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Children's Board of Hillsborough County

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Awards Children's Board-Funded Positive SPiN Program with \$250,000 Grant

Tampa, FL – Positive Support for Parents in Neighborhoods (+SPiN) – a Children's Board-funded initiative – recently received a \$250,000 award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in order to sustain and expand their mission of strengthening natural support systems to promote family security, economic and educational advancement and community development.

The +SPiN program was initiated in 2000-2001 with the Children's Board serving as the lead agency for the project. Targeting families living in the Hillsborough County neighborhoods with the highest reported incidence of child maltreatment, child protective services involvement and school failure, +SPiN was designed to build an innovative community-centered, peer-professional partnership providing integrated services for families with children living in severely disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Data from March 2007 to March 2008 for +SPiN illustrates its successes:

- Two hundred twenty families were referred through child protective investigators, the community-based care provider, and through other agencies or self referrals. From these referrals, 587 children were able to remain in their homes and not enter out-of-home placement with child welfare. These families met an average of 85% of their established goal plans and were able to move toward self-sufficiency.
- Annual client recidivism rates have consistently fallen under 7% (compared to 23% in other projects) for the seven years the program has served at risk families and families involved in the Hillsborough County Child Protection System.
- Services provided to families keep children out of the local child welfare system saving dollars to the state for cost of care. Every dollar invested in +SPiN saves State and local authorities \$3 in out-of-home services.

The \$250,000 W.K. Kellogg grant will fund:

1. Operational support for existing program stability and expansion
2. Additional program components focused on partnerships between local families and businesses
3. Model replication and expansion to new communities in the county

"The Children's Board and +SPiN program are proud to receive this award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation," said Luanne Panacek, Children's Board C.E.O. "This award will compliment both our organization's missions as well as support children, build strong families, and nurture healthy communities."

The grant was awarded to Peter A. Gorski, M.D., M.P.A., Director of Research and Innovation at the Children's Board. Gorski commented that "this national recognition and support will enable us to solidify an approach to strengthening individuals and communities that moves from charity to investment, from putting out fires to building an inflammable foundation for children."

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930. The organization supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. For further information, please visit the Foundation's website at www.wkkf.org.

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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