

News

Gloria Jensen, TNC Success Story

Baby Bungalow

3106 W. Azelee Street
Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 356-1293

Brandon

1277 Kingsway Road
Brandon, FL 33510
(813) 740-4634

Central Tampa

1002 E. Palm Avenue
Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 204-1741

North Tampa

1401-A E. Fowler Ave.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 558-1877

Plant City

809 West Renfro Street
Plant City, FL 33563
(813) 764-0694

Ruskin

201 14th Ave. S.E.
Ruskin, FL 33570
(813) 641-5600

Town 'N Country

7520 West Waters Ave.
Suite 8
Tampa, FL 33615
(813) 356-1703

Editor: Dan Casseday
Children's Board of
Hillsborough County
(813) 204-1757
DCasseday@
childrensboard.org

The Children's Board-funded Family Support & Resource Centers offer many services and programs to the public. It's very common that the FSRCs will report success stories of people who have bettered themselves after using their local FSRC. Following is one of the more recent success stories shared by FSRC staff:

TNC's Gloria Jensen

Gloria Jensen has experienced many diverse roles in the Town 'N Country Family Support Resource Center.



Gloria Jensen, left, works as a staff member in 2009 at the TNC FSRC preschool fun time.

The beginning of her journey started in 2007; while in desperate need of help, Gloria went on a full-fledged mission to find resources for her family.

Coincidentally, on her way to Amscot, she saw the Town 'N Country FSRC's sign, which she felt was inviting and which she hoped would be helpful to her.

A center staff member offered Gloria more than what she expected. She immediately started signing up for programs such as the clothes closet, food pantry and developmental play groups for her children.

Her participation instantly reflected the gratitude that she had for the center's open arms and willingness to aid her in any way possible.

As soon as she became a partaker of the center, she started aiding staff in organizing the clothes closet. Due to her involvement, the center's staff encouraged Gloria to transition to the next stage of being a volunteer.

She not only became a cherished and helpful volunteer, but she also assumed the lead role in many volunteer activities.

In February 2008 Gloria joined the TNC Family Community Advisory Council. Her next transition happened in October 2008 when the Advisory Council voted her as vice president.



Gloria was a volunteer for the 2008 Night Before Christmas.



Gloria stood next to TNC FSRC manager Lazora Jordan at the center's 2007 Mother's Day event.

She said she enjoyed most the input she was allowed to give. She said the board made her feel important and more than just a volunteer.

As of January 2009, Gloria has completed the transition from visitor to volunteer to member of the Advisory Board to her new role at the center as a staff member.

Gloria said the staff encouraged her to apply for a specialist position due to the leadership roles she already had at the center.

Her husband, three children and mother are all involved in the center, which Gloria says she loves because her family can be part of her job. What Gloria has learned from all of this is that she is more capable of accomplishing anything that is presented to her.

As she states, "I have more confidence in myself and my capabilities and continuous growth."

FSRCs Offer the Public a Plethora of Programs

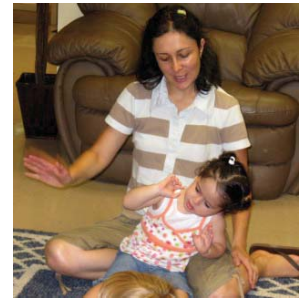
The Family Support & Resource Centers offer a plethora of programs and services to families throughout Hillsborough County. The goal is to offer universal access to all citizens to give children a healthy start, provide

trainings for parents and caregivers, provide classes for self-improvement, activities for teens and much more.

Following are pictures of events at the various FSRCs, including: Safety, Playshop, I Can Eat a

Rainbow, Volunteer Appreciation, Teen Volunteers, Celebrating Holidays, Playtime, Toys 4 Tots, Teen Volunteers, Meet & Greet, Back to School, Little Amigos, Mom Care Showers, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Fall Festival, Halloween,

Baby Bungalow Play Groups, Keeping Teeth Healthy, Safesitter Class, Tutoring, Teen Bowling, Multicultural Event, Back-to-School, Learning About Babies, Playshop, and Teen Movie Night. And the centers offer much more!



What's Happening?

Baby Bungalow 3106 W. Azelee St., Tampa (813 356-1293, x 247)

Baby Bungalow is offering numerous classes and workshops for parents and caregivers.

Positive behavior tools, an 8-week course designed to reduce and prevent challenging behaviors, is taught by Stacie Neff, a certified behavior analyst. It began in late June and will be offered again in September. Other workshops to watch for will be: toilet learning, photography and infant massage.

We are thrilled to announce an international resources for infant 'educators' training in September. This will be the first in Hillsborough County since the 1980s. Alex Curtis Boyer, international trainer, will conduct the training along with Polly Elam of Los Angeles. This 10-day intensive course is for those wanting
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to develop and deepen their understanding of infant development and care.



Brandon 1277 Kingsway Rd., Brandon (813) 740-4634

In July the Brandon FSRC will have free events related to:

- Hurricane preparedness, 6-9 p.m. July 14.
- Back to school block party and bike rodeo, 10 a.m. to noon, July 18.
- Kindergarten transition, 5:30-7:30 p.m., July 18.
- Kids Movie Nights, 6:30 p.m., July 9 and 23.
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August events feature free six-week groups that require registration:

- Little Amigos play group will be offered for 2-4-year-old English speakers to be exposed to the Spanish language through music and play.
- Growing together targets the early developmental areas of social/emotional, gross motor, fine motor and intellectual.
- Wonder years for 2-3-year-olds targets the early childhood developmental areas of social/emotional, gross motor, fine motor and intellectual.

For more information about all Brandon FSRC events and activities, call the center at (813) 740-4634.

Central Tampa 1002 E. Palm Ave., Tampa (813) 204-1741

Welcome to summer. The Central Tampa FSRC has new classes to offer.

Do you need help with your resume? Every Friday we have Resume Writing from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

First aid and CPR will be offered as a combo July 13 and other dates TBA.

Summer FCAT for kids going into grades 3-5 will be July 7-August 13.

For little ones to express their imagination, arts & crafts are offered twice a month.

Is your child ready for school? The mobile clinic bus will be on hand for immunizations and well child exams on August 13.

Our first back to school event, with bike helmet-fitting, school supplies and more, will from 10 a.m.-noon on August 15.

Testimonials Tout Baby Bungalow Programs

The Children's Board-funded Family Support and Resource Centers that are administered by the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County provide Baby Bungalow playgroups as part of the services to families.

Much of the instruction is through modeling, which is a great way to teach parenting skills. Instructors tell parents, "We will model for you and you will model for your children."

Following are sample comments from evaluations of the Baby Bungalow playgroups from participants:

From a parent in Brandon's Baby & Me Infant playgroup:

"Thank you to the Children's Board for funding such a wonderful program. We love it! The instructor is great, and we look forward to each week."

From a mom who attends North Tampa's Growing Together Wonder Years playgroup for 2-year-olds:

"The instructor is very patient and compassionate. She is great with the kids and makes sure to give each child individual attention to keep them involved. Her advice has been help-

ful to us at home. This is a great class! I highly recommend it."

From a parent from Brandon's Little Amigo Spanish playgroup:

"We love Little Amigos and wish it was every day. Learning at such an early age is wonderful. I've already recommended the class to a friend."

From a mom who attends North Tampa's Growing Together playgroup for 1-year-olds:

"The interaction with other children in a structured environment is a huge benefit for my daughter."

Brandon FSRC Success
Following is a letter from Shani Bowen:

"I am writing this letter as a result of my participation in the sewing class at the Brandon FSRC. I enjoyed taking this class and must say it was well worth my effort.

"As a result of the class, I was able to make a nice quilt and I am currently making a quilt for my 3-month-old daughter.

"I was also able to make several pairs of baby shoes. I am very happy that I was able to participate in this class."

What's Happening?

North Tampa 1401-A E. Fowler Ave. Tampa (813) 558-1877

Get ready for hurricane preparedness from 6-7:30 p.m. on July 14. Learn what your family needs to know concerning documents needed, food and materials and next steps.

Youth ages 11-17 can get educated about CPR/First Aid and learn to become safe sitters in our safe sitter course.

Bring toddlers to celebrate World Friendship Day from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 with music, arts & crafts, new toddler friends and fun.

Calling all soon-to-be and new mothers: from 10 a.m. to noon on Aug. 14, we will celebrate our world breastfeeding theme by bringing in a certified lactation counselor to teach and answer all questions about breast feeding.

From 2-4 p.m. on July 7, Aug. 4 and Sept. 8, save up
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to 50 percent on your monthly grocery bill and purchase your meats, fruits and vegetables with cash, credit/debit or EBT with Share Florida Express.

From 10 a.m. to noon each Friday, individuals may receive assistance with the Florida KidCare health insurance enrollment process.

For more information about regularly scheduled programming and the events posted here, call (813) 558-1877 or visit the center at 1401-A E. Fowler, Avenue, Tampa.

Ruskin 201 14th Ave. S.E., Ruskin(813) 641-5600

Basic computer classes are every Monday from 6-8 p.m. These classes provide the very basics from turning on the computer to navigating the Internet.

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Music and more class will start July 11.

A safe sitter class will be scheduled for July at a date TBA. This is a one-day course for children ages 11 and up that will teach them how to handle behavior problems, rescue a choking infant or child, run a babysitting business, administer first aid and call for help, and keep infants and children safe.

Literacy classes for Spanish speakers will start on Aug. 17 from 6-8 p.m. This is a six-week literacy class offered on Mondays for adults who cannot read.

Town 'N Country 7520 W. Waters, #8 Tampa (813) 356-1703

There are many exciting upcoming events and programs at the Town 'N Country Family Support & Resource Center.

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We are continuing Coffee and Career which is a program aimed to assist in resume writing, employment search, interviewing skills and job applications. It's held each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

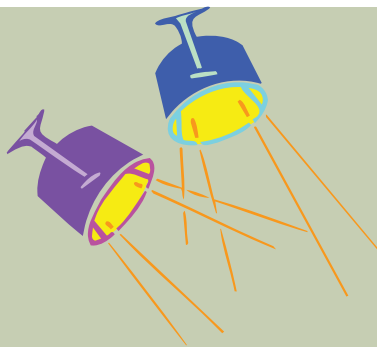
Share Express, a non-income based program that allows families to purchase affordable frozen meat and fresh produce packages, is the second Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

On July 16 St. Joseph's will facilitate the program Teen Talk 2 to educate co-ed youth on the risks and consequences of sexual behaviors.

July and August summer programs include hip hop dancing and 'let's write a book.'

A hurricane preparedness event to inform and educate families will be held on Aug. 7.

In September we will honor our volunteers.



Event Spotlight

Brandon Father's Day Event Makes the News

From the Brandon News & Tribune and www.tbo.com:

Celebrating dad was on the menu June 13 when more than 100 people filled Brandon's Sadie Park for a Father's Day picnic. The event was sponsored by the Brandon Family Support & Resource Center.

Following is a link with all the pictures taken at the center's Father's Day event:
<http://snap.tbo.com/galleries/index.php?id=358308>

