MISSION: The Children’s Board invests in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in Hillsborough County.

CALL TO ORDER
Quorum Verification
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
Swearing-In of Commissioner Sandra Murman

M. Dempsey

PUBLIC COMMENT
The Children’s Board of Hillsborough County welcomes comments from the public. Those who wish to address the Board may do so at this time. Those addressing the Board should state their full name and affiliation for the official record. In the interest of time, we ask that one person be designated to speak on behalf of a constituency and that all comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DISCLOSURE

K. Parris

PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

M. Negron

Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, Inc. – Readers in Motion
L. Mielke

ACTION ITEMS
1. Approval; October 24, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval; Release for 2020 Summer Services Grants

M. Dempsey
M. Negron

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS
1. Executive Director Reports
   A. Summer Services Vendor Expo
   B. Activities - October 25, 2019 – November 21, 2019
   C. Children’s Services Council Update
   D. Meeting with Deputy Secretary, Dr. Patricia Babcock, DCF

K. Parris

2. Programs Reports

M. Negron

3. Operations Reports

P. Scott
OLD/NEW BUSINESS

ATTACHMENTS
1. Contract Signature Logs (ASO, Programs, Vendors)
2. Outreach Events
3. Good News!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

NO DECEMBER MEETINGS

January

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting January 9, 2020 12:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting January 23, 2020 3:00 PM
Children’s Board of Hillsborough County

Agency: Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, Inc.  Program: Readers in Motion

Number of Participants Served by Zip Code in FY 2019

Map prepared by Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. Color shows the number of participants served by location. Map based on 655 participants served from 10/01/2018 to 9/30/2019. Two participants residing in one zip code were excluded from map for viewing purposes.
Our mission: Provide solutions to community challenges by engaging volunteers 55+.
READERS IN MOTION

- Provide ALL resources children need to succeed in school:
  - One-on-one tutoring/mentoring
  - Social/emotional support
  - Compelling curriculum
  - Parental Engagement
  - STEM
  - State-of-the-art technology for individualized learning

- Funded by CBHC since October 2012 and re-awarded in 2017

- Partners:
  - Hillsborough County School District
  - ZooTampa at Lowry Park
  - Mad Science of Tampa Bay, Inc.
  - myON
  - Bricks4Kidz
WHAT WE DO

Support Kindergarten & First grade at Oak Grove & Mendenhall Elementary for school success

Provide qualified Education Advocates (senior volunteers) Tutor/mentor children during regular class time

Engage Community Partners Plan & deliver parent engagement events Learn-at-home opportunities

Coordinate with Teachers & School Administration Create individualized Child Plan based on child’s specific needs

CBHC Measurable Outcomes:
- Demonstrated academic progress
- Improvement in positive social behavior (social/emotional skills)
- Demonstrated parental involvement
HOW DO WE DO IT?

**Main Activities:**
- Constant outreach (parents, teachers & community partners)
- 1:1 tutoring & mentoring
- Engaging Family Fun events (in and out of school)
- Monthly reading logs
- myON Reading Challenges

**Best Practices:**
- Background checks
- 20 hour pre-service orientation
- Monthly training on relevant topics
- Individualized learning
- Timely parent engagement (monthly mailings, follow up/thank you phone calls)

**Outcome Measurements:**
- DRA Scores (pre/post)
- Child Care Plans- list activities and frequency
- Social/emotional improvement (pre/post level noted on Child Care Plans)
- Parental Involvement (completed surveys/reading challenges)
FY19 Data

Participants Served
- Children: 323
- Parents: 332

Achieving Participants
- Academic Progress: 227 children (82%)
- Positive Social Behavior: 267 children (96%)
- Parent Involvement: 167 parents/guardians (50%)
“My daughter Elani is in Mrs. Livermore's Kindergarten class at Oak Grove... I wanted to thank you for sponsoring the class and helping children excel at a young age. I've tutored children for years and I know how important it is to establish a strong foundation as early as possible. I think your program is absolutely wonderful and we've enjoyed participating in it. Elani loves her tablet, and the books she's received from your organization. Your contests motivated her to read even more, and helped her to advance significantly over the course of this year. If there is any way that we can help, volunteer, etc., please let me know! Thank you again.”
Thank you, Children’s Board of Hillsborough County!

Grandma Gladys & her Kindergarten class!
SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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</tr>
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</table>
| I   | CALL TO ORDER | A. Mayts, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.  
E. Narain led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.  
A. Mayts opened the floor for Public Comment; there was none. |
| II  | PROVIDER PRESENTATION | M. Negron introduced Maxine Woodside, Bethesda Ministries. Ms. Woodside provided a presentation on the summer program, *UpWard Kids*. The following details were highlighted:  
- Fifty-five children were able to access an eight week, high quality summer program for children between six and fourteen years old;  
- Children were provided access to opportunities that allow significant transformation in character development.  
- Services included:  
  - College/Career Field Trips;  
  - STEM Hydroponics Experiments;  
  - Photography;  
  - Fitness/Nutrition;  
  - Safety and Resilience;  
  - Character Development.  
- Eighteen of the fifty-five children were first time attendees. |
| III | ACTION ITEMS | A. Mayts requested approval of the September 11, 2019 Preliminary TRIM Hearing Minutes.  
*Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve the September 11, 2019 Preliminary TRIM Hearing Minutes; second by Robin DeLaVergne. Motion carried (6-0).* |
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>9-26-2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes</td>
<td>A. Mayts requested approval of the September 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. <strong>Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve the September 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; second by Walter Sachs. Motion carried (6-0).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>9-26-2019 Final TRIM Hearing Minutes</td>
<td>A. Mayts requested approval of the September 26, 2019 Final TRIM Hearing Minutes. <strong>Motion by Walter Sachs to approve the September 26, 2019 Final TRIM Hearing Minutes; second by Kimberly Overman. Motion carried (6-0).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Executive Director Appraisal</td>
<td>D. Adams requested acceptance of the Executive Director Appraisal. W. Sachs stated his score would need to be revised to reflect an accurate average composite score. <strong>Motion by Robin DeLaVergne to accept the Executive Director Appraisal pending requested revision by Walter Sachs; second by Katherine Essrig. Motion carried (6-0).</strong> <em>The Executive Director Appraisal average composite score was revised.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Executive Director Contract Extension</td>
<td>D. Adams requested approval of the Executive Director Contract Extension through September 30, 2022. The recommendation to extend the contract to September 30, 2022 is based on the performance of the Executive Director and the recommendation of the Board Attorney and approval of the same by the Executive Committee. <strong>Motion by Katherine Essrig to approve the Executive Director Contract Extension through September 30, 2022; second by Walter Sachs. Motion carried (6-0).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Release of RFP for Level (1) Investment Grants</td>
<td>M. Negron requested approval of release of Request for Proposals for Level (1) Investment Grants in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $1,200,000. <strong>Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve the release of Request for Proposals for Level (1) Investment Grants in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $1,200,000; second by Robin DeLaVergne. Motion carried (6-0).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Release of RFP for Level (2) Uniting Grant(s)</td>
<td>M. Negron requested approval of release Request of Proposals for Level (2) Uniting Grant(s) in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $500,000. <strong>Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve release of Request for Proposals for Level (2) Uniting Grant(s) in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $500,000; second by Edwin Narain. Motion carried (6-0).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Release of RFP for Level (3) Leading Grants</td>
<td>M. Negron requested approval of Release of Request of Proposals for Level (3) Leading Grants in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $300,000. <strong>Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve release of Request for Proposals for Level (3) Leading Grants in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $300,000; second by Katherine Essrig. Motion carried (6-0).</strong></td>
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<td>IV.</td>
<td>REPORTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. A</td>
<td>K. Parris reported attending (26) twenty six significant meetings or events from September 26, 2019 – October 24, 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. B</td>
<td>K. Parris informed the Board of new employee, Allison Kummelman, Conference Center Coordinator.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. C</td>
<td>K. Parris provided a brief summary of the “Because of Sam” documentary which took place at the Children’s Board on October 19, 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A</td>
<td>T. James presented the Quarter 4 Strategic Plan Report.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>ADJOURNMENT</td>
<td>The meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MOTIONS

1. Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve the September 11, 2019 Preliminary TRIM Hearing Minutes; second by Robin DeLaVergne. Motion carried (6-0).

2. Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve the September 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; second by Walter Sachs. Motion carried (6-0).

3. Motion by Walter Sachs to approve the September 26, 2019 Final TRIM Hearing Minutes; second by Kimberly Overman. Motion carried (6-0).

4. Motion by Robin DeLaVergne to accept the Executive Director Appraisal pending requested revision by Walter Sachs; second by Katherine Essrig. Motion carried (6-0).

5. Motion by Katherine Essrig to approve the Executive Director Contract Extension through September 30, 2022; second by Walter Sachs. Motion carried (6-0).

6. Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve the release of Request for Proposals for Level (1) Investment Grants in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $1,200,000; second by Robin DeLaVergne. Motion carried (6-0).

7. Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve release of Request for Proposals for Level (2) Uniting Grant(s) in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $500,000; second by Edwin Narain. Motion carried (6-0).

8. Motion by Kimberly Overman to approve release of Request for Proposals for Level (3) Leading Grants in January 2020 with a total allocation up to $300,000; second by Katherine Essrig. Motion carried (6-0).

READ AND APPROVED BY:

______________________________________________
Megan Proulx Dempsey
CHAIR
Initiator: Maria Negrón, Director of Programs

Action: Approval of release for 2020 Summer Services Grants

Date: Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, November 14, 2019

Recommended Actions

Recommend release in January 2020 of a Request for Proposals for time-limited 2020 Summer Services Grant funding with a total allocation up to $500,000 in collaboration with Board of County Commissioners to increase youth access to high quality summer programming.

Background

- The Children's Board has released summer services grants since 2015.
- As a result, 4,369 youth have received services provided by these grants and most are a reflection of the intent to provide programming to unserved populations.
- The most recent 2019 Summer Services Report was included in the October 2019 Board Book.
- The Board of County Commissioners have collaborated with the Children's Board in past grants and agreed to contribute $250,000 for FY 2020. The Children's Board will serve as the managing entity for all funding and grants awarded.
- The intent is to offer multiple leading grants to existing Hillsborough County summer programs.
# Community and Partner Meetings

## October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Education Event</td>
<td>10.24.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glazer Children's Museum</td>
<td>10.25.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEL</td>
<td>10.25.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Jacob and Susan Racher</td>
<td>10.31.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare Meeting</td>
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## November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019 Women’s Conference of Florida</td>
<td>11.1.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Affairs Meeting</td>
<td>11.4.19</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11.4.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Palm River CDC</td>
<td>11.8.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janae Kaplan</td>
<td>11.8.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Alliance</td>
<td>11.12.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Court Stakeholder’s Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELCHC</td>
<td>11.12.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carly Morrison</td>
<td>11.12.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>ResWrap Eckerd Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELCHC</td>
<td>11.13.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Babcock</td>
<td>11.13.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Groeber</td>
<td>11.15.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Adoption Day</td>
<td>11.15.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navigation and Family Support Funding Workshop</td>
<td>11.15.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military and Family Support Funding Workshop</td>
<td>11.15.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatherhood Programming Funding Workshop</td>
<td>11.15.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>COSW Board Meeting</td>
<td>11.19.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Ribbon Commissioner</td>
<td>11.19.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusion Network Meeting</td>
<td>11.21.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marni Fuente - CALM</td>
<td>11.21.19</td>
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### FY 2020

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<tr>
<td>Sin-Cera, Inc.</td>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>MOU for allocation of ASO funds</td>
<td>10/22/19-9/30/20</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
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<td>10/23/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sin-Cera, Inc.</td>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>MOU for allocation of ASO funds (BOCC Social Services funds)</td>
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<td>varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Kelley Parris</td>
<td>10/23/2019</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc.</td>
<td>MOU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Kennedy-Ramos</td>
<td>ASO Provider</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
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<td>Varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Kelley Parris</td>
<td>10/31/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer A. Mannion, LLC</td>
<td>ASO Provider</td>
<td>Family Therapy/Individual Therapy</td>
<td>10/31/19-ongoing</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Paula Scott</td>
<td>10/31/2019</td>
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<td>Jennifer A. Mannion, LLC</td>
<td>Agreement</td>
<td>Business Associate Agreement</td>
<td>10/31/19-ongoing</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Paula Scott</td>
<td>10/31/2019</td>
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<td>Matias D. Eichberg dba Spanish Solutions of Tampa, LLC</td>
<td>ASO Provider</td>
<td>Interpreter and Translation Services</td>
<td>10/31/19-ongoing</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Paula Scott</td>
<td>10/31/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifestream Behavioral Center, Inc.</td>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>MOU for allocation of ASO funds (Eckerd)</td>
<td>11/12/19-9/30/20</td>
<td>varies</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Kelley Parris</td>
<td>11/06/2019</td>
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<td>11/06/2019</td>
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<td>FEEDING AMERICA TAMPA BAY d/b/a FEEDING TAMPA BAY</td>
<td>Standard Agreement</td>
<td>Feeding Minds</td>
<td>10/01-2019-09/30/2020</td>
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<td>Easter Seals Florida, Inc.</td>
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<td>Children's Board Family Resource Center (Temple Terrace)</td>
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## Contract Signature Log - Vendors Only FY 2020

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<th>Entity/Agency</th>
<th>Contract Type</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Contract Period</th>
<th>Contract Amount</th>
<th>Board Approved</th>
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<td>Cutler Associates, Inc.</td>
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<td>Change Order for Temple Terrace FRC - Fence</td>
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Outreach Events Calendar

The Children’s Board will have a presence at the following community events. Contact Dexter Lewis, Public Relations Manager, at lewisbd@childrensboard.org for more information about a particular event.

November

11.08.19  Mother of All Baby Showers
Glazer Children’s Museum
110 West Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa
6:00 pm-9:00 pm

11.09.19  Women Centered 4 Success Fall Festival
Emanuel P. Johnson Community Center
5855 South 78th Street, Tampa
10:00 am-2:00 pm

11.23.19  Thanksgiving Fall Festival
Shekinah Glory Cathedral
402 West English Street, Plant City
10:30 am-2:30 pm

11.27.19  7th Annual Parent Workshop
Season of Parental Empowerment
110 East Kirby Street, Tampa
10:00 am-1:00 pm

December

12.03.19  Children’s Board Free Tuesday
Glazer Children’s Museum
110 West Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa
12:00 pm-6:00 pm

12.13.19  East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership-Tree Lighting Event
Young Middle School
1807 East Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Tampa
5:00 pm-8:30 pm

12.14.19  Community Health Fair
NFL YET Center-Jackson Heights
3310 East Lake Avenue, Tampa
9:30 am-2:30 pm
Good News

from our funded partners

Regular Board Meeting

November | 2019

Children’s Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org
In September, Seniors in Service’s Readers in Motion program visited participating Kindergarten and 1st Grade classrooms at Oak Grove Elementary and Mendenhall Elementary to deliver backpacks filled with supplies. Each student registered for the upcoming school year in the program received a backpack loaded with essential school supplies, so that they can practice reading and literacy skills at home with their parents. Each colorful backpack contained a workbook (specific to their grade), a pair of headphones, a composition notebook, a pack of markers or crayons, colored pencils, a pencil box containing erasers, pencils, glue sticks, counting links, and scissors.

The students in Ms. Ketchum’s Kindergarten classroom at Oak Grove Elementary were particularly excited to share in the excitement with each other, alongside Grandma Manning, their classroom Education Advocate. Readers in Motion strives to provide students with tools to reinforce learning at home, in hopes of creating new avenues that make it simple for parents to have a direct connection to their child’s learning. We also provide extra support in the classroom with the aid of our amazing Education Advocate Volunteers! None of this would be possible without the support of the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. Thank you!
Big Brother Josh and Little Brother Sheldon have been matched since December of 2018. Over the course of their match, they have been able to develop a strong, consistent relationship. Josh and Sheldon share an interest in sports and have bonded over time at the park playing football, as well as watching games on television. When asked why he likes spending time with Josh, Sheldon said it is because “Josh is good people. He is nice, kind and fun to be around.” When asked what it is about their match that Josh has been enjoying, he said that he likes the opportunity to talk to Sheldon about day-to-day situations in his life, and Sheldon often helps him see them in a different way. For example, if Sheldon complains about getting into trouble, Josh takes the time to talk through what happened and help Sheldon understand that actions have consequences.
Dear Ms. Jeannie Calderin and the Children’s Board Family Resource Center in North Tampa,

I want to share our family's story and the experience we had at the Center. On January 2019, I read a post on Facebook about a variety of services offered at the Children’s Board Family Resource Center in North Tampa. My daughters did not have medical insurance and were in need of a physical and dental screening. I went to the Center and they told me about the Mobile Medical Clinic (provided by St. Joseph’s Children's Wellness and Safety Centers and Mobile Dental Services (provided by Tampa Family Health Center). They helped me schedule appointments for my two daughters (ages ten and twelve). On the day of the Mobile Medical appointment, the nurse that examined my oldest daughter, found that she had a curve in her spine and she referred us to Shriner’s Hospital in Tampa. I did not know that the hospital existed to help children. On March 2019, my daughter went to an appointment and was diagnosed with Scoliosis with two curves in her spine. She had a series of follow up appointments at Shriner’s Hospital, and during one of the visits the doctor suggested surgery because the curves were so severe. On July 2019, my daughter underwent back surgery and spinal infusion procedure. It's been three months since her surgery and she is doing great. We are thankful for the Center because they pointed us in the right direction, and our daughter will have a healthier life. This experience has made us stronger as a family because they gave us crucial information and provided the resources that we needed in order for my daughter to receive proper medical attention early on, so that my family could have a brighter future. Additionally, all of the staff at North Tampa were very welcoming and showed great empathy towards me and my daughters. We are thankful to God for all of the services the Center provides to the families who are in need of support, resources, and services.

Always Grateful,
Dr. Luzmarie Rondon Rios
Clinical Psychologist
Success Story

Feeding Tampa Bay's Feeding Minds program opened its newest school pantry at Jennings Middle School on Monday, October 28th. This pantry will serve the students from both Jennings Middle School and Thonotosassa Elementary. At the ribbon cutting, representatives from both schools, the Hillsborough County Chief of Schools Harrison Peters, and Florida House Representative Dianne Hart were in attendance among families and students. Families attending this school pantry will receive a mix of dry goods, fresh produce, and frozen meats when they attend.
Success Story

At a vision screening at her preschool, Leilani’s results revealed that she may be at risk for an astigmatism in both eyes. This is a condition that causes blurred vision. It occurs when the cornea (the clear front cover of the eye) is irregularly shaped. Preserve Vision Florida contacted Leilani’s parents, and explained what the world looks like to a child with an astigmatism and helped set up an appointment with the optometrist at Optical Outlets. Leilani picked out her favorite color frames, which helps a child remain faithful to wearing the glasses. She was given a furry pink Lenz Frenz bear glasses case to keep her new glasses safe. Leilani can now see the world clearly, and will be prepared to learn when she goes to Kindergarten. She and her family are so grateful for early identification of her vision issue!
The Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County is now accredited as an International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) Provider! In obtaining this accreditation, the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County has demonstrated that we comply with the American National Standards Institute and IACET Standard which is recognized internationally as a standard of best training practice. As a result, we are authorized to offer the IACET Continuing Education Unit.

The IACET is a non-profit association which authorizes educational organizations that meet strict continuing education guidelines to award the IACET/Continuing Education Units. IACET Accredited Providers undergo an intensive evaluation of their educational processes according to the IACET Criteria and Guidelines, including two document reviews of the extensive application and a site visit. This agency was created in 1968 by a national task force to establish a uniform unit of measure for non-credit continuing education and training. The IACET criteria and guidelines are based upon educational research and are revised periodically to ensure applicability to new forms of education provision. The criteria represent a systematic approach to learning and measure all aspects of an educational provider’s program development from organization and planning through post-event evaluation. The IACET/Continuing Education and Training Continuing Education Unit are accepted by hundreds of private organizations, universities, and federal, state and local government entities.

IACET Unit Standards address processes for designing, developing, and delivering continuing education and training, not the content of individual programs, which means that the Standard elements apply across all disciplines. Through an emphasis on the educational process, the Standard ensures clear program development and valuable learning outcomes.

IACET Accredited Providers (AP’s) complete a comprehensive application and undergo a thorough evaluation of nine categories. Only IACET AP’s can offer the IACET CEU, the hallmark of quality in continuing education and training. This gives IACET AP’s a considerable advantage over their non-authorized competitors. The IACET Standard measures all aspects of an educational provider’s program and training development.

We are proud to now offer the IACET CEU to our early childhood community and we are committed to maintaining the highest standard of training delivery.
Letter of Gratitude

“I found the program very helpful especially being that I was a first time parent. The questionnaires were informative and fun to fill out. The mailers that came with them had some great suggestions. Overall, I am quite pleased with the program and look forward to visiting your Children’s Board Family Resource center soon. Thanks for sending the links. I’m excited for the Little Amigos class.”

-Sara mom with daughter Nora
Letter of Gratitude

Mrs. Adriana Maldonado,

I want to thank you and the Woman and Infant Resource Specialist at WIC Program for providing my family with a Pack 'N Play Crib. My daughter Juanita loves to be there and for me it is very essential since I can transfer it very easily in the house from the kitchen or even to the room because it is not heavy and is easy to assemble. Even if I go on a trip, I could take it easily and the baby will always be safe there. I feel calm because it can be where I am and I can watch my baby while I am working from my room or cooking.

Thank you, Eunice Luevano.
Success Story

Mrs. Gloria Edwards is a resident of East Tampa. She is a person living with a disability that has impaired her mobility. She is retired and is raising her eight year old grandson, Elijah. Mrs. Edwards has also raised two biological sons and two adopted daughters. She worked in banking for 25 years and spent some time working in social work and as a foster parent. These days her grandson Elijah keeps her busy with his many activities.

Elijah is a 3rd grader who enjoys participating in karate, soccer, and baseball. He has discovered a new love of golf through an opportunity he participated in with The First Tee of Tampa Bay. His favorite subjects in school are Science and Social Studies. Elijah was diagnosed with Bronchial Asthma at the age of 1. Since then, Mrs. Edwards has faced many challenges to manage Elijah’s health. Over the past year, Elijah has been taken to Urgent Care at least six times for asthma-related symptoms. He’s currently on seven medications along with bi-monthly steroid shots to manage his asthma. Despite her disability, Mrs. Edwards does her best to provide a healthier home environment for Elijah that is conducive to improving air quality in the home to minimize asthma triggers. However, the home was in severe disrepair and Mrs. Edwards does not have the financial means to repair it. The state of the home was causing Mrs. Edwards electric bill to run as high as $300/month. With funding through the Safe and Healthy Homes Program and additional funding supplied by one of our corporate partners, Wells Fargo, Mrs. Edwards and Elijah were able to receive extensive repairs to the home to make it a safer and healthier environment. Mrs. Edwards feels so blessed that she has received this help. She feels Elijah will have a much better quality of life and his participation in age appropriate activities will not be limited. Elijah is excited that with his improvements he may be able to attend summer camp next year. In the next few months we will be following up with Mrs. Edwards to see if there is a change in the medications given, the number of asthma episodes, urgent care visits and hospitalizations to document Elijah’s progress. We will also see if her energy bills have decreased as a result of the repairs. Stay tuned for updates.
Success Story Continued

The repair project included:

- Mold remediation: mold was identified in the laundry room
- Termite remediation and pest control
- Air duct system replacement: allows for clean air to be circulated throughout the home
- A/C repair and maintenance
- Seal A/C closet and panel: to avoid losing cold air in the house and reduce cost of energy bill
- Replaced the carpet in Elijah’s room with laminate flooring: reduce allergens in the bedroom
- Increase insulation in the attic: Helps for a more energy efficient function of the HVAC
- Door weather‐stripping: to reduce hot air intrusion
- Seal bathroom vents: to reduce hot air intrusion
- Exterior painting of the whole house
- Interior painting of the bedrooms and living room
- Landscaping and yardwork
The new Fit and Fun at the YMCA launched October 1st thanks to the generosity of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. Parents are already raving about the positive impacts the program is having on their kids. This curriculum-based health and wellness program teaches and encourages a healthy lifestyle for the Y’s afterschool children while they are having fun. “Fit and Fun is not about weight loss, muscle gain, diets, and so on,” said new Healthy and Safe Children Director Elyse Hubbard, who is responsible for all aspects of implementation, deliverance and reporting of the program. Elyse says the position is the perfect fit for her because she battled obesity as a child and later overcame an eating disorder as a young adult. “It’s about planting the seed of healthy lifestyle habits. Healthy eating habits is what was missing from my childhood education experience. If I can help one child not endure what I did through being part of this program through the promotion of lifestyle balance then my job is done.” Although the children are learning about nutrition and fitness, the entire hour involves movement and fun. The Children’s Board also provides free Fitbits to all the children in order to promote a goal of 60 active minutes a day. “Instead of parking herself in front of the TV after school, she finds activities to stay active,” said one parent about his daughter. “Since beginning the program, she has been pushing herself to ensure that she is meeting and exceeding the step count each day.” He told Elyse he was shocked by a question his daughter asked after he picked her up from a Fit and Fun day. “She asked me if the television has controls to limit time? I didn’t fully understand the context of the question and asked her why? She explained that she would like it if the TV had restrictions placed on it with time limitations. Knowing we don’t really have technology that will do so, I told her I would more closely monitor her TV activity and restrict its use throughout the week,” he said. “It’s obvious that the curriculum that is being taught and instilled in these children through the Fit and Fun program is effective and meeting them at their level of understanding. If that were not the case, I’m certain that my daughter would never have been encouraged to make this request nor fully comprehend the importance of having limitations.” The program currently serves seventy-five children, ages six to eleven. Two Fit and Fun instructors work with the children for an hour two days a week. One of the additional goals of this program is to have fifty of the parents overall successfully pass a free CPR/AED/First Aid course to help keep their kids healthier and safer. As of now, the Fit and Fun at the Y Program is offered to children afterschool at YMCA Camp Cristina, Bob Sierra North Tampa Family YMCA, and the Northwest Hillsborough Family YMCA.
Marshall Middle School

One of the biggest advantages of being a school based program is the access we have to our members through out the day. Yessica Macias has been a Boys & Girls Club After-Zone member for two years. Last school year Yessica had some personal struggles that began to negatively affect her academic performance. Math was the subject she was struggling with the most. Her progress report this year showed that she was barely making a “D” in the class. Marshalls Site Coordinator, Maverick Lawrence, teamed up with her math teacher to speak to Yessica about the potential they saw in her. Maverick then began to sit in Yessica’s math class every day to provide her with additional support. He and the other Boys & Girls Club staff also made sure to provide her with homework help when she needed it. Thanks to this intervention Yessica was able to increase her math grade to a “B” before the end of the 1st nine weeks.

Pierce Middle School

Naomi, Samantha, and Yesenia, are former Pierce club members. They are all now in high school. The three recently visited the program to talk to current members about the impact that the Boys & Girls Club After-Zone program made in their lives. All expressed that Boys & Girls Club was the best part of their middle school experience and how much being a part of the club helped to prepare them for high school.
"This is such a great community asset. It is hosted by Glazer Children's Museum but funded fully by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. When I walked in I was amazed by the amount of materials available for the children to explore, all completely free of charge to the families. Arts and crafts tables, several stations for themed creative play for the older toddlers, and several stations and bins of learning toys for the younger toddlers and babies. The teachers are very engaging and involved and really do a great job of holding the attention of the children throughout the session -- they use dancing, singing, and just generally interacting with them in an engaging and meaningful way. This is a wonderful early learning opportunity for your young children! I can clearly see how this has been designed to help with understanding the concept of following directions, participating in group work, and respecting boundaries. This class is wonderful I just wish we would have started going earlier." -Mary Mac

Learn & Play Tampa Bay served 1700 children and adults in it’s launch year in five sites (Seffner, Thonotosassa, Plant City, East & West Tampa). These 90-minute educator-led sessions are designed for children ages 0-5, along with their caregivers, to engage in an interactive play-based, bilingual (English and Spanish) curriculum focused on essential skill development. The program has now expanded into 10 sites to include Town’n’Country, Gibsonton, Turkey Creek, Egypt Lake and East-Lake Orient, we seek to make playing with a purpose accessible to all our families. Open enrollment and drop-ins are welcome!
Success Story

Our first-time Mommy's and Daddy's really enjoyed this class, with safety being a priority to them the consensuses was that they feel prepared and equipped for parenthood! The staff present were professional, friendly, patient, and caring towards our clients. We look forward to partnering with you again!
Program-Wide Positive Behavior Support (PWPBS) not only supports teachers at child care sites in the community but also encourages strong family partnerships and team building among teachers. This month we had two programs promote family engagement and positive behavior support in unique ways. The Bright Horizon’s University of South Florida Family Center held a family event with the theme of Fall and Literacy. They embedded self-regulation strategies into this theme by sharing the story of Tucker Turtle. Their Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program (VPK) program had families create a t-shirt that helped model the Tucker Turtle technique and to help families understand how to use this technique to support their child’s emotions at home. Classrooms also demonstrated how to use the visual of a thermometer as a calming strategy for young children. The event was well attended by families and feedback on the strategies and resources was phenomenal.
Seminole Heights United Methodist Preschool (SHUMPS) has been a site since 2014. They have a tradition of holding an annual fall festival with their families. They use this event as an opportunity to celebrate the program. Each classroom decides on an activity for families to promote PWPBS at home. Families were encouraged to go to each classroom to make items with their child such as Tucker Turtle puppets and fall pinwheels. Staff created fall-themed PWPBS decorations as well. Great work to everyone at SHUMPS! They are a terrific model of embedding PWPBS in everything they do.
“I appreciate the Developing our Children Skill class. One might think it’s such a short time to give feedback, but the program provided up-to-date quality information, practical quick parenting tips and methods that really work.” I can’t tell you how much it has impacted my life within such a short time. I am the mother of a ten year old. We came to the United States in 2016 with the sole aim of seeking help for my child. At the age of seven we could not understand what was wrong with him until our arrival in the United States. He received a medical evaluation which showed he is on the Autism Spectrum and has a learning disorder. Although we sensed something was wrong with his development especially as he was being rejected by schools and could not talk properly at the age of seven, but we could not get a proper diagnosis in Nigeria. In the past three years of being in the United States, I have attended many in class and online parenting classes including workshops. The program that made the most impact is the Developing our Children Skill class. I learned how important it is to do more listening, observe more, to be less reactive, and how to stay calm. I see that it is alright for my son to get angry and I can teach him better ways to let me know he is mad at me. I find it amazing how using cooperation technique has become so effective especially in doing his homework, working with the I-ready application and having special time with him. It now makes so much sense to me to leave whatever am doing to attend to him even when I don’t feel like it. Through the program I have learned it is important for my son to have a bedtime routine, reading routine, mealtime routine, and television time, it’s been very effective. I have learned specific ways to help him feel good about himself and at the same time behave better – the idea of ‘catching them being good’ and highlighting the good stuff – I love that idea!!!” I find that making an attempt to give labeled praise or a positive comment, gives him more of an understanding than just saying “good job” even when we have difficulty in doing somethings. I have clarity that I will be able to prevent the behavior next time which makes me more confident and peaceful as a parent. It is also so good to learn that a lot of my son’s behavior that I have gotten so upset about is part of normal development. I understand now that he is not acting that way just to upset me and there are ways to deal with it without getting angry. I now ask him to make choices and suggestions for solving problems knowing that giving him the power to make choices, share his ideas and be part of the solution makes him feel good and cooperate much more. I found using validation very important and helpful to diffuse a tense or angry situation. I appreciate the opportunity for the group interactions... sharing personal experiences and listening to other’s stories. It is helpful to know that there are other parents with similar issues. The facilitators illustrations using family case scenarios and their own experiences including videos makes it even more real and easy to apply. Thank you so much for empowering me with such great tools to handle my son’s behavioral issues. I now have a much more positive attitude about his behavior, I am more confident as a mother, and I do not feel so helpless and frustrated. I will recommend this class to parents.”

Kind Regards, Christy Salako (Parent)
The Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services (SEEDS) Program hosted a Fall Information Session at the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County on October 28, 2019. At the request of SEEDS parents/caregivers, Carolyn Delgado from Hillsborough County Public Schools presented in both English/Spanish on English Language Learners and English as a Second Official Language services, and answered questions presented by those in attendance. Summer Erhmann, from the Florida Autism Center also attended this event, and provided information to families. Throughout this event, children participated in a variety of educational and developmental activities related to the autumn season. Children were also invited to dress as their favorite character, and partake in a costume contest. Children were given treat bags with candy, and also received glow sticks for safety if families decided to participate in the holiday Trick or Treating festivities. Participating families were able to walk away with valuable information on services from this information session.
The Family Focus Baby Shower was held in August at DACCO Behavioral Health. The event provided a special experience most of these moms would not have had otherwise. The training room was fully decorated, we served a healthy brunch, and played traditional baby shower games with the forty families that attended. A raffle contest for a basket of various baby items and beauty products for a post-partum woman was offered. The Family Focus Pregnancy Specialists and a Peer Specialist were present to answer any pregnancy related questions. The children and partners of the moms were invited to share in this exceptional experience. Champions for Children conducted Ages and Stages Questionnaire screenings during the event and provided toys to the children in attendance.

On September 30, eight Family Focus Moms toured the Tampa General Delivery & Labor Unit, including the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), in preparation of their impending deliveries. NICU Nurse Manager Brenda Bugbee graciously facilitated the tour and answered the many questions and dispelled any associated fears that the soon to be mothers had. The 3rd Annual Family Focus Baby Resource Fair was held on September 26th with nineteen community resources sharing information about their services with sixty women and their children in attendance. Community partners that participated included TGH NICU, Healthy Families, Healthy Start, Parents as Teachers, Northside Community Mental, and ReachUp, among other organizations. Champions for Children again offered Ages and Stages Questionnaires to the families. The participants were appreciative of the opportunity to learn first-hand about resources and to have a referral generated to needed services.