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Children's Board-Funded Powerstories Theatre Wins National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award at White House Ceremony

TAMPA, FL (Oct. 21, 2010) – In a ceremony at the White House on Oct. 20, First Lady Michelle Obama presented to Powerstories Theatre in Tampa a 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program award for its program that gives middle school girls the opportunity to share their life stories with elementary students.

The Girlstories Leadership Theatre programs are designed for girls between the ages of 10 - 13 who are at a critical crossroads in their development. Through theatre arts, this program teaches the girls how to honor and speak their personal story - and share those stories in performances to elementary school girls - increasing their confidence, communications skills and self-esteem.

The Powerstories Leadership Program was one of 15 finalists – from among 400 nominees – to receive the award, along with a \$10,000 grant – and is the only program in the Southeast to be recognized. The Children's Board of Hillsborough County is a funder of the Powerstories "Girlstories Workshops and Theatre," which offers programs at St. Peter Claver School in central Tampa.

Mrs. Obama is the honorary chair of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, which hosted the ceremony to honor community-based after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for children with great potential but limited outlets for creative expression and growth. The ceremony highlighted the importance of after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities education. The First Lady spoke about how experiences in the arts and the humanities foster creative and intellectual development -- and change lives.

"When a student writes a play she's not just learning how to put lines on a page, set a goal and to reach it," said Mrs. Obama.

More than 5,000 girls have participated in the Powerstories Theatre program since 2003.

See the list of award winners at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/10/20/one-work-art-one-relationship-one-lifetime-a-time>. Learn more about Powerstories Theatre at <http://www.powerstories.com/>.

(This story was compiled from online news reports at

<http://www.baynews9.com/article/news/2010/october/163920/Obama-presents-award-to-Tampa-theater>,

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/10/20/one-work-art-one-relationship-one-lifetime-a-time> and

<http://www.powerstories.com/>.)

See also the **Children's Board** Facebook posting at <http://www.facebook.com/MyCBHC>.

The Children's Board of Hillsborough County serves as the leading voice and advocate for children and families in our community. The board is the only organization of its kind in Hillsborough County that generates revenue to help children and families. The Children's Board is recognized nationally for its contributions to best practices in policies and programs aiding children and families. Citizens may visit www.childrensboard.org to learn more about the board's programs.



Fran Powers, left, executive director of Powerstories Theatre, and Powerstories participant Naomi Davis, 13, are pictured with First Lady Michelle Obama at a White House ceremony on Oct. 20 that honored the Tampa-based girls theatre program.