay-HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) program — \$50,000
- Ready for Life — \$15,000
- Community Tampa Bay-Anytown — \$35,000
- American Red Cross-nurse assistant training for aging out foster youth — \$15,000

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay is a nonprofit organization that administers funds established by individuals, corporations, private foundations and other nonprofits to support the charitable needs of the Tampa Bay area.

See <http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news/2011/10/12/community-foundation-of-tampa-bay>.

Neighborhood News

Temple Terrace Champions Partnership With Schools for After-School Tutoring

The Temple Terrace city council approved a motion on Nov. 1 to support an initiative unlike any other around. At the urging of Mayor Joe Affronti, the five-member council voted 5-0 to champion the city's involvement in what may be a first-of-its-kind tutoring program in partnership with the Hillsborough County School District and the Temple Terrace United Methodist Church. The purpose of the initiative, currently in its planning stage, is to offer after-school tutoring classes, complete with snacks, for children living in apartment complexes near the church who are struggling in school. School district data indicates there are close to 2,000 youngsters who call that neighborhood home.

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

City of Tampa Allocates Money to Fix, Reopen East Tampa Pool -

The <http://www2.tbo.com/news/politics/2011/aug/05/menewso3-tide-has-turned-for-williams-park-ar-248519/>.

Advocacy

Commentary: Inquisition Mentality Avoids Child Welfare Issues

A commentary by Ray Gadd, CEO of Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, in the Tampa Tribune stated, "Our children are the canaries in the coal mine, and their fate rests on the ability of adults to solve real-world, complex problems.....HKI, the **Children's Board** and all their partners have done amazing things for kids."

See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/opinion/2011/nov/03/meopino1-inquisitions-avoid-issues-in-child-welfar-ar-300162/>.

2012 Children's Movement Legislative Agenda Has 5 Focus Areas

The Children's Movement of Florida has posted five priority areas for the 2012 Legislative Session. They include: parent skill-building; developmental screening, diagnosis and treatment for children with special needs; voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK); health care; and mentoring.

See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/opinion/2011/aug/29/meopino1-floridians-show-their-heart-ar-253423/>.

State News

New VPK Rules Toughen Standards -

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/education-news/2011/nov/01/new-vpk-rules-toughen-standards-ar-299524/>.

National News

TIME Magazine: More Girls Starting Puberty at 8; Causes and Risks -

<http://www.teachmorelovemore.org/ArticlesDetails.asp?articleid=17131>.

New USF-linked Study Links Autism to Prenatal Brain Growth -

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/health/usf-researcher-helps-to-find-brain-growth-problems-linked-to-autism/1200835>.

Less Play Time Equals More Troubled Kids, Experts Say -

<http://yourlife.usatoday.com/parenting-family/story/2011-09-25/Less-play-time-equals-more-troubled-kids-experts-say/50531770/1>.

Penn State Scandal sparks Discussion About Signs of Child Sex Abuse -

<http://m.usatoday.com/article/yourlife/51143894?articlePage=2>.

(NOTE: The **Children's Board** funds the Sexual Abuse Information Network (SAIN), located at the Family Justice Center in Tampa, which educates child advocates and child welfare workers about the ramifications of child sexual abuse.)