

The Good News

*Seniors In Service of Tampa Bay, Inc. presents the
Good News around Tampa Bay!*
Bridging Generations Through Volunteer Service

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

November 18: Hillsborough
In-Service Training for Senior
Companion Volunteers

November 19: Pinellas In-Service
Training for Foster Grandparent
Volunteers

November 19: Brandon In-Service
Training for Senior Companion
Volunteers

November 20: Hillsborough
In-Service Training for Senior
Companion Volunteers (Spanish)

November 24: Brandon In-Service
Training for Foster Grandparent
Volunteers

November 25: Hillsborough
In-Service Training for Foster
Grandparent Volunteers

SAVE THE DATES!

Oct 30: Bridging Generations
Breakfast (7:30 - 9:00am) at the
Renaissance Tampa International
Plaza Hotel. Tickets are on sale
now!

Dec 4: Volunteer Recognition
Lunch (11:30am - 2:00pm) at
the T Pepin's Hospitality Centre.
There's only one way in to this
EXCLUSIVE, heart-warming
event - you have to be a Seniors
in Service Volunteer. There's still
time! Our ***"Got an Hour? Give
an Hour!"*** campaign can buy
your way into the Luncheon with
as little as one hour of volunteer
service. Call Laura at (813) 932-
5228 for details!

A Bumper-Crop of Child Care Plans!

Seniors in Service sends a warm, sincere, THANK YOU! to all of our classroom teachers and school administrative staff for their tremendous work and diligence in seeing that completed Child Care Plans for the 2014/2015 school year were submitted to our Foster Grandparent Program staff! We received 583 completed Child Care plans representing a 91% return of all plans requested – this is amazing! And, it demonstrates the effective communication, focus on outcomes, commitment, and inter-dependence between Seniors in Service and our partner schools.



What is a Child Care Plan, you wonder, and what does it do? A Child Care Plan quantitatively demonstrates the effectiveness of the Foster Grandparent Volunteer's role on the improvement of the child in his or her improvement areas. The Child Care Plan, completed by the teacher, is a pre and post measurement tool. It measures the student performance and the impact of the Foster Grandparent, as evaluated by the teacher, NOT by Seniors in Service. This

teacher evaluation, arguably the professional MOST suited to make the determination of improvement, is one of the aspects that sets the Foster Grandparent Program apart in its outcomes and accountability. The teacher completes a Child Care Plan on each student they have identified as needing one-on-one tutoring or mentoring at the beginning of the school year. The Child Care Plan includes the student's individual goals and areas of challenge. This information effectively maps out specifically what areas the Foster Grandparent Volunteer will cover when tutoring the student. At the end of the school year, the Child Care Plan evaluation measures the student's progress/goals achieved, as determined by the teacher. At the teacher's discretion, it may include the Fountas and Pinnell Reading Scale Assessment, a nationally recognized literacy scale.

Historically, the Foster Grandparent program receives an average of 50% of the Child Care Plans at year-end. What affected this bumper-crop? **Thoughtful, strategic relationship building, effective communication, and mutual goals shared by Seniors in Service and our partners have continued to develop and strengthen our partnerships. Excellent work by all! Thank you!**

Surprise Delivery!

A team of employees from Delta surprised us with a delivery of school supplies! The team was given 150 minutes and \$20 to do the most good they could think of in the community. When they called our friends at United Way Suncoast, they said, "We have the perfect thing! One of the Classrooms of the Year doesn't have crayons to start the 2015-2016 school year." The team from Delta knew they could help and ... They have crayons now! Thank you, United Way Suncoast and Delta!



Welcome our Newest Seniors in Service Supporters!



Pilar Gabriella Jelesky, born
9/1/15, 7lbs, 1 oz.
Granddaughter of President/
CEO Tammy Criollo



Jonathan Patrick Ingles, born
8/3/15, 7lbs, 12 oz.
Son of Director of Marketing
and Development Robin Ingles



Jaxon Gregory James Proctor,
born 4/1/15, 10lbs, 2.6 oz.
Grandson of Director of
Programs Lupe Proctor

Our Foster Grandparent Volunteers Nominate Their Teacher For Classroom of the Year

At the end of the 2014-2015 school year, we asked our Foster Grandparent Volunteers to nominate our Classroom of the Year. The entries demonstrated the close ties that develop between the teacher and a Foster Grandparent Volunteer, not to mention between the Grandparent and the children. Congratulations to Mrs. Ward of Colson Elementary, nominated by Grandma Rackel Perez, Ms. Henry of Maximo Elementary, nominated by Grandma Pearlle Wilson, and Ms. Williams at Sheehy Elementary, nominated by Grandma Essie Wright. The teachers were surprised by a delivery of donated school supplies for their classroom at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.



Ms. Henry of Maximo Elementary and Grandma Pearlle Wilson



Mr Lamothe from Sheehy Elementary who took over Ms. Williams class

How has your classroom/teacher/students made an impact on you?

Our kids have very low incomes, most of them, they are loving and very anxious to learn. More than one child were very low in writing. I had some that could not write at all and now they are doing a great job in penmanship. Our class is mostly children that need help.

Give us an example of you and your teacher working together to help a student.

I have a great teacher. More than one kid's backpack have broken and she has used her money to buy them a new one. We work very close with the kids and we know what each child needs. Our communication is fantastic and sometimes we don't even have to talk to know what a child needs.



Grandma Rackel Perez and Mrs. Ward of Colson Elementary

Foster Grandparent Volunteers mentor and tutor IN THE CLASSROOM with the teacher present in the room with the rest of the class. ALL the students get the benefit of the relationship.

Senior Companion Stories That Warm the Heart...

Volunteer Rebecca Faison helps a senior who's stroke took not only her ability to speak clearly but also her confidence in herself. Ms. Faison's down-to-earth nature and friendliness, however, resulted in an almost immediate connection with her client. Although they've only been working together for a short time, they've already formed a close bond. Ms. Faison proudly stated she's 'got her talking more'.

When Senior Companion Volunteer Wilbur Wiggins recently entered a veteran's home, he was overwhelmed by the cloying smell of cigarette smoke in the air. Our Volunteer Coordinator felt so bad for him that he discreetly asked him if he would like to leave. He decided to stick it out for a little bit. To the Coordinator's surprise, Mr. Wiggins decided to take on the client staying, "if I don't help him, no one will." He felt such empathy for the gentleman that it moved him to action. Touching base with him a couple weeks later, Mr Wiggins confirmed that his client's living condition has improved. He was also able to assist his client in getting in contact with additional community resources he was previously not able to get on his own.

Veterans will be honored in November!



Seniors in Service will be awarding pins to veterans who serve with us as well as volunteers who serve veterans. ***Thank you!***

Looking for a Place to Play Bridge? Tampa Bay Bridge Center



Tampa's Premier Duplicate Bridge Club is a full service club offering American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) Sanctioned games Monday through Saturday and a monthly Swiss Team game on Sunday afternoon. Free coffee and snacks are provided for every game.

The club welcomes visitors and new members of all experience levels. The Club also offers lessons for beginners through advanced players by ACBL certified instructors, plus a mentoring program for less experienced players.

First time visitors play for free, a \$7.00 value.

Come Play Bridge with us at the Tampa Bay Bridge Center

114 W 109th Avenue

Tampa, FL 33612

Phone: 813.935.0974

tampabaybridgecenter@yahoo.com

CEO CORNER from Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, Inc.'s President and CEO Tammy Criollo

We Need Your Help!!

So many needy in our community need your help and we can connect you to your PERFECT Volunteer Opportunity through our Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)!!

If you've had a drive to give back to the community, now is the time! We need you!

We need to grow RSVP from about 200 volunteers to 482. Being an RSVP volunteer is so easy and flexible.

You can serve as little as one hour in many different Volunteer Opportunities, like:

- Food distribution, food delivery or food bank
- Education - K-12 mentoring and tutoring or teaching elementary students about healthy snack choices and fun exercise that just feels like play
- Senior Companionship - visit a homebound senior in their home to offer them some friendship and comraderie
- Telephone Reassurance - call homebound seniors on the phone ... just to give them a friendly voice.

Please call Laura Wright today at (813) 932-5228 for more info ... and THANKS!!

**Thank you to
The S.L. Gimbel Foundation
for your Generous Support!**
Your contribution will help keep seniors
independent and in their homes!

**"Got an Hour? Give an Hour!"
And get \$50!**
If you volunteer with us and bring a friend who also
volunteers, you BOTH get a \$25 Gift Card!
It's like FREE MONEY and you get to volunteer with
your friend!

What Does Seniors in Service Do?

Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to engage people in volunteerism, particularly those ages 55+, to help children succeed and elders remain independent by recruiting and training devoted and skillful volunteers.

Our programs are:

Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP): 55+ volunteers can help the community in several categories from mentoring of elementary students to teaching healthy lifestyle choices to kids to providing senior companionship and reassurance over the telephone. The nation's largest 55+ volunteer program, it has no minimum requirement for volunteering - serve as little as 1 hour. **"Got an hour? Give an hour!"**

Foster Grandparents: 55+ volunteers assist teachers in the classroom in mostly Title 1 schools, head start programs and after-school facilities. This program is a win-win-win for a senior volunteer to stay purposeful, a teacher in a high-risk school to receive caring help and students in high-risk schools to receive one-on-one mentoring and tutoring in their areas of greatest need.

Senior Companions: 55+ volunteers provide companionship and care to homebound, frail seniors. Volunteers gets as much benefit as clients when visiting a senior who needs compassion.

Additionally, we always welcome donations and assistance in growing our organization and mission from people of any age. We even have board openings if you're ready to get involved!

Call Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay at (813) 932-5228 to find out how you TOO can Bridge Generations Through Volunteer Service!



*Welcome,
New Foster
Grandparent
Volunteers
in Pinellas
County!!*

Thelma Fikes, Vanessa Lee, Autra Hall, Brenda Dunlap, Vanesha Corening (staff), Etlin Blanchard, Alphina Ford

Congratulations to Board Member Tracye Brown



Tracye Brown was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Academic Support and Federal Programs for Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) (Florida) in July 2015. Before this appointment, she served as General Director, Federal Programs (Title I) and was also Project Director for HCPS Race to the Top Grant (2013 -2015). Before that, she was Director for Communication and Project Management for the HCPS Empowering Effective Teachers Initiative, a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant (2010-2013). Before that, she spent ten years as a school principal in three HCPS urban elementary schools; Lockhart Magnet, Potter, and Sulphur Springs. Known for her transformational leadership style, Mrs. Brown acted as a change agent and implemented

professional learning communities and continuous improvement models in her schools.

Mrs. Brown has shared her strategies for turning around schools at several national conferences, including the National School Board Association, National Association of Minority Educators, Effective Schools, and Florida Council of Elementary Education.

In addition to her leadership roles of principal and assistant principal, Mrs. Brown was a classroom teacher in two districts in Florida. She received a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida and a M. Ed in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida.



Special Thanks to our Funders!



It's Almost Here...

**Our 31st Annual
Bridging Generations Breakfast**

Join us for a festive morning of celebration for volunteerism!

We will enjoy a scrumptious hot breakfast at the Renaissance Hotel at International Plaza while hearing stories from a Senior Companion Volunteer Speaker, Foster Grandparent Volunteer and a Keynote Speaker. Here's tales of how our volunteers change the lives of children and the elderly ... and how the volunteering changes themselves. This is the best time of year to come see what we're about and support our organization ... a true gem of Tampa Bay. Sponsorships and tickets are still available.

Call Robin Ingles, Director of Marketing and Development at (813) 368-6746 or visit www.seniorsinservice.org/events

Grand Jewelry Raffle

ONLY 100 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Get your chance to win this gorgeous journey pendant compliments of International Diamond Center. Tickets are \$50 each and there are only 100 tickets being sold, so your chances of winning are very good! Call Robin Ingles at (813) 368-6746 to purchase your chance to win!



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