

IMPORTANCE OF SCREENING



In this edition:

- A Top Community for Young People
- CBHC Business Plan Winners
- Children's Movement Dream Prizes

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Achieve the Dream Stories

ECC Celebrates 25 Years of Developmental Screenings

On Oct. 5 the Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Community Developmental Screening Program at the Glazer Children's Museum in Tampa.

The event featured emcee Gayle Sierens of WFLA Channel 8, keynote speaker Jeannette Palencia, a mother whose child was helped by the ECC's screening program, tributes to the ECC and award presentations to community partners.

Since 1986 the ECC has screened more than 20,000 Hillsborough County children under the age of 5 for development issues, such as speech and language, vision, hearing, motor skills and cognition problems or delays.

Of these children, approximately 75 percent were referred for further assessment or evaluation.

The ECC's Developmental Screening Program, funded by the **Children's Board of Hillsborough County** with



Pictured at left: ECC's Steve Martaus with Children's Board CEO Luanne Panacek and Board members Pete Edwards, John Evon, Susan Schneider, Judge Kathryn Essrig, Chair Chris Brown and Doretha Edgecomb.

Pictured at right: Jeanette Palencia with ECC Developmental Screening 25th Anniversary emcee Gayle Sierens and Palencia's now-grown daughter, Jessica, who as a preschooler was found to have a cleft palate that needed surgery. "Thank you for being there when I needed you the most," Jeanette said.



support from Hillsborough County Public Schools, has been recognized as a "Best Practice" by the Florida Department of Education.

"Early detection and intervention of childhood developmental issues before a child enters kindergarten plays a critical role in determining his or her ability to succeed as an adult, academically, emotionally and socially," said ECC Executive Director Stephen Martaus.

"For 25 years, the ECC and its community screening partners have provided this free monthly service for young children and their families, significantly increasing the chances of

success for thousands of Hillsborough County children from all income levels and ethnicities."

Keynote speaker Jeannette Palencia received help from the ECC when her daughter, Jessica, now 24, was having trouble speaking as a toddler.

"Jessica was trying to communicate, but she couldn't form the words," said Palencia. "My little girl was having a problem the doctors couldn't figure out, and that was terrifying to me. The ECC's screening program helped guide me by putting me in touch with the right specialists and getting Jessica the help she needed. Thank God that opportunity was available at that time."

See the Early Childhood Council's video celebrating 25 years of developmental screenings at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD_J9ZtT4WJ. For more information about all ECC programs, visit www.ecctampabay.org.



ECC Receives DeBartolo Family Foundation Spirit of Humanity Award

Representing the DeBartolo Family Foundation, Lisa DeBartolo presented the Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County (ECC) with the “Spirit of Humanity Award” – including a crystal trophy and \$25,000 – at the Manhattan Center on Sept. 27.

ECC is one of only three nonprofits that will receive the “Spirit of Humanity Award” this year, out of approximately 30 applicants. The award is given to organizations that provide extraordinary assistance to Tampa Bay residents with special needs. Receiving the award for ECC was Executive Director Steve Martaus. See <http://madduxpress.com/?p=33915>.

Tampa/Hillsborough: One of Nation’s 100 Best Communities for Young People

For the second year in a row, Tampa and Hillsborough County have achieved national recognition as one of America’s Promise Alliance’s 100 Best Communities for Young People presented by ING for its initiatives to help young people. Tampa/Hillsborough joins the city of St. Petersburg and Manatee County as three Tampa Bay area repeat winners.

The competition recognizes communities across the country that focus on reducing high school dropout rates and providing service and support to their youth. America’s Promise Alliance is the nation’s largest partnership organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth by raising awareness, supporting communities, and engaging in nonpartisan advocacy. ING is a global financial institution.

Tampa/Hillsborough County’s collaborative spirit and its ability to create partnerships among individuals, organizations, business leaders and the school district helped implement initiatives to provide a pipeline of services for young people. Among the factors that contributed to the community’s selection as one of the nation’s 100 Best Communities for Young People for the third time in four years:

- The community’s Youth Action Collaborative provides an open forum for young people ages 14 to 21 to work with adults in the community and to give youth an active voice in deliberations and decisions that affect their lives. As a result of the collaborative, several key organizations have formed youth councils to advise on policies and programs within the local government.
- Tampa/Hillsborough County supports its most vulnerable young people with programs like Connected by 25, which annually assists more than 500 students aging out of the foster care system with finding and keeping an apartment, maintaining a bank account, job searches and staying employed.
- With more than 1,000 after-school programs created by The Partnership for Out-of-School Time and funded by the Children’s Board, students have a safe place to reside during non-school hours.

More than 100 individuals and organizations volunteer their time and support to maintain these programs.

“We are proud of Tampa and Hillsborough County for being named one of the America’s Promise Alliance’s 100 Best,” said Bobbi Davis, resource development manager for the **Children’s Board**. “This award recognizes the hard work of many community members that have dedicated their time to making a difference in the lives of our young people.”

*Celebrating Tampa/Hillsborough County’s selection by America’s Promise Alliance as one of the nation’s best communities for young people are, left to right: Crystal Russell of SERVE/Hillsborough County Public Schools, Kristine Hensley and Elsa Tuggle of Hillsborough County Schools, Bobbi Davis of the **Children’s Board**, Betty Tribble of United Way, Rebecca Heimstead of the City of Tampa and Lisa Cobb of Hillsborough County Schools.*



Local News



Pictured, left to right: Meals on Wheels Communications Director Katie White and Executive Director Steve King stand next to Children's Board General Manager of Resource Development and Grants Bobbi Davis.)

Meals on Wheels Wins Children's Board's Annual Innovative Business Plan Competition

Meals on Wheels of Tampa, which delivers hot meals to approximately 600 homebound and senior citizens each day, has won the **Children's Board's** 6th Annual Innovative Business Plan competition worth \$25,000.

The innovative business plan competition is part of the Children's Board's commitment to promote social enterprise which incorporates earned income to general additional revenue, said Amy Petrila, **Children's Board** director of programs and advocacy.

Steve King, executive director of Meals on Wheels, accepted the first-place award at a recognition event at the **Children's Board** on Sept. 25. The grant will go toward Meals on Wheels' new initiative, "Nonprofits Helping Nonprofits," which will prepare and deliver hot, nutritious meals at competitive prices to other nonprofit organizations that have daily food services needs.

The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Hillsborough County, a one-stop location for domestic violence victims to get comprehensive services, won second place and a \$15,000 award for its plan to expand outreach through greater community awareness, education and consultation and technical assistance. Executive Director Nikki Daniels accepted the award for FJC.

Other finalists for the **Children's Board** innovative business plan awards were Girls Empowered Mentally for Success (GEMS), established to assist 10-17-year-old at-risk girls transition to womanhood, and Merge, Inc., an educational planning services and mentoring organization targeting families with students in grades 8-12 who have the potential to go to college but don't qualify for income-based programs.

The top two 2010 Innovative Business Plan winners told this year's finalists how they parlayed their **Children's Board** awards in the past year. Chef Cliff Barsi of Metropolitan Ministries said the organization used its \$25,000 **Children's Board** award to launch its "Inside the Box" catering business. Over the past year nearly 6,000 families have been fed meals through the earnings from the catering business. McDonald's Training Center chief financial officer Judith DeStasio said the center's \$15,000 award went toward its new business of sewing tubes to repair sea grass beds.

See <http://www.childrensboard.org/documents/Press%20Releases/Meals%20on%20Wheels%20Wins%20CBHC%20Innov%20%20Bus%20%20Plan%20Award%20Sept%20%2030%202011.pdf>.

Check Out the Children's Board's New 90-Second Presentation Video -

<http://www.childrensboard.org/cbhcpresentationvideo.aspx>.



Gorski Commentary: Importance of Developmental Screening

What can you learn about your child from developmental screening? Who should be screened? At what ages? What's the difference between screening, assessment, evaluation and diagnosis? How can I make an appointment for a free developmental screening? Dr. Peter Gorski of the **Children's Board** answers these important questions in this month's commentary: "Screening the Future." See http://www.childrensboard.org/on_call_dr_gorski.aspx.

See the Volunteer News from 'the Centre' -

<http://tiny.cc/unl0b>.

Check Out the E-Newsletter from the Family Justice Center -

www.fjchc.org/newsletter/Oct2011.htm.

'KidzCreate Literacy Adventure' Links Children's Board, Sacred Heart Academy

Children at Sacred Heart Academy in Tampa recently worked with Raquel Ache Leonard, artist with the **Children's Board's** KidzCreate Gallery of Children's Art, on a grant project. More than 100 students are involved in the project, called "The KidzCreate Literacy Adventure." (Pictured at right: Leonard poses with students at Sacred Heart. Photo by Marina Williams.)



Dungys Read to Oak Grove Third Graders

Lauren and Tony Dungy entertained 3rd graders at the Oak Grove Elementary School by reading a story about making new friends. The book - 'You Can Be a Friend' - is the first of six children's books planned by the Dungys. See <http://tiny.cc/9smpk>.

Read the Healthy Start Coalition E-Connection Newsletter -

To learn more about the abcParenting Program at the Child Abuse Council, go online at <http://www.healthystartcoalition.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Initiatives.abcProgram>.

Hillsborough County Now Offers Afternoon Sports, Play and Active Recreation

Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation now offers a great deal in afternoon recreation. Rec2Six is a new program for children grades K – 5, offered Monday – Friday from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. at 18 recreation centers throughout Hillsborough County. The weekly rate is \$38, and reduced rates of \$30 and \$20 per week are available with a current school reduced or free lunch letter.

Rec2Six is an evidence-based, outcome-oriented recreation component that improves a child's quantity and quality of physical activity, motor skills, movement knowledge, and peer interaction, that measures fitness improvements throughout the year. The program also provides seasonal sports, fitness activities, art programs, and special activities. Registration for a local Rec2Six program is now open weekdays from 2 – 6 p.m. at these centers:

- Apollo Beach, 664 Golf & Sea Blvd., Apollo Beach, (813) 671-7635
- Bloomingdale West, 3940 Canoga Park Drive, Brandon, (813) 744-5907
- Carrollwood Meadows, 13918 Farmington Blvd., Tampa, (813) 964-2952
- Country Place, 15728 Country Lake Drive, Tampa, (813) 964-2921
- Egypt Lake, 3126 W. Lambright St., Tampa, (813) 975-2103
- Jackson Springs, 8620 Jackson Springs Road, Tampa, (813) 554-5004
- Kenly, 3101 N. 66th St., Tampa, (813) 744-5531
- Keysville, 9390 Edison Road, Lithia, (813) 757-3717
- Mango, 11717 Clay Pit Road, Seffner, (813) 635- 7489
- North Lakes, 2640 N. Lakeview Drive, Tampa (813) 264-3824
- Nuccio, 4805 E. Sligh Ave., Tampa, (813) 744-5517
- Nye, 630 Sunset Lane, Lutz, (813) 264-3805
- Perrone, 5120 Kelly Road, Tampa, (813) 554-5000
- Progress Village, 8701 Progress Blvd., Tampa, (813) 671-7633
- Providence West, 5417 Providence Road, Riverview, (813) 635-7452
- Roy Haynes, 1902 S. Village Ave., Tampa, (813) 903-3480
- Temple, 7701 Temple Terrace Highway, Temple Terrace, (813) 987-6205
- Timberlane, 10210 Westgate Drive, Tampa, (813) 554-5048

For more information, contact one of the above centers, or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks/rec2six/.

Pioneering Prosthesis Treatment at Moffitt Cancer Center Gives Kids Hope

In the past 18 years, Moffitt Cancer Center has implanted expandable chrome and titanium prosthetics into young cancer patients. See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/breaking-news/2011/aug/07/pioneering-prosthesis-gives-kids-hope-ar-248971/>.

Hillsborough Bar Association Will Have 'Pro Bono Week' Celebration Events

The Hillsborough County Bar Association and its partner organizations announce the following events in celebration of Pro Bono Week 2011:

October 22: Wills for Heroes (sponsored by Hillsborough County Bar Association), Chester Ferguson Law Center. 10 a.m. Pro bono attorneys will be on hand to draft simple wills and other related documents for local firefighters and their spouses. Appointments are required.

October 25: Bay Area Legal Services One-on-One Intake (sponsored by Bay Area Legal Services), George Edgecomb Courthouse, Room 201, 5:30 p.m. Pro bono attorneys will meet with new Bay Area Legal Services applicants to provide counsel and advice and recommendations for extended services. Appointments are required.

October 25: Family Forms Clinic (sponsored by Bay Area Volunteer Lawyers Program and HCBA Young Lawyers Division), George Edgecomb Courthouse, Room 207, 5:30 p.m. Pro bono attorneys will assist individuals in filling out family law forms. Appointments are not required, but individuals seeking assistance should visit the Legal Information Center in Room 203 during its daytime hours to determine the appropriate family law forms. Individuals must bring their forms to be completed. Forms are not available at the Family Forms Clinic.

October 27: Are You Safe? (sponsored by Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association), Columbia Restaurant, Ybor City, noon. As part of TBHBA's membership luncheon, attorney Miriam Velez-Valkenburg will discuss the pro bono project she helped found that provides domestic violence victims with pro bono representation at their domestic violence injunction hearings. For more information on these and other pro bono events, visit www.probono.net.

Tampa Dentist Launches Latest Good Deed Essay Contest for Youth to Win a Computer or Other Prizes

Tampa dentist Dr. Randall Diez believes that many good deeds done each day are going un-rewarded. "We all know that negativity will not improve a situation, but complimenting or rewarding a job well done will actually prompt more of those good activities" says Dr. Diez.

That said, Dr. Diez launched a Good Deed Contest in September which will end on November 20, 2011. The contest is open to any youth 18 years of age and under. Children are urged to join the Good Deed Contest by submitting an essay about a good deed they have accomplished. The first place winner will get a computer and other contestants may also win prizes. All contestants should go online to enter at <http://cosmeticdentisttampafl.com/index.php/gdcenroll/>.

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>.

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.



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- Social Commentary
- Children's Stories
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Dreams Worth Growing



YOUR FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESOURCE CENTERS

Your Children's Board wishes you and your family a Safe and Happy Halloween! After your night of fun, make sure to stop by one of our Family Support and Resource Centers in your neighborhood!

Funded in part by the Children's Board, FSRCs are warm, inviting places that offer a variety of free services like educational play groups, parenting classes, mobile health services, job skills training, CPR courses and much more!

Call to learn about the Family Support and Resource Center near you today!

Brandon: 740-4634 • N. Tampa: 558-1877
Ctr Tampa: 204-1741 • S. County: 641-5600
Town 'N Country: 356-1703

Get a FREE child's admission to the **Glazer Children's Museum** with the purchase of an adult ticket.

To learn more, visit
www.ChildrensBoard.org



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Dreams Worth Growing

Your Children's Board serves as the leading voice and advocate for children and families in Hillsborough County, investing in more than 100 programs that touch over 100,000 citizens every year. To learn more, visit www.ChildrensBoard.org or call 813.229.2884.

Neighborhood News

Plant City Fun Day Raises Money for Pediatric Cancer Research

Photos of children who have fought cancer or continue to fight the disease were on display at Play for a Cure fundraiser at Mike Sansone Community Park in Plant City. September was Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and event coordinator Emily Pierce wanted to be sure that Plant City took notice. Pierce and her husband Clint have been personally affected by the disease; their 8-year-old daughter, Morgan, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma four years ago.

'Our kids need research. There's been one new chemo approved for kids in the last 20 years. Most kids are receiving treatments tried on adults. We want to change that,' she said. Morgan, who is living out her dream to cheer for the Plant City Dolphins youth sports league, was excited to see so many turn out for the event. 'It's really nice,' she said.

See <http://www2.tbo.com/news/plant-city/2011/oct/03/2/fun-day-at-park-raises-money-for-pediatric-cancer--ar-261256/>.

Pictured at right: Plant City cancer survivor Morgan Pierce stands beside her photo on display at Play for a Cure. This is the first year that the 8-year-old has been well enough to participate as a Plant City Dolphins cheerleader. (Photo by the Tampa Tribune.)



Brandon Family Support & Resource Center is Geared to the Community



Pictured: a beginning class in sewing at the Brandon FSRC. (Photo by the Tampa Tribune.)

There are five resource centers in Hillsborough County and each is geared to its surrounding community. The Brandon center will host an open house Oct. 26 to welcome those who have never previously visited. There will be children's crafts all day long and the center will be open until 7:30 p.m. to visitors. The **Children's Board of Hillsborough County** funds the center, Bright Beginnings manages it and the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County provides fiscal and program management. Community members can bring their children to the center for classes in music and crafts, adults can learn computer skills, family members can get health screenings from St. Joseph's Hospital and parents can learn how to create nutritious snacks. All of the programs are free.

See <http://tiny.cc/9smpk>.

Advocacy

Creating a More Vibrant Community by Making Room for Youth Voices

From Stacie Blake, Executive Director of Hillsborough Youth Collaborative – Youth Radio is here! This partnership between WMNF in Tampa and Community Tampa Bay's Hillsborough Youth Collaborative (HYC) is an innovative approach to promoting youth voices in our community.

HYC is a program of Community Tampa Bay™ funded by the **Children's Board of Hillsborough County** to provide youth leadership and diversity education while advising the Board members on issues of importance to teens and providing youth perspective in important decision making. For the past year, HYC members have produced individual commentaries, focused on issues of their choice, to record on the radio. This year the initiative expands into a full youth radio show with music, interviews and news. HYC Radio began their new monthly, hour-long radio broadcast Sunday, September 25 currently scheduled for 5 p.m. on WMNF HD3, "The Source," also available streaming on wmnf.org or through WMNF's iPhone app.

See <http://www.creativetampabay.com/2011/09/creating-a-more-vibrant-community-by-making-room-for-youth-voices/>

State News

The Children's Movement of Florida Launches Dream Prizes Promotion

The Children's Movement of Florida is launching its Dream Prizes Promotion. For a \$25 donation, you can choose which prize drawing to enter:

- A 7-night Royal Caribbean International getaway for two.
- Two American Airlines round-trip business class tickets to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- A three-year new-car lease on a Honda Civic from Brickell Motors.
- Publix groceries: A year's worth (\$6,000).
- Florida Marlins 2012 tickets, signed memorabilia and a dugout experience.
- Miami Dolphins club-level tickets, field passes and entrance to LIV Sun Life Stadium.
- Romero Britto "Children Of The World" limited-edition serigraph.
- Family adventure: River Ventures manatee encounter and ZooMiami VIP tour.

Click here for details about the promotion and to enter the drawing:

See https://childrensmovementflorida.org/promo/Fall_promotion_west/.

Florida's Budget is \$1.5 Billion Short -

One of the greatest casualties of the Great Recession may well be a decade of lost children. According to "The State of America's Children 2011," a report issued by the Children's Defense Fund, the impact of the recession on children's well-being has been catastrophic.

See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/business/corporate/gov-scott-expects-more-budget-cuts-as-state-revenue-projections-shrink/1196333>.

National News

USA Today Editorial: No Excuse for High U.S. Infant Mortality Rates -

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/story/2011-10-03/infant-mortality-ranking-US-41st/50647658/1>.

Obama Administration Allows State Waivers to No Child Left Behind

The Obama administration effectively gutted the Bush-era No Child Left Behind law, giving states a way out of a decade-long policy that focused on holding schools accountable but labeled many of them failures even if they made progress. To get a waiver from the program, however, states must agree to host of education reforms the White House favors — from tougher evaluation systems for teachers and principals to programs tackling the achievement gap for minority students.

The federal law, which requires every student to be proficient in science and math by 2014, is four years past due for reauthorization. But it's become mired in the increasingly bipartisan mood on Capitol Hill despite repeated calls from President Barack Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan for changes to be made before the school year starts. Obama sent an overhaul proposal to Congress 16 months ago.

Duncan has warned that 82 percent of U.S. schools could be labeled failures next year if the law is not changed. Education experts have questioned that estimate, but state officials report a growing number of schools facing sanctions under the law — from having to offer free tutoring to being forced to shut down entirely. Tired of waiting for Congress to act, Obama has told Duncan to move forward with waivers, said Melody Barnes, director of the Domestic Policy Council for the White House.

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

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>.