

# Good News

*from our funded partners*

**Regular Board Meeting  
September 1 2024**



---

**Children's Board**  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

---

[www.ChildrensBoard.org](http://www.ChildrensBoard.org)

# Children's Home Network

## Reaching and Inspiring Students Everywhere (RAISE)



Eight-year-old Aubrey was referred to Reaching and Inspiring Students Everywhere (RAISE) for reasons related to behavioral concerns, academic challenges, and with the goal of connection to evaluation support. During RAISE services Aubrey and family fully participated in the development of their family support plan by implementing behavioral strategies, taking part in educational activities, and also following through on evaluation services. It was learned during this process that Aubrey's mother

experienced problems with her automobile, and needed to arrange transportation for work, medical appointments, and personal errands via natural supports as well as public transportation as another resource. Following this discovery, the RAISE Parent Coach and parent applied for a car through the Wheels of Success Program. It was later learned that the family was selected to receive a vehicle. The Parent follow through on all of the necessary requirements and secured a car before the 2024-2025 school year started. This was a great way to close out the summer break as it would allow Aubrey's mother to transport her and her siblings to school along with attending to other necessary appointments and getting to work.

Since receiving services, Aubrey has made improvements in her academics and behavior. The family continues to incorporate learning in their day-to-day activities along with use of behavioral interventions to aid Aubrey in managing her emotions. Aubrey was able to successfully transition back to school with new tools for successfully focusing during school and home tasks. The family has implemented a reward system and is using visual aids to remind Aubrey of alternative techniques to promote positive behavioral outcomes. This family has truly worked hard on their goals and continues to demonstrate positive progress.

# Children's Home Network

## Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services (SEEDS)

SEEDS hosted its annual back-to-school event on August 9, 2024, titled "Power Up for the New School Year" with the theme of Superheroes. Children and families received new backpacks and school supplies for the 2024-2025 school year along with individual meals to-go in their Power Up Bags. Families also had the opportunity to engage in activities promoting education, literacy, creativity, and problem solving. This event allowed families to receive books through a generous donation by Bess the Book Bus and helpful information from YMCA about their programs to include the new licensed preschool program. Children were excited to shop and purchase books and school supplies during this event using SEEDS bucks (teaching them the value of money). Parents were encouraged to allow the children to choose their backpacks, supplies and books of interest in exchange for SEEDS bucks. This event was well attended by SEEDS families' representative of all areas of Hillsborough County. The SEEDS team wishes all of the students of Hillsborough County an amazing school year!



# Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay

## Readers in Motion



August has been a re-energizing month for our Readers in Motion Education Advocates! We kicked off the school year with a series of energetic and heartwarming Open House events at all of our Readers in Motion schools. The excitement was real at Oak Grove Elementary, where students and their families eagerly gathered to meet their teachers and, for many, to reunite with their beloved “Classroom Grandma”! It was truly heartwarming to witness the joy on the students' faces as they ran up to their Education Advocates from previous years, showering them with warm hugs and beaming smiles. These moments of connection melted the hearts of our dedicated Education Advocate volunteers, reminding us all of the deep impact they have on these young lives.

Parents shared touching stories about how their children would come home every day last year, full of enthusiasm, talking endlessly about their “Grandma” at school. It’s clear that our program has become an integral part of the school community, creating lasting memories and bonds.

This year, we’re thrilled to welcome new students and even siblings into the program, expanding our Readers in Motion family. We are especially excited to announce that Booker T. Washington has joined our roster of schools! Although they are new to Readers in Motion, they are no strangers to “Classroom Grandmas” – they’ve already made our Education Advocates feel right at home. The warm welcome was beautifully highlighted by the display of our Education Advocate volunteers' names in the Kindergarten hallway—a gesture that speaks volumes about the school’s commitment to fostering these special relationships.

As we look forward to the rest of the school year, we’re filled with gratitude for the continued support of our school communities, Children’s Board, and the opportunity to touch even more lives.





# Family Healthcare Foundation

## Connecting Kids to Care

A family of five recently welcomed a newborn, who was approved for health insurance at birth. The baby and older siblings enrolled in the Connecting Kids to Care Program. Once the parents obtained work permits for all family members, we were able to help all of the children enroll in health insurance as well. As a result, all three children now have free health insurance coverage. We helped the parents enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. The family, having been in the United States for just one year, now has high-quality and comprehensive insurance coverage for everyone in the household.

Educating the family on the importance of having access to their applications and ensuring all information is correct was an important part of our services, as they had previously been victims of health insurance fraud.



# Housing Authority of the City of Tampa

## Youth Success



Housing Authority of City of Tampa's Youth Success provides out of school time and summer programs to 100 elementary school aged children in grades K-5. The service areas include youth living on or nearby communities at C. Blythe Andrews, Seminole Park, Moses White Estates, Arbors at Padgett Estates, and Oaks at Riverview. Youth Success offers children educational enrichment, financial literacy and amusing field trips.

Over 80 youth experienced a safe, fun, and exciting summer with reading, writing, financial literacy, indoor and outdoor activities. Youth travelled on educational field trips to Glazer Museum, Florida Aquarium, Zoo of Tampa, Tampa Museum Center, and local library. Youth participated in lessons from More Health, Inc. which included Safety and First Aid, Personal Hygiene, and Pedestrian and Bike Safety. The youth received free books, along with school supplies and book bags. Thanks to the Children's Board of Hillsborough County for funding the program and giving us an opportunity to promote activities and experiences that help our youth develop intellectual, physical, social, and emotional competencies.

### Here is a testimonial from Youth Success at Seminole/Moses White:

"My family loves the Youth Center at Seminole/Moses White. My kids feel safe and love being in the program. I like the program they run because it really helps the kids in all ways. The staff is consistent, and the field trips are always on point. I wish I was able to attend the trips with them. Thank you for being such a great program for our kids."

- Anonymous



# Housing Authority of the City of Tampa

## Youth Success

### Testimonial

“The Oaks at Riverview Community Center has been a big help being a single mother. My kids have been so thrilled to come to summer camp. This is my kids' first year with this program and the dynamics are amazing. With the performing arts, educational studies, and field trips my children come home exhausted and happy. They can't stop talking about camp when they get home. I will recommend this program next year to all my family members and friends. This program has really made my life much easier for the summer because I knew they were in a great place with great people who care. The staff has been nothing but helpful and informed me of any issues or activities that the summer program had. I will be bringing my children back to this summer camp because I love the outcome and it has helped with my children's attitude and life skills.

Katherine A.



---

Children's Board  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

---

[www.ChildrensBoard.org](http://www.ChildrensBoard.org)

# Positive Family Partners

## Learning Connections

### Testimonial

Larell and his grandmother Ann say they are so excited to come to Learning Connections every week for one-on-one sessions with community professionals trained in the Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment method. Larell has struggled with distractibility and attention for completion of work assignments since beginning school. Now he wants to learn.

Learning Connections uses an evidence-based process of Mediated Learning Experience (MLE) that actively engages Larell with special questioning methods and specially designed materials to guide him to build the thinking skills he needs in all learning areas.

The program is located at the Positive Family Partners, Inc. office operated by Dr. Diane Koch and Dr. Pat Grosz. They are thankful to Mary Kendrick, Family Child Care Home provider for referring Larell. More students are welcome from grades 3rd to 8th from our neighborhoods.

Ann says: "Thank you Children's Board for funding a program to help my grandson learn how to succeed."



---

Children's Board  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

---

[www.ChildrensBoard.org](http://www.ChildrensBoard.org)



# ReDefiners World Languages

## Summer Spanish Language

Our campers had the most amazing experience dining at the Columbia restaurant. For more than 117 years, the Columbia Restaurant has served Spanish cuisine to the state of Florida, using family recipes and tradition. Our students enjoyed a three-course meal and toasted with delicious juices and soda!

We were thrilled to see the children speaking Spanish with confidence and enthusiasm, sharing their experiences in their own words. The dancing and artwork display were a beautiful representation of the children's dedication. We would like to congratulate all of the children who received certificates of participation, we hope that this experience will continue to inspire you in the future.



# Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA

## Sulphur Springs YMCA Out of School Time



We had an exciting summer in Sulphur Springs, thanks to generous funding from the Children's Board of Hillsborough County!

Our Teen Achievers enjoyed a unique five-week camp at Hillsborough Community College's Ybor City Campus, where they participated in activities focused on literacy, STEM, art, health, safety, and character development. Beyond the camp, they also

attended college tours, explored career paths, and went on educational field trips every week. Students are receiving training in CPR and First Aid, participated in a college tour at the University of South Florida, and enjoyed an educational field trip to the Florida Aquarium.

Also this summer, we were thrilled to have over 100 students participate in the YMCA Summer Camp in Sulphur Springs. Our campers started each day with educational activities designed to prevent the learning loss that can occur when academics take a backseat during the summer. We also infused the program with disguised learning activities, ensuring that the fun was just as abundant as the learning.

To motivate positive behavior, students who maintained good behavior scores were rewarded with exciting field trips each Friday to places like MOSI, the Glazer Children's Museum, and United Skates.

Every Thursday, we celebrated campers who exemplified the YMCA's core values of respect, caring, honesty, and responsibility. These students were honored with a special sash and recognized in front of their peers at Camper's Circle.



# Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County

## Inclusion Support Services

### Testimonial

Early Childhood Council (ECC) Inclusion Support Services started working with a child named Zane in December of 2023. Zane had been dismissed from multiple childcare centers due to tantrums and disruptive behavior. By the time Zane was referred to Amy Maher with Inclusion Support Services, he had been dismissed from four childcare centers in the span of two months. Amy was able to complete the Smart Start in-home parenting program with Zane's mother during this time since Zane could not maintain placement in a childcare center. At this time, Zane's family was also waiting for his initial evaluation with Child Find. This was especially important because Zane was set to start Kindergarten in August of 2024. Amy followed the family through the Child Find process and served as Zane's advocate during their summer IEP meeting. After Zane's IEP meeting, Zane's mother told Amy "Thank you so much for your help, it was so helpful having you there. I wouldn't have known how to navigate the meeting or what to ask for otherwise."



---

Children's Board  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

---

[www.ChildrensBoard.org](http://www.ChildrensBoard.org)

# University Area Community Development Corporation (UACDC)

## Get Moving! Mind, Body & Soul

### Testimonial

CaeVille Gainous and her son, Kyshaan, show up ready and curious for what the day's swimming lesson will bring every Monday and Wednesday at Uptown Sky Apartments. Over the past few weeks, both worked together to build skills that will last a lifetime. For younger participants like Kyshaan, parents stay in the pool to help their child engage more in the lessons.

Gainous says that "Seeing how I show up as a parent. That is always nerve-wracking and exciting," has been a constant point of reflection for her as a parent in this program. "He's learning that you can be nervous and afraid and still try new things," she says about her son's growth during the program.

Although just one facet of the Get Moving! Water Safety program, the lessons provided to children, ages 0 to 18, at the Uptown Sky apartments allow for the development of necessary skills to become confident in the water. That confidence will contribute to life skills that go far further than the confines of a pool.





# University of South Florida Board of Trustees

**Helping our Toddlers, Developing our Children's Skills (HOTDOCS)  
& Developing Our Children's Skills K-5 (DOCS K-5)**



Please join us in welcoming our new Class of 2025 Psychology Interns who will be joining our team as instructors for the DOCS Parenting Program. This group of interns will receive training and supervision from our faculty and staff within the Department of Pediatrics in the Division of Child Development. They will have the opportunity to work with families and professionals who attend DOCS to learn more about understanding child behavior, preventing tantrums, teaching new skills and how to respond to increase prosocial behaviors and reduce challenging behaviors.

Our new interns are:

- Tarie Taylor, from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Danielle Oehring, from Georgia Southern University
- Hannah Cooper, from Palo Alto University

We are very excited to have such a talented and diverse group of interns join our program. We look forward to working with them and supporting them in their professional development.

# University of South Florida Board of Trustees

## Hillsborough HIPPY Parent Involvement Project

Photos from Hippy Graduation on August 24, 2024:





# University of South Florida Board of Trustees

## Hillsborough HIPPY Parent Involvement Project

Photos from Hippy Graduation on August 24, 2024:



# The Skills Center

## Middle School Youth Opportunity (YO)

Video from the Skills Center highlighting the Summer Programming for the YO Middle School.



[Link to video](#)