



SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE

Geared Up News

Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay presents the News You Need To Know About Volunteer Service in Tampa Bay!

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Bridging Generations Breakfast with Keynote Speaker Hillsborough County Schools Superintendent Jeff Eakins,

Centre Club, 123 S Westshore Blvd, 8th Floor, Tampa, FL 33609
7:30am to 9am

Sponsorships are available now!
Visit seniorsinservice.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, December 8, 2016

"Hats Off to Volunteers"
Recognition Event

TPepin Hospitality Centre, 4121 N 50th St, Tampa, FL 33610
11:30am to 2:00pm

There's only 1 way in to this exclusive, invitation-only luncheon - be a Seniors in Service Volunteer. There will be a sumptuous meal, prizes, gift bags, raffles! Thanks to the generous sponsorship by:



It's 100% FREE ...

But only to our Seniors in Service Volunteers. THERE'S STILL TIME! You can serve as little as 1 HOUR to earn your exclusive invite! Visit seniorsinservice.org

Seniors in Service Wins 2016 Nonprofit of the Year Award for Family Services from The Tampa Bay Business Journal

The hard work of our volunteers was publicly acknowledged on June 9th when Seniors in Service was awarded Nonprofit of the Year for Family Services by the Tampa Bay Business Journal. In an exciting luncheon at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, Board Chair Susan Boyd and CEO Tammy Criollo were thrilled when the winner was revealed. Ms. Boyd commented from the podium, "Our #1 strategic initiative is to increase community awareness of our volunteers' hard work. And an award like this helps us do that." In the follow-up article, the Tampa Bay Business Journal states the judges were particularly impressed that "Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay has set its sights on becoming the recognized leader in placing volunteers who are 55 years and up." As always, a special thank you goes out to our volunteers for the impactful work they do in the community to make an award like this possible.



(Left) Board Chair Susan Boyd and President/CEO Tammy Criollo with the Non-Profit of the Year Award and (right) Tammy Criollo with Foster Grandparent Coordinator Mandisa Tatum with the Head Start Award

And Our Head Start Volunteers are Honored Too!

Hillsborough County Head Start honored Seniors in Service as a Community Partner of Excellence on June 18, 2016. Our volunteers received individual awards recognizing their service.



Principal Michael Moss, Classroom Teacher Sharon Gage, Foster Grandparent Volunteer Betty Wainwright, Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Johnson. Our volunteer Betty Wainwright won Volunteer of the Year from Ridgecrest Elementary thanks to the nomination by her teacher Ms. Gage. The loving relationships between our volunteers and their teachers makes all the difference and models caring, sharing and collaboration for the students in the classroom.



Foster Grandparent Volunteer Lillie Nichols was awarded the 2016 HCPS Head Start Community Volunteer Award. It's so inspirational to have inter-generational connections with even the tiniest of little learners! Congratulations, Lillie!

The Foster Grandparent Program Gets an Expansion and a New Leader, Cathie Schroder!

On April 14, 2016, the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County awarded Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay brand new funding to expand its Foster Grandparent Program in South St Pete. The program will be adding **40 more Foster Grandparent Volunteers** serving at least 15 hours per week at some of the county's MOST challenged schools. Thank you, Juvenile Welfare Board!

Additionally, our own Cathie Schroder was promoted to Senior Program Manager for the Foster Grandparent Program. Cathie's passion at Seniors in Service is, "Knowing each day, we're making an impact. And it's not just a one-sided impact. We're making an impact across the spectrum –with kids, with seniors, with other organizations that help our community."

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



Also in addition to our regular bridge games and beginner lessons programs they are now offering several special games per week specifically for new players, the supervised play game and the instructional play game. We are also having a winners game each month for game winners at all levels.

The **supervised play game** is very unique in that a player can raise their hand any time during the bidding or play of a particular hand and ask questions. We have several experienced players on hand at each of these games to answer players' questions. The **instructional game** is very interesting in that everyone plays the same hand at the same time and the instructor explains how it should be bid and played with questions answered from the group as well.

114 W 109th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33612, 813.935.0974
tampabaybridgecenter@yahoo.com
www.tbbridgecenter.com

So What Do Senior Companions Do?

~~At David~~
To GLERISOL Transtacion 05 March 1-2016

The purpose of this Letter is to
Nominate Mr Wilber
Wilkins (my Companion) For
the Companion of the year
because for the four or five
months that he has been my
Companion he have improved
my Quality of Life 150 percent.

He does shopping, mr fixit
and so many things I cant do
and always with a smile, as
a matter of fact, I have paid people,
and they still did not do things
as well as Mr Wilkins.
~~best~~ an He is such a Caring
Person Always comes with a smile.

I Thank The Senior Companion
Organization for Blessing me
with Mr Wilkins

and I Thank Mr Wilkins

From Devorn Watkins



Senior Companions offer a homebound elderly person or a person with disabilities a connection and support that can include companionship, light housekeeping, errand running and just maybe ... a new friend for someone who is lonely and isolated. It's the ultimate act of humanity to provide another with compassion and dignity. Thank you, Senior Companions, for improving "quality of life 150 percent."

We Celebrated SeniorCorps Week With Festive Games and Our Ambassador Theme Took Us On Journeys



CEO Tammy Criollo led our volunteers in the SeniorCorps Pledge, including affirmations like “Working for the greatest good, I will use my lifetime of experiences to improve my country, my community, and myself through service.”



Our volunteers went on a mental journey through a day of service to distill the feeling of volunteering into one word. With words like, blessed, useful, needed, grateful, giving and awesome, our volunteers reminded us that we get as much as give when we volunteer.



One of our groups of volunteers celebrating their new “Ambassador” attire. They are GEARED UP TO SERVE ... and to spread the word!



What’s a celebration without our favorite game ... BINGO!! You can hear a pin drop when those lucky numbers are being called!

It’s a thrill to honor our volunteers with this celebration every May. They provide such positive impact to the community, it’s fun to celebrate THEM!

Thank you,

Mabel and Ellsworth Simmons Charitable Foundation, Inc

Your continued support allows us to serve vulnerable, homebound elderly and persons with disabilities through our Senior Companion Program.

YOU are the reason another senior continues to live independently today!

Volunteer Opportunities Abound! ***Serve as little as 1 hour!***

Through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) anyone 55 and older can volunteer to support whatever cause they're interested in ... for as little as 1 hour! Fit it in YOUR schedule!

FOOD DELIVERY: volunteers assist in delivering meals and spending a little quality time with homebound seniors or serving meals at non-profit organizations dedicated to delivering meals.

COMPANIONSHIP: volunteers provide companionship and visitation to veterans and seniors at home or at various sites within the Hillsborough community. This can also include helping clients manage payment of their bills - protecting them from elder abuse. Also, offering telephone reassurance where you provide a supportive and loving voice over the phone into the life of a homebound, lonely senior or veteran.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: volunteers participate in food distribution activities to serve homebound and disabled individuals in non-profit centers and facilities that provide emergency food.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF NON-PROFITS: volunteers help non-profits grow and provide more needed services all around Hillsborough County. This opportunity is perfect for the person with job skills they want to contribute or someone who doesn't want to work directly with a needy population but knows they have some energy to share!

EDUCATION: volunteers mentor and/or tutor children in schools, in after-school programs or in faith-based organizations devoted to childhood learning.

We have DOZENS of non-profit partners who need your help all over Hillsborough County. We can help you find the perfect opportunity near your home for the volunteer opportunity that tugs your heart-strings!

If you've always wanted to volunteer but you don't know where to start, call us!
We're your one-stop shop to the Volunteer Opportunity of a lifetime!
Call (813) 932-5228 or view opportunities at seniorsinservice.org/events



CEO CORNER from Seniors in Service President/CEO Tammy Criollo... Gratitude for all that we have...

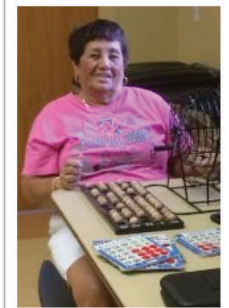
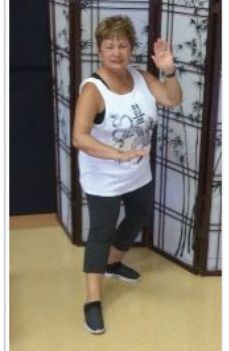
In June each year, we survey our volunteers to get their feedback on how we're doing and how we can improve their volunteer experience. While we bring in different volunteers to actually administer the survey, I have the privilege of curating the process. I get to take a few minutes and sit with our volunteers. They serve so diligently with the kids, elderly and needy of the community, it's nice to take a moment with them to catch up. In speaking with them, I'm reminded of the passion and impact they have for giving of themselves. Beyond any boundaries of age, race, income, religion - they are selfless. And it's humbling to hear them talk about the benefits THEY receive by giving to others. I also get to spend time with our Board of Directors. They are volunteers themselves, providing us strategy and leadership through their passion and commitment. Our annual December Volunteer Recognition Event is themed "Hats Off to Volunteers" and I think it's just perfect. Hats off to you, Volunteers ... you fill me with gratitude!

Thank you, S.L. Gimbel Foundation

Supporters like you provide the integral funding to maintain our high level of screening, support and training for our volunteers to bring THOUSANDS of HOURS of support to the isolated and homebound elderly of Tampa Bay each YEAR! We can't thank you enough!

Intergenerational Impact!

RSVP volunteers Olfa Cortes and Nydia LaPlante have more than just their passion for volunteering in common. This mother-daughter duo have been volunteering together for about 7 years at the Town N Country Senior Center. Nydia, age 66, says of her 84 year old mom, "I believe working and sharing activities at the Center has brought us closer. We have a lot more interactions. And because she is my Mom, she makes herself available and is always willing to help me." They spent much of Nydia's youth overseas with her dad in the military, so service runs in the family. When it comes to getting started with volunteering, Nydia says, "Find something that you really enjoy doing -- hanging out and helping people or animals or if you don't like being in the front line, then doing something behind the scenes -- and just do it. If you think about it too long, you will keep putting it off and never take that first step."



RSVP Mom-And-Daughter Volunteers Nydia LaPlante and Olfa Cortes. Nydia leads Qigong class and Olfa leads the BINGO!

Congratulations to our New Leader, Glarisol Traspalacios!

Join us in congratulating Glarisol Traspalacios as she is promoted to the Senior Program Manager for the Senior Companion Program and the Retired and Senior Companion Program (RSVP)! For over 16 years, she has had extensive experience working with older adults in the areas of social service, fitness, community outreach and engagement, program development and volunteer management. Glarisol is passionate about working with older adults, training volunteers and connecting people for greater impact in the community. Glarisol holds a Bachelor Degree in Human Services and a Masters Degree in Management and Leadership of Human Services from Springfield College, as well as a Certification of Nursing Assistant. Glarisol demonstrates her greatest strength of inclusion and understanding with this quote, "Change is OK. We must move forward all together. I look forward to every day we get to help and serve each other."



Special Thanks to our Funders!



Get Your Sponsorships Now!

Our 32nd Annual Bridging Generations Breakfast

WHEN: Thursday, September 29, 2016

WHERE: Centre Club, 123 S Westshore Blvd, 8th Floor, Tampa, FL 33609

Keynote Speaker

Hillsborough County Schools Superintendent Jeff Eakins

He'll be revealing his vision for the school system. He's making big changes to benefit our kids and their future. **What does it mean for our community???**

Be inspired by the positive impact that Seniors in Service volunteers are making in the lives of school children, home bound elderly and veterans.

Network with other civic minded business people from the Tampa Bay area.

Find out how people (like you!) can "Gear Up" to make a real difference in our community... & maybe even win a fantastic prize!

It's an annual event NOT to be missed.

Thank you to our generous sponsors and donors who make this heart-warming event possible.



Sponsorships are available ...

Visit seniorsinservice.org or call Donna Killoren at (813) 932-5228 x290



SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE

Notice our New Logo???

We are so proud to unveil our new logo and tagline, "Geared Up to Serve". We felt the new logo better reflects the energy and zest of our volunteers!

Education Power House Debbie Arias Joins Our Board

Seniors in Service is thrilled to welcome new Board Member Debra "Debbie" Arias, General Director of Academic Support and Federal Programs for Hillsborough County Schools. Debbie has dedicated her life to the success of Hillsborough County students. In her ascension from classroom teacher to primary specialist to assistant principal to elementary school principal to middle school principal, Debbie has been in the trenches of the school system. And the last ten years, Debbie has focused on Academic Support and Federal Programs, where her in-depth knowledge of the classroom has aided her in ensuring that all activities of Federal Programs are in alignment with and support the district strategic plan, the superintendent's goals, and district priorities. Debbie is a true asset to our Board and strengthens our connection and commitment to Hillsborough County Schools.

Got a passion for seniors and kids? Join our board and get "Geared Up to Serve!"



SENIORS in SERVICE 1306 W Sligh Ave
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GEARED UP TO SERVE



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 Intergenerational Impact. Volunteer Together
 32nd Annual Bridging Generations Breakfast
 Welcome, Board Member Debbie Arias!

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SENIORS in SERVICE

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Special Thanks to Our Funders: The Corporation for National and Community Service

- Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
- Children's Board of Hillsborough County
- Hillsborough County Public Schools
- City of Tampa
- Pinellas County Schools
- Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas
- United Way Suncoast
- Mabel & Ellsworth Simmons Foundation
- S.L. Gimbel Foundation
- John and Cynthia Ruzic Endowment
- Seniors in Service Endowment



*It has
 minions
 inside!*

Foster Grandparent Volunteer Victoria McBride displays the booklet the students of her classroom made her as an end-of-year gift.

Thank You to Our Friends at Tampa East Sertoma

Your continued generosity allows us to support so many in the Tampa Bay community!