

GOOD NEWS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MAY 2026

from our funded partners



THEME: Child Abuse Prevention



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

Children's Board Family Resource Center

TOWN 'N COUNTRY

HIGHLIGHT: CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

At the **Children's Board Family Resource Center in Town 'N Country**, one of the most inspiring programs is the children's choir led by Yusimi Alba.

Yusimi's journey with the center is a true reflection of growth and commitment. She first joined as a member and, through her passion and dedication, quickly became a volunteer and an active member of the FCAC. Today, she leads a program that is transforming the lives of many children and families.



What began as a weekly practice has grown into a thriving choir of more than 20 children who gather every Wednesday at 4:30 PM. With the support of their families, these young participants not only enjoy the activity, but also build confidence, discipline, and a love for music.

Under Yusimi's leadership, the choir has developed with a vision of professionalism and excellence.

The impact of their work has gone far beyond the Center's walls. In December, the group performed a **Christmas concert** at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, and in April, they were invited to perform at the **Child Abuse Prevention Month event**, where they truly shined and showcased their talent.

Yusimi continues to guide and inspire the children, using every celebration as an opportunity for them to grow and express their talents.

This story reflects the power of community and how one individual's passion can create opportunities for many, and how a community full of talented and committed professionals can make a lasting difference in building a better society.

Glazer Children's Museum

LEARN & PLAY TAMPA BAY

IN WHAT WAYS HAS CHILDREN'S BOARD FUNDING SUPPORTED YOUR EFFORTS TO CREATE SAFE, NURTURING, AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

The Children's Board generously funds Learn & Play Tampa Bay and the Summer Passports program, which together provide access to safe, nurturing, and supportive environments for children from birth to 5th grade. Learn & Play Tampa Bay brings play sessions to the seven Children's Board Family Resource Centers. The play sessions are designed for children from birth to age 5 and their caregivers to support their child's development, deepen their familial bond, and build community support all through play. The majority of adults evaluated at the end of sessions consistently report their child has improved school readiness skills and that they, as the caregiver, have increased understanding of their child's development, social supports, and parenting skills. This program is fully accessible at no cost to all residents of Hillsborough County, thanks to funding from the Children's Board.



Beyond age 5, the Children's Board provides a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for school-age kids to attend Camp Imagination through the Summer Passport program. At camp, children explore different imaginative themes, learn more about themselves, and make new friends in a playful, hands-on learning environment. All of the parents evaluated reported that Camp Imagination is a safe and caring place for their child to learn and have fun. The Children's Board provides opportunities for children to access an enriching and safe summer experience.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

G I R L S C O U T T R O O P P R O G R A M

IMPACT STORY – A CHILD SHOWING RESILIENCE OR EMOTIONAL GROWTH



Jennifer, a Daisy Girl Scout, has demonstrated remarkable growth over the course of the year that speaks to the powerful impact of lessons girls are learning through the Girl Scout program. When Jennifer first joined Girl Scout Troop 96019 at Kenly Park that is supported by the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, she at times found it challenging to remain in the meeting room with the rest of the troop. At times, she could become overwhelmed and reactive, sometimes growing emotional or experiencing conflict with peers over shared materials. This caused her to need to step away from the activity to work on calming skills, which meant missing parts of the meetings and troop activities.

Through the consistent support, structure, and encouragement provided by the caring mentors within the Girl Scout program, Jennifer began to work to build critical self-regulation and communication skills. A meaningful example of her progress occurred during a recent solar system art project. After being given a five-minute warning to finish using paint, Jennifer’s newfound skills helped her to respond calmly and respectfully, saying, “I know you gave the warning about no more paint, but Ms. Lisa, may I please have some more purple paint?”

This moment reflected a significant shift in her ability to express her needs appropriately, demonstrate patience, and respect established boundaries.

Jennifer’s transformation has been extraordinary. Her site coach has shared that her growth since September has also been recognized and celebrated.

Jennifer’s journey is a powerful testament to the impact of the Girl Scout program, highlighting how a supportive and inclusive environment can nurture resilience, strengthen communication, and build confidence in managing emotions—skills that will continue to guide her well beyond her time in Girl Scouts.

Seniors in Service

READERS IN MOTION

IN WHAT WAYS HAS CHILDREN'S BOARD FUNDING SUPPORTED YOUR EFFORTS TO CREATE SAFE, NURTURING, AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

Children's Board funding has made a real difference in how students and families are supported each day through Readers in Motion. With these resources, consistent programming, classroom materials, and technology are provided to help create a stable and welcoming environment for children. For example, students receiving tablets for academic support has been especially impactful. These tools



give students access to learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom, helping them stay engaged, build confidence, and keep up with their peers. Having that kind of support in place also helps ensure students are spending their time in safe, structured, and meaningful ways.

The funding has also helped strengthen relationships with families and school communities. More opportunities for parent involvement and consistent communication have made it easier to build trust over time. One partner school has shared that Readers in Motion is highly valued within their school and the local community. That kind of feedback reflects the impact of this work - not just on individual students, but on the overall sense of support and connection within the school environment.

Overall, this support allows Readers in Motion to be intentional about creating spaces where children feel safe, supported, and ready to learn. It's not just about the resources, but it's about the consistency, relationships, and sense of belonging being built. Over time, students become more confident and engaged, and families feel more connected and supported, which is at the heart of creating safe and nurturing environments.

Bay Area Legal Services

HOUSING STABILITY PROGRAM

IN WHAT WAYS HAS CHILDREN'S BOARD FUNDING SUPPORTED YOUR EFFORTS TO CREATE SAFE, NURTURING, AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

The key to Bay Area Legal Services' Housing Stability Program is the integration and complimentary work of lawyers and social workers, both advocating for the family, at the same time. See some examples below:



Ms. T, a single mother, came to Bay Area Legal Services facing an eviction as a result of losing her employment. Ms. T was concerned the threat of eviction would not only affect well-being but that of her daughter. Ms. T received legal advocacy from an attorney and was referred to a Bay Area Legal Services social worker to help with employment and financial assistance. Through legal advocacy and a referral for rental assistance, Ms. T was able to evade eviction while she secured new employment. When her lease ended, Ms. T and her daughter were able to find new housing, uninhibited as an eviction lawsuit never hit her rental history.



Ms. B's pregnancy had impacted her ability to work which had negatively impacted the household's finances. The family came to Bay Area Legal Services for assistance as these developments were now impeding their ability to stay current on rent. Bay Area Legal Services was able to legally advocate for the family to remain housed. After Ms. B gave birth, the Social Worker at Bay Area Legal was able to assist Ms. B with securing vital baby care items from Walmart. Bay Area Legal Services also helped Ms. B to locate an appropriate three-bedroom unit and appropriately use her Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher to get moved in. The Bay Area Legal Services Social Worker also referred Ms. B to Homemakers of Hope, who helped the family secure beds, bedframes, a desk, and other additional items to make the space a home. Ms. B and her family are ecstatic and stable!

Children's Board Family Resource Center

TOWN 'N COUNTRY

SUCCESS STORY:

At the **Children's Board Family Resource Center in Town 'N Country**, the senior group continues to show that it's never too late to grow, connect, and explore new possibilities.

This inspiring initiative began with María del Rosario Montoya, who encouraged her peers to step outside their daily routines and new experiences including a weekend outing using public transportation. For many

participants, this was a significant milestone, as they had never used a bus before and often felt limited to the comfort of their homes.

With courage and support from one another, the group planned their journey and successfully traveled around Tampa. What started as a simple program at the CBFRC Town 'N Country became a powerful experience filled with laughter, discovery, and a renewed sense of independence.

Beyond the outing itself, this experience reflects the deeper impact of the group's regular meetings that created a safe space for connection, networking, and building meaningful relationships. Through these gatherings, participants support one another, share experiences, and develop the confidence to engage more actively with their community. Participants shared that this experience helped reduce stress, combat feelings of isolation, and reminded them that they are not alone. It also reinforced how valuable their friendships and connections have become through the group.

This story is a testament to the power of community and how consistent connection and support can transform lives, turning routine into opportunity and isolation into belonging.



Children's Board Family Resource Center

CENTRAL TAMPA



SUCCESS STORY:

Georgelina and her family became members of the Children's Board Family Resource Center in 2025.

Through the support of the Central Tampa staff, the family was connected to Preserve Vision Florida and A! SLS Success through Learning & Support services.

‘Thanks to the center, I was able to receive contact lenses free of charge, which has greatly improved my vision, as well as access introductory language courses and reading tutoring for my daughter. The tutoring has helped boost her confidence and progress in school. These services have made a meaningful difference in our lives, and I am very grateful. We now feel more hopeful about our future.’”

University Area CDC

GET MOVING! PROGRAM

SUCCESS STORY:



When Patrick first joined the program, he was very shy and reserved. Over time, however, we have witnessed a truly remarkable transformation. His confidence has grown tremendously, and he is now far more comfortable communicating, participating, and engaging with others. His social skills have genuinely blossomed, and it has been incredibly rewarding to see him come into his own.

Cooking, in particular, has become a true passion for him. He eagerly participates and never misses an opportunity to get involved. It is especially inspiring to see him already expressing interest in possibly pursuing cooking in the future which is something this program has helped nurture and encourage in a meaningful way.

We are incredibly grateful to the University Community Development Corporation's Get Moving! Program for the positive impact it has had on Patrick's growth and development. Through his participation in both Tae Kwon Do and cooking classes, he has gained skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose that will stay with him for years to come.

As the Deputy Director of the Get Moving! Program, I have had the privilege of watching Patrick grow year after year. His journey is a powerful example of the difference this program can make, and we could not be more proud of all that he has accomplished.