

Good News

from our funded partners

**Regular Board Meeting
January 1 2023**



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

Children's Home Network

Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services (SEEDS)

Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services (SEEDS) celebrated education, health, and safety with families throughout the summer break by hosting two summer events presenting services and supports requested by families. It started with the SEEDS Summer Reading Carnival and closed out with Swimming Back to School. Both events included free books to support reading, educational resources, and valuable health and safety information. These events were well-attended by the community. Several community providers participated in making these events successful by offering great resources and supportive services.

These providers included: A! SLS Tutoring services, Bay Area Legal Services, Bess the Book Bus, Career Source Of Tampa Bay, Center for Autism Related Disabilities (CARD), Children's Board Family Resource Centers, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay 2-1-1, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, MyOn, The Life Center, Suncoast Kids, Tampa Family Health Centers, Ms. Wiochelle Brigham (tutoring support), and generous donations provided by the Glazer Children's Museum, along with educational material from Hillsborough County Public Libraries.

Food and fun activities were included. The attendees shared their excitement and appreciation for the services and support shared over the summer break. Families were able to make meaningful connections and lasting family memories. SEEDS is looking forward to a successful 2022-2023 school year!



(Continues on the next page)

Children's Home Network

Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services
(SEEDS)



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

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Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Woman to Woman



The Woman to Woman Program had an end of the year Mindfulness Activity. The teens, babies, and mentors were able to have the opportunity to participate in Mommy and Me Yoga with Mary Torres. The participants learned how to be aware of what's happening in the present moment, including the awareness of one's thoughts, feelings, and senses. The activities allowed each individual to open up and do something they were not accustomed to doing. The toddlers could interact with Ms. Mary as she read a story and allowed them to be her helpers with passing items out and preparing for changes within the activity. The program distinction of Weak Wing/ Strong Wing went great as many teens focused on their Weak Wing and how they can use their more substantial wing to strengthen them in the area they felt challenged in.



Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Teen Parent Engagement Program

The Teen Parent Engagement Program (formerly known as Woman to Woman) had the opportunity to visit the Glazer Children's Museum. This monthly workshop was an outing that the teen participants requested due to wanting to spend more time with their children in monthly workshops.

The parents could interact with their children during positive and imaginative play. This also allowed the teens to observe their child's communication, gross motor, fine motor, personal social, and problem-solving skills.

The mentors and staff assisted the teens in navigating through the museum with their children and being supportive of the needs of the participants.

Throughout the museum, all the teens had smiles on their faces and expressed that they were thankful for the opportunity to visit the Glazer Children's Museum and will be looking to return.

The program is thankful for the generosity of Glazer Children's Museum for their donation and allowing the program participants to explore additional educational/ play opportunities in the community.

The attached collages are from the fun-filled day at Glazer Children's Museum. Teen Participants, Babies, Mentors, and Staff.



Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Teen Parent Engagement Program



contact us

Teen Parent Engagement Program

3550 W. Waters Ave.
Suite 250
Tampa, FL 33614
813-930-7103

gcjfccs.org



Funded through the generosity of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County

Services are provided without discrimination and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations are provided to persons with a disability as defined by ADA.



OUR MISSION
We protect the vulnerable, empower individuals, and strengthen families.



Gulf Coast JFCS uplifts lives for all people in need, from babies to seniors, throughout the Greater Tampa Bay area and beyond. As a secular non-profit organization, we assist nearly 30,000 people annually through programs addressing affordable housing and job development, behavioral health resources, well-being of children and families, refugee resettlement, senior and disabled care, and support for Holocaust survivors and others in need within the Jewish community. We serve all people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Gulf Coast JFCS Headquarters
727.479.1800 • gcjfccs.org
11041 101st Boulevard, Clearwater, FL 33760

Teen Parent Engagement Program

for pregnant teens and teen parents



Gulf Coast JFCS Children & Family Services
Teen Parent Engagement Program

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Teen Parent Engagement Program



Teen Parent Engagement Program

This program transforms the chaotic lives of young people through persistent and compassionate mentoring.

An assigned case manager makes monthly home visits to ensure adequate resources for the teen parents including access to health care, and provide additional information or assistance if needed.

Our primary strategies are a diverse mix of outreach, recruitment, engagement, home visitation, education, screening, mentoring, and case management. Ongoing engagement activities include training comprised of impactful group retreats, monthly group workshops, and varied mentorship experiences. Teens are provided staff and mentor contact information to call or reach out as needed. Monthly in-home visits include bilingual case management and a parenting education program that includes the nationally recognized, evidence-based Nurturing Skills for Teen Parents curriculum. In addition, the evidence-based Ages & Stages Questionnaire is used to educate the teen parents and screen their child for program as well as any developmental concerns.

Teen Parent Engagement Program mentors form a community committed to teen parents' personal growth and empowerment. Teens and mentors attend monthly workshops together that offer education on topics such as healthy relationships, child development, nutrition, financial literacy, and medical care, while building a safe, stable support system for the teen and their child.



Teen Benefits

- Graduate high school
- Learn sexually responsible behaviors
- Become knowledgeable and nurturing parents
- Obtain adequate employment
- Establish a positive support system with their peers
- Become familiar with community resources
- Become a better advocate for self and family

Child Benefits

- Healthy births
- Quality nurturing
- Consistent and adequate health care
- Developmental assessments & appropriate referrals
- Appropriate linkage with community resources

Requirements for Teen Participants

- Between the ages of 14 and 19
- Pregnant or a teen parent with one child
- Resident of Hillsborough County
- Willing to be open to try new things and create new possibilities for the future
- Desire to be self-sufficient
- Attend monthly workshops occurring on the second Saturday of every month
- Meet with an assigned case manager in the home twice a month at minimum
- Communicate at least once a week with assigned mentor
- Attend an approved educational institution: high school or equivalent, college, or technical school
- Willingness to delay additional pregnancies

Requirements for Mentors

- 21 years of age or older
- Pass a Level-2 background screening & drug test
- Provide proof of Covid-19 vaccination
- Current driver's license and car insurance
- Commit to 3-5 hours of service monthly
- Attend monthly workshops
- Maintain contact with mentee, a minimum of twice a month
- Participate in ongoing training

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Teen Parent Engagement Program

BECOME A *Mentor*



CHANGE A *Life*

Teen Parent Engagement Program

The Gulf Coast JFCS Teen Parent Engagement Program matches teen parents with community individuals who are committed to the teen's personal growth. The mentors support the teen's positive attitude shift and keeps them engaged and moving towards graduation.

Requirements for Mentors:

- Be over 21 years of age
- Pass Level 2 background screen & drug test
- Must have driver's license and car insurance
- Must provide proof of Covid vaccination
- Attend orientation and quarterly mentor meetings/trainings
- Attend monthly workshops
- Maintain face to face contact with their teen parent
- Volunteer 2-5 hours per month to the program

To become a mentor, contact Abigail Destin at 813-422-4369 or abigail.destin@gcjfcs.org

 **Gulf Coast JFCS**
lives uplifted

Children & Family Services
Teen Parent Engagement Program

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Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

Teen Parent Engagement Program



The Gulf Coast JFCS Teen Parent Engagement Program staff and volunteer mentors form a community committed to the personal growth and empowerment of pregnant teens and teen parents.

This program transforms the chaotic lives of young parents and their children. Teens are supported in graduating from high school and becoming knowledgeable and nurturing parents.

Benefits of this FREE program:

Each teen is assigned a case manager to make monthly home visits to ensure adequate resources for parent and baby:

- Necessities such as food, safety items and baby items
- Health care
- Parenting skills
- Mentor to support high school graduation
- Support of other teen parents
- Monthly workshops that are fun, educational, and social


You are not alone. Create new possibilities for your future!

If you are pregnant or a teen parent with one child, and a resident of Hillsborough County who has a desire to be self-sufficient and obtain a high school degree, join the Teen Parent Engagement Program.

Contact Kaleelah Scott at 813-930-7103 or Kaleelah.Scott@gcjfcs.org to join our community



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generosity of the
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Redefiners World Languages

Multilingual Citizens Program (MCP)

NOVEMBER -2022

LATEST GOOD NEWS

MONTHLY UPDATE

AMAZING CLASSES

It is my first time working in a non-profit organization. I am grateful for the opportunity it has given me to do what I am passionate about. I have the privilege of teaching my native language and somehow bringing both children and adults of our community together to know each other and interact.



LANGUAGE CLASSES
at the CBHC centers

I enjoyed seeing children and parents actively participate in the classes at the Children's Board Centers. They spend a nice time and share memorable moments together. Parents always encourage them to learn. I appreciate our effort and am grateful to both organizations for putting together these free classes.

LANGUAGE SKILLS IN THE WORKPLACE

A student said that now she is learning the Arabic alphabet, she was asked for her help at work to read and pronounce some Arabic countries and cities for a report. She felt "needed and cool" and that motivates her more than before to continue learning Arabic.

CONFIDENCE IN THE DAILY DAY BASIS

An ESOL student last semester was able to pick up her prescriptions at a pharmacy confidently after learning the abbreviation "DOB" and how to share other personal info in English.

GRATEFUL AND PROUD STUDENTS

A father and daughter sent an email after their first class to express how great their experience was, how much they loved Mariluz as their instructor, and how excited they were to be able to participate and come back the following week.

Personally, my experience has been rewarding and beautiful. In the previous cycle, I had the privilege of having a student with special educational needs, who made the classes a wonderful challenge.



A QUALIFIED TEAM MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

A Hispanic family was able to see their U.S.-born grandchildren using Spanish to name their relatives in a video and they were very proud of them. Also, another student was congratulated by her son for being able to speak English! Our great team of teachers encourages students to use the language in daily situations. For example, a student felt more comfortable having a phone conversation with her doctor. After 5 years of living in the States, another student was able to go to a drive-thru and ask for food by herself.

Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay

Readers in Motion



Readers in Motion hosts STEM Family engagement events each fall to promote quality time, creativity and learning! These after-school events are a fun way for children and families to spend time together while learning and teaching each other.

Activities are carefully designed to be JUST BEYOND the children's capability to do on their own, so parents have to help! Parents are engaged in the fun and the POSSIBILITY of education. Many classroom teachers dedicate their time to attending to and engaging parents who may not participate in the school in any other way. Our Education Advocates also attend and introduce themselves to parents as other adults who care about their child's education. On November 30th, Readers in Motion hosted the first Family Engagement Event of the school year with STEM partner, Bricks 4 Kidz at Oak Grove Elementary! Children, siblings, and parents joined teachers and Readers in Motion's Education Advocate volunteers to create LEGO mosaics! Through these hands-on activities, children feel supported by their loved ones, and caregivers experience a creative way to encourage education.



Parents experience the value of taking time from their daily routine to make special memories with their children. Offering an experience that is not only fun but educational and challenging is one to remember! Parents expressed how happy they were to participate and how unique and educational this activity was.

Thank you, Children's Board of Hillsborough County!

Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

Safe Baby Plus

Testimonial



“Reviewing the questionnaires brought up ideas for things I had not yet tried with my baby. It was great at providing ideas. I also liked the feedback regarding my child’s development because it is hard to know what is normal. It gave us perspective on the developmental stage of my child.”

- Mom Sarah and Safe Baby graduate 😊

Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

Safe Baby Plus



The Healthy Families Support Specialists worked with their families on holiday crafts. They also worked with families on toy and holiday decoration safety.



More fun crafts with FSS Melissa! This is Romel (Rachel is mom) and Ravin was there too, but he fell asleep towards end of visit! These activities are so cute, a great way to bond, keep the little ones busy, and something to keep forever!



Healthy Families Hillsborough

★ Favorites · December 14, 2022 at 1:06 PM · 🌐

FSS Melissa is having a blast doing Christmas crafts with Mommy Ayanna and son Adrian! Thanks for sharing, the craft came out so cute!



Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay

AfterZone Elementary School Initiative

We had a holiday party at Just Elementary School on December 14, 2022, that was a total success. The students had cheese & pepperoni pizza, Christmas cookies, and juice – as well as plenty of candy! We turned on festive music, and the kids did several activities throughout the afternoon.

The students made snowmen out of the letters in their names, decorated paper ornaments & stockings with markers & glitter glue, made edible Christmas trees out of ice cream cones & colored icing, and completed a holiday scavenger hunt!

They had so much fun, AND each student went home with a gift!



Preserve Vision Florida

Children's Vision Health and Safety Services

This is a four-year-old Maze. When her vision was screened at her preschool, the Preserve Vision Florida team determined that she has astigmatism in both eyes. This irregular curvature in the eye's lens causes images to appear distorted. PVF set her up for a follow-up appointment with a partner optometrist, and she received these lovely glasses that corrected the curvature. Now seeing her world with 20/20 vision, Maze keeps her new glasses safe in her puppy Lenz Frenz eyeglasses case. Her family is very grateful for the early identification of Maze's vision issue so she can see her bright future!



Champions for Children

Family Focus



Champions for Children's and Cove Behavioral Health's Family Focus program hosted a "Cookies, Cocoa and Crafts" family event for their participants on December 20, 2022. Family Focus participants, along with their children & family members, enjoyed listening to holiday music while they visited, drank hot cocoa, ate yummy cookies, and made holiday crafts. Crafts included: decorating stockings, making ornaments, painting holiday handprints, and making Reindeer food and Elf snacks.



Glazer Children's Museum

Children's Board Summer Passport program – Camp Imagination

Testimonial



You guys were incredible. I know you deal with many children, but I am grateful you provided such a safe and supportive camp for [my child] and his Cochlear Implants. I know any parent would feel this way, but I am thankful that you communicated that he was fine after one "tough" drop-off. The education was wonderful, but I am impressed with the support.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

1-to-1 Mentoring (Middle)



Big Sister Deidre and Little Sister Junielle have been matched together for more than four years. Deidre always takes advantage of the events Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay provides for our program participants. The two enjoy ice skating, bowling, collaging, and being active! Deidre has introduced Junielle to all sorts of new concepts ranging from Juneteenth to journaling.

Now that Junielle has finished middle school and started her freshmen year, the match has put in extra effort to make plans for Junielle to go to college after graduation. Usually, Junielle has been able to maintain high grades, but she received a C in one of her classes this year. Junielle reached out to Deidre and received the help she needed.

Over the past few years, Junielle and her family have dealt with some hardships resulting in multiple relocations. Deidre always stayed in contact with Junielle and her family to maintain their match visit schedule. Junielle shared that if she's feeling sad but then goes out with Deidre, she "forgets all about" what was troubling her. Junielle's parent/guardian has described Deidre as "beyond amazing" due to her positive impacts on the entire household. We are so proud to continue supporting this Match!

University Area Community Development Corporation

Get Moving! Mind, Body, Soul



Get Moving! and Pasta Packs host a new cooking class for kids seven to fourteen years old. The class is held at Harvest Hope Park to teach children how to cook delicious and nutritious meals. The first class had a great turnout, with 25 people in attendance learning how to make fried chicken tenders, apple salad, and a dip to take home to their families. Pasta Packs was created out of a desire to help children and families create memorable moments at home with our hand-rolled fresh pasta dishes. After Chef Nic was laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he

found the opportunity to launch Pasta Packs, an idea on the back burner, to continue creating delicious food and provide a new kind of culinary experience for all to enjoy. Kids cooking class is specially designed for children who have the desire to learn how to bake and cook. Chef Nic from Pasta Packs teaches children modern techniques and the culinary industry's classics. Classes are taught by Chef Nic, that value the joy of teaching the culinary arts and encourage learning and creativity. The kids enjoyed the experience and said, "It was amazing to see how the food tasted," and remarked, "Cooking is fun, and I learned a lot."



Dawning Family Services

Housing for Success

“We came here for the opportunity of a lifetime, and we were left stranded....” Donald left his country to pursue his dream of becoming a professional athlete and moved to the United States. Shortly after the big move, that dream came true as he was offered a position as a professional athlete in another city. He lived the life he always wanted for himself and his beautiful family of seven.

Donald’s dream quickly faded after his first season. He was not asked to return, and his contract ended. His dream of being a professional athlete and providing for his family was snatched away. Donald and his wife, Ashley, had difficulty making ends meet without income. The seven of them were forced to move to Florida, where they could stay with family. They tried finding employment to support their family and have a place to call home; however, no one would hire them due to housing instability.

Their four-year-old son, José, was diagnosed with a life-threatening blood disorder during this time. This required the family to take José to the hospital three times a week for treatment and health checkups. Quickly burning through any funds left, the family ultimately became homeless.

Ashley called 211 for help and was introduced to Dawning Family Services. Donald, Ashley & their five children entered our Emergency Bridge Housing, which provided a safe and secure home so they could focus on their son’s health, finding employment, and transitioning into permanent housing. The family worked closely with their Housing and Support Specialist to identify affordable housing opportunities through our Rapid Re-Housing Program, and their hard work paid off. They now have a place to call home.

Dawning Family Services has succeeded in keeping this family together during their crisis and is providing them with opportunities that will change the trajectory of their future and their children’s lives.



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Children's Board Family Resource Centers

North Tampa

The CBFRC in North Tampa facilitated a family fall program that included pumpkin painting and various other arts and crafts projects. 125+ services were provided to children and families that day, documented in the Attendance and Needs Tracking System (ANTS).



Children's Board Family Resource Centers

South County

The CBFRC in South County celebrated Angela's 15th birthday with a quinceañera! 🎉 Angela and her family have been Center Members for years, and they not only participate in many activities but also assist and share with other families who come. Angela's family is well known and loved around the Center and has been featured in quarterly Success Stories. Angela's family has also been participating in many Autumn-themed activities.

