

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2008

Contact: Carolyn Eastman: 813-531-0502
Rick Lence: 813-476-9537
Children's Board of Hillsborough County

University Area Program Wins Top Award from Children's Board of Hillsborough County



Tampa, FL – The Children's Board, the largest child-serving agency in Tampa Bay, celebrated its 20th anniversary on Thursday, April 17th with the presentation of the "Heroes for Hillsborough's Children" awards. The "Outstanding Provider Award" was given to Positive Support for Parents in Neighborhoods (Positive SPiN), an innovative program located in the University area aimed at preventing child abuse.

- **Positive SPiN received "Outstanding Provider Award"**

The Outstanding Provider Award recognizes the exhaustive work done by Positive SPiN and connects families to natural supports within their community.

Based on a model developed by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, this program was initiated in 2000-2001 and is the most successful of the original 16 across the State of Florida. This program has received national recognition for its effectiveness in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Focusing on the 33612 zip code in Hillsborough County, services were designed to address the needs of this area, which represents a predominantly inner city population with the highest abuse reporting rate countywide.

"Positive SPiN is making a real difference in the lives of our community's children and families each and every day," said Dr. Luanne Panacek, C.E.O. of the Children's Board. "Under Harriet Scott's leadership, this program has truly been a model for others to follow."

400 citizens were present at the ceremony and celebration which was held at Higgins Hall.

Interviews with Scott can be arranged by calling Carolyn Eastman at 813-531-0502 or Rick Lence at 813-476-9537.

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.

#30#