



**SENIORS in SERVICE**  
GEARED UP TO SERVE

***Upcoming  
Calendar of Events:***

**Wednesday, September 27, 2017  
Bridging Generations Breakfast**

Centre Club  
123 S West Shore Blvd, 8th Floor,  
Tampa, FL 33609  
7:30am - 9:00am  
Join us at this heart-warming  
fundraiser when we celebrate the  
contributions of volunteers to the  
Tampa Bay community.  
Register at [seniorsinservice.org](http://seniorsinservice.org)

**Friday, December 8, 2017  
"Dancing With the Stars"  
Volunteer Recognition Event**

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

There's only 1 way into this exclu-  
sive, invitation-only luncheon - be  
a Seniors in Service Volunteer.  
There will be a sumptuous meal,  
prizes, gift bags, raffles!

And thanks to our Title Sponsor



It's 100% FREE ... But only to our  
Seniors in Service Volunteers. You  
can serve as little as 1 HOUR to  
earn your exclusive invite!

Celebrate and Dance with our  
Volunteers ... See Why They're  
"Geared Up to Serve!"

Call (813) 932-5228 to find the  
volunteer opportunity of your  
dreams ... and reserve your spot!

# Geared Up News

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

## WE WON!!!



At the February 23rd WEDU Be More Awards, Our Lowry Park Neighborhood Initiative took home the Be More Knowledgeable Award! The judges recognized the collaborative effort between the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay and Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo in helping Kindergarteners get a lifetime passion for reading!

Check out the video of the win: <http://bit.ly/2017BeMoreWin>  
And the feature by Gayle Guyardo: <http://bit.ly/2017FGPGayle>

How about some hard numbers on that lifetime passion for reading? In 2016, as a test pilot, we launched a myON reading contest to gauge the children's interest in reading on the myON digital reading environment. Comparing data from September 2016 to December 2016, the Kindergarteners of Oak Grove Elementary read 234% more books and words in December than they did in September. And keep in mind that December had 2 weeks where the children were NOT in school, which means they did this massive increase in reading AT HOME!



2017 WEDU Be More Knowledgeable Award Acceptance  
Speech with Children's Board of Hillsborough County's Maria  
Negron, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo's Jennifer McLachlan,  
President/CEO Tammy Criollo and Master of Ceremonies Jack  
Harris

## The Bridging Generations Luncheon at Feather Sound



Foster Grandparent Volunteers Ruby Shannon and Ray Petren shared what their volunteering service means to them. "Grandma Ruby" cited her service as the 3rd chapter in life after a military medical career and 40 years as the Health Services Coordinator for Head Start. "Mr. Ray" spoke about how important it is to reach the kids and earn their trust BEFORE they'll listen and learn.



Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools, Dr. Michael Grego shares what it takes to transform a school district. "We have a major goal in our district, it's a simple one - one of many goals - and that is to place a caring adult with every child."

*Thank You to Our Sponsors*

**Tampa Bay Times**  
tampabay.com



Daniel Ruiz



Bob Tomczak



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### Gayle Guyardo featured the Foster Grandparent Program on WFLA Channel 8 News!

Check out the video here:  
<http://bit.ly/2017FGPGayle>

Kindergartener Cameron Johnson says about Grandma Lilly Mae Davis, "She teaches me everything I need to know."

Grandma Leavern Godwin's teacher says, "She reads with them. She gives them educational support and just emotional support. And I've been working with her for 3 years and it's been a blessing every year."





## ***Brought Together the School District and the Community***

### **Board of Directors**

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President/CEO Tammy Criollo, Pinellas County School's Superintendent Dr. Michael Grego and Juvenile Welfare Board's Chief Administration Officer Linda Leedy prepare for the presentation.



Our new Board Chair, Herma White was thrilled to win this gorgeous diamond and pearl pendant necklace from long-time supporter Peggy LeClerc of International Diamond Center.



Our beloved, 4-time emcee Trevor Pettiford from BayNews 9 spoke so passionately about why he loves our organization and kept the energy up with rousing calls of "Ole!" to honor the Cinco de Mayo themed luncheon!

## *“Hats Off to Volunteers”*

### *Recognizing Our Volunteers - Touching Our Hearts*

On December 8, 2016, the TPepin Hospitality Centre resounded with a celebration of volunteerism. Almost 300 volunteers, aged 55+, were honored with a “Hats Off to Volunteers” luncheon. This exclusive event is by invitation ONLY for volunteers who have served with us during the year. Volunteers received prizes, gift bags, certificates for tenure and the coveted Volunteer of the Year Award for each program was revealed!

Join us in December 2017 as our theme will be “Dancing with the Stars” (our volunteers!). To receive your exclusive invitation, become a Seniors in Service volunteer!



Staff members Lindsey Tucker, Glarisol Traspalacios, Robin Ingles, Addy Slagle go “Hats Off To Volunteers”



Foster Grandparent Senior Program Manager Cathie Schroder congratulates Dorothy Abreu on her 21st Year as a Volunteer! And she DANCED back to her seat!



Senior Companion Volunteer Team Leader Wilbur Wiggins accepting his Seniors in Service Volunteer of the Year award and Heroes at Work Award from the Tampa Bay Business Journal with Glarisol Traspalacios, President/CEO Tammy Criollo and 2016 Board Chair Susan Boyd



Our volunteers are not ONLY ready to “Get Geared Up!” They can also “Really Get Down!”

***Special Thanks to Our Generous Title Sponsor...***





## *“Hats Off to Volunteers”*

### *Recognizing Our Volunteers - Touching Our Hearts*



Teacher Terry Rodriguez with Foster Grandma  
“Mee Maw” Hendrix

2016 Volunteer of the Year Nomination  
Foster Grandparent Program

Nomination submitted by: Terry Rodriguez, Teacher at  
Lopez Exceptional Student Center

Yvonne Hendrix, known to all of us as ‘MeeMaw’, has worked in my classroom at Lopez ESC for the past 14 plus years. She is an amazing woman!! She is wise, professional, caring and loving. She has brought such joy to my classroom over the years. She is loved by everyone here at Lopez, including staff, children AND parents!!!

The children’s faces light up each day when MeeMaw enters our classroom and greets them. They vocalize, smile and/or change their activity level. They love her! Parents love her! She has developed relationships with many of the parents over the years because they enjoy talking to her, respect her and trust her. Over the years we have had children who have passed away, and because MeeMaw herself had a special needs granddaughter who passed away at a very young age several years ago she can relate to them in a unique way. **She has brought comfort to these parents** and has even attended some of the funerals.

On a much lighter note, an example of the impact she has on parents. A parent of a child who had been in our class a few years ago still brings her child to our classroom each day when she picks him up, along with her middle school twins so they can visit with MeeMaw. **The whole family loves her!** The child’s mom even calls MeeMaw from home at times so her child can talk to her on the phone. He absolutely loves this! At times when he is fussy at home, mom asks him if he wants to call MeeMaw, and he gets very excited and happy. MeeMaw even gets invited to birthday parties!!

MeeMaw loves to participate in all staff events, as well as school wide activities for the children. She has been the storyteller every year that our school has put on a fall festival that includes children from other exceptional centers in the county. She reads theme related books to many children during the festivals and the children and staff enjoy listening to her. She spends many hours going through the books and taking notes in preparation for this event. MeeMaw has also pushed children on stage to dance during our wheelchair square dancing numbers for several years at the Caminiti Arts Festival. She also loves participating in school activities such as Secret Santa, our annual Thanksgiving dinner and Spirit night, just to name a few.

I can’t say enough about MeeMaw. She has brought so much joy to my life as well as to many lives here at Lopez. **She is not only a part of my team at school, but also part of my family as well.** Our lives have been blessed with a beautiful woman, both inside and out.

## Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay - Geared Up To Serve

### Kindergarteners at Oak Grove Elementary Get Passionate About Natural Sciences with One Little Side Effect ... THEY BECOME LIFE-LONG READERS!



Thanks to the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, the Kindergarteners at Oak Grove Elementary have a Foster Grandparent Tutor in all of their classrooms ALONG with Zoo-To-School visits from animal friends AND Family Fun Nights at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo! We knew the "triple engagement" works to engage the youngsters but we decided to do a new test to figure out just HOW MUCH. In 2016, as a test pilot, we launched a myON reading contest to gauge the children's interest in reading about the animals they learned about.



Using the myON digital reading environment, we compared data from September 2016 to December 2016. The Kindergarteners of Oak Grove Elementary read 234% more books and words in December than they did in September. And keep in mind that December had 2 weeks where the children were NOT in school, which means they did this massive increase in reading AT HOME!

### *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 and Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP):** 55+ volunteers can help the community in several categories from mentoring of elementary students 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 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 challenged school to receive caring help and students in at-risk schools to receive one-on-one mentoring and tutoring in their areas of greatest need.

**Senior Companions:** 55+ volunteers provide companionship and compassionate care to homebound, frail seniors. Volunteers say with all they do to help their elderly clients, they're the ones who benefit the most!

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 Get Geared Up to Serve!



Children's Board  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
[www.ChildrensBoard.org](http://www.ChildrensBoard.org)

### *Special Thanks to our Funders!*



Hillsborough County  
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### CEO CORNER from Seniors in Service President/CEO Tammy Criollo...

2017 is Rocking and Rolling...

It feels like we've already hit high-note after high-note with our volunteers this year! February - we were honored to win the 2017 WEDU BE More Knowledgeable Award for Education Outreach for our Lowry Park Neighborhood Initiative. We were also nominated as Non-Profit of the Year at this event that has been dubbed "The Academy Awards of Non-Profits in Tampa Bay".

March - Gayle Guyardo featured our Foster Grandparent Program on WFLA Channel 8 News.

April - we proudly reported that our over 535 Seniors in Service volunteers contributed 218,748.75 hours of community service in 2016. That's \$5,280,594 in community impact! Wow!

Hillsborough County Public Schools approached us for a special initiative at Potter Elementary to add Foster Grandparents to all of the Kindergarten classrooms for the rest of the year. Our volunteers responded to the call!

May - thanks to the nomination by Oak Grove Elementary, we won the 2017 Department of Education Family and Community Involvement Exemplary Program Award!

And there's plenty more to come in 2017 ... we have numerous ways to support the organization through time or financial support. Please call us at (813) 932-5228 if you'd like to get involved!

### Thank you for your support!

**Mosaic, Publix Supermarkets, JSA Healthcare, Spectrum, Capital One, DeBartolo Family Foundation, Mabel and Ellsworth Simmons Foundation, Caspers Company (McDonald's), Saunders Foundation, Verizon, Cub Scouts Pack 45, USAA, Wells Fargo, We are so grateful to private companies, families and foundations whose philanthropy supports our volunteers' tremendous community impact.**

### Herma White Takes the Reins as Board Chair



After 3 years of exemplary service as our Board Chair, Susan Boyd graciously steps back into a Board Member position. Susan leaves some big shoes to fill, including winning the Director of the Year for Small Non-Profit in 2015. We welcome State Farm Agent Herma White as our new Board Chair. She has taken to her role already, attending Committee Meetings and having one-on-one sessions with President/CEO Tammy Criollo. Herma was invited to attend the exclusive Non-Profit Leadership Training Program at Harvard University: Governing for Non Profit Excellence. We look forward to Herma bringing her over 30 years of experience as a business owner and Board Member for other organizations. Other Board Officers include Mark Hall as Vice Chair, Matt Donnantuoni as Treasurer and David Heizer as Secretary.





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*GEARED UP TO SERVE*

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*GEARED UP TO SERVE*

### Special Thanks to Our Funders:

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