



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 Events:

Friday, November 9, 2018
Bridging Generations Breakfast

Join us at this heart-warming fundraiser when we celebrate the contributions of volunteers to the Tampa Bay community.

Centre Club

123 S West Shore Blvd, 8th Floor,
Tampa, FL 33609
7:30am - 9:00am

Register at seniorsinservice.org

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
Helping Hands Happy Hour

Hosted by the Centre Club Philanthropy Council, this Happy Hour is a fun networking opportunity right after Thanksgiving. Support us on National Giving Tuesday!

Centre Club

123 S Westshore Blvd, 8th Floor
(On top of the parking garage)

\$10 donation at the door, includes drink and appetizers

5:30pm-7:30pm

RSVP on Facebook at

bit.ly/SISCentreClub

EARN YOUR INVITATION TO THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR!

Friday, December 7, 2018
"Volunteers are Super Heroes!"
Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

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

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

Building Literacy with STEM and Intergenerational Impact



In many cases, it takes time to understand impact on a child's development. We're lucky that we track quantifiable statistics on the impact of our Foster Grandparent Tutors in Readers in Motion.

91% of our Kindergarteners and 1st Graders improved at least 2 levels in their DRA score

96% of our students' parents showed greater parental involvement with their child's education

99% of our Kindergarteners and 1st Graders showed improvement in positive social behaviors

97% achieved on-time grade promotion



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
www.ChildrensBoard.org

These are not small results. And thanks to the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, we are expanding Readers in Motion to Mendenhall Elementary this school year! Nine new Foster Grandparent Tutors have gone through their orientation and are "Geared Up To Serve". As Readers in Motion Coordinator Lorena Mielke shares, "They're ready to pour their love into helping these kids." It'll be a great year!



Oak Grove Kindergarteners and 1st Graders, along with their parents and siblings, share in STEM activities at Zoo Tampa

Dr. Paykel Honored as a 2018 Tampa Bay Business Journal's Hero at Work



James A. Haley VA Hospital's Chief of Whole Health Services, Dr. Jacquelyn Paykel was honored as a 2018 Tampa Bay Business Journal's Hero at Work. The awards honor veterans who, through their professional and personal efforts, are making a positive impact throughout the community. Our "Operation: Veteran Connect" Program provides volunteers to support the VA's Whole Health national pilot here in Tampa. We are honored to support Dr. Paykel in empowering



(Top) Operation Veteran Connect Coordinator Glarisol Traspalacios, Marketing Manager Donna Killoren, Whole Health's Felicia Young, AmeriCorps Member Cassandra Balkman, Senior Companion Volunteer Wilbur Wiggins (2016 Hero at Work honoree) joined Dr Paykel for her acceptance.

(Right)

Our 2017-2018 AmeriCorps members served veterans to support the success of the VA's Whole Health Initiative.



veterans to live life to the fullest.

CEO Corner

When I think Summer 2018 – I think Collaboration!



As you read through our newsletter, you too, will notice the tremendous amount of collaboration Seniors in Service embeds throughout all of our impact areas. And, we have more collaborations in the works that we've not even highlighted, yet! Working with our collaborative partners brings a great sense of community pride to all of us – our volunteers, Board, staff, partners, and myself. We are fortunate here in Tampa Bay to have a vibrant community where members of the community, non-profits, for profits, and governmental entities value each other and work together to leverage what each of us has to offer to benefit those in need in our community. Everyone responds, "Yes!", when asked if they think collaboration is a good thing. **But, why?** While collaboration can be complex, in its simplest form, the only reason any one of us should collaborate in any endeavor is to produce GREAT results! Yes, we are working together toward common goals or being an active member of a community with common interests, but in the end, the reason we collaborate is all about producing greater results. By utilizing all our resources, together, we most effectively increase the impact in improving the successes and the lives of students, seniors, and those we serve.

Our Volunteers Shape Our Community

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Our own Louise Peterson was honored with the Metropolitan Ministries Stewardship Award 2017. Thank you to Suncoast Credit Union for hosting us in your suite at the Tampa Bay Rays game. Foster Grandparent Janice Baxley and her sister Eleanor got a special visit from DJ Kitty

Doris,
Thank you so much for the time you spent with my kiddos this year! We really appreciate all that you do to help our kids foster a love for reading. You really are making a difference in their lives. And for that I thank you!
Sincerely,
Nicole Backstrom

RSVP Volunteer Becky Gilmore Shares Why She Serves...

I volunteer with LEAP - College Access Network which is a collective impact network of businesses, schools and colleges, and non-profits in Hillsborough County. LEAP's vision is to increase the percentage of adults who hold high-quality post-secondary certificates and degrees to 60% by the year 2025. Why do I care about this? I spent 35 years in independent education working with high school students. For my students, the end goal was college matriculation as a way to succeed in life and to give back to the world. I loved every day of my career. Working with energetic and optimistic young people kept ME energized and optimistic about our country's future. When I retired, I soon realized that the best way for me to contribute was to continue my work with young people and to help them achieve their dreams.

I learned about LEAP and knew it was the perfect opportunity for me to give back. I work with about 35 volunteers who get trained for completing the FAFSA. We visit the 27 high schools in the county and work with high school seniors and their parents to assist them in completing the FAFSA.

It is definitely a grass-roots effort and we make a difference with every student and/or family with whom we work. I have two stories to share.

Just last night, I was at Leto High School for a FAFSA lab which had been arranged by the College and Career Counselor, Mary Alice Kelly. About 40 students and their parents attended. By the end of the evening, about a third of those students had submitted their FAFSA and immediately knew what amount of grant and subsidized student loans would be available to them. And, the programs they are accepted to will use that information to further assist them in affording their education. There was such a feeling of hope and excitement in the room as students realized they have a chance to attain an education that will prepare them for the future and that there are people who believe in them and programs that will support them in reaching their dreams.

Just two days before, I was at Chamberlain High School where the Senior English teachers brought their students to a computer lab for the same purpose. Terry Rey, their College and Career Counselor had set it all up. As the students logged into the computers and I was walking around the room, I noticed there was one student who was just sitting there. I asked her why she had not begun to work on completing the FAFSA. She said, "My parents told me not to complete the FAFSA because they are not going to take out loans to pay for my college."

I told her that the FAFSA was also about applying for free money to attend college. I asked her, "If you got to choose, where would you like to go to school?" "Hillsborough Community College," she replied. "Well," I said. "If you qualify, you can get a grant for the year of up to \$5,920. I happen to know that a year's tuition at HCC is around \$2,500. So you would have money left over to buy your books, pay for your gas to go to school -- and for your other educational expenses. You may not need loans at all." Her eyes lit up and she logged on to complete her part of the FAFSA. Before the period was over, I explained to her how to help her parents complete their part. Together, they could find out the amount of free money for college that is available to her. Her world may have just changed.

There's no feeling like the feeling of helping a student have hope about her future. That's all the thanks I need for what I do.

If you'd like to help in the LEAP program or any other community service opportunity, please call Sarah at our office at (813) 932-5228 x292 or srosenbaum@seniorsinservice.org

Sun City Center's Tradition of Volunteerism Thrives



Down in the Southeast corner of Hillsborough County there's a unique, thriving 55+ ecosystem that THRIVES on volunteerism. Despite its large population, there is no mayor and no centralized governance. So the citizens join together to help one another. Thanks to a partnership with Bevan Rogel, founder of Encore Tampa Bay and funded by a grant from the SouthShore Council of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Seniors in Service is revitalizing that sense of civic engagement in Sun City Center. A courageous group of believers has joined us in forming "**Sun City Center Connects**", a local coalition to promote volunteerism. The group is an inspiration and proof that people 55+ are UNSTOPPABLE!



Sun City Center Security Patrol President Norma Hardesty and Chief of Patrol Gill Jessee get in the spirit with their sign - Get active, connected and involved!



Encore Tampa Bay Founder Bevan Rogel, RSVP Coordinator Sarah Rosenbaum and Director of Strategic Outreach Robin Ingles spread the word about volunteerism at Fun Fest in March!



At our July 12 meeting, we identified some top goals and action steps to promote volunteerism in Sun City Center and get the word out about how volunteering helps YOU and the community. Get active, get connected, get involved! If you'd like to join us at our next meeting in September, please contact Sarah at (813) 932-5228 x292 or srosenbaum@seniorsinservice.org

Congratulations to Director of Programs, Cathie Schroder!



Cathie welcomes our volunteers to the annual Recognition Luncheon in December 2017

In May 2018, in recognition of her leadership, growth and capabilities, Senior Program Manager Cathie Schroder was promoted to Director of Programs. Cathie began her tenure with Seniors in Service in 2012 as the Foster Grandparent Manager. During the next 6 years, she honed her skills in volunteer management, leadership, compliance, grant management and professional development. She inspires all around her with her dedication and commitment.

And, in July 2018, she was selected to present a workshop at the Corporation for National and Community Service's SeniorCorps Convening.

Over 800 nonprofit leaders were presented with the opportunity to learn from Cathie's expertise in "The Hero's Journey of Volunteering" where Cathie imparted how to shift the culture of a nonprofit into a volunteer-centric, community-impacting powerhouse. She blew the crowd away. Positive feedback from the Convening continues to pour in. Cathie herself described the experience as a "bucket list" item and we couldn't be prouder of her.



Cathie dazzles the crowd at the National SeniorCorps Convening in July 2018

Volunteering Can Be Fun and Social Too!

On July 21, Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry in Wimauma shared a delicious cookout to honor their volunteers and enjoy their company. We are honored to assist them in their mission to provide food to the needy in Wimauma.



Special Thanks to our Funders!



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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
www.ChildrensBoard.org



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Hillsborough County
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Thank You Again to Sponsors for Our Inaugural Film Screening in May



Gina Space



We take care of Moms and Dads.



Susan Boyd



Seniors in Service in the Community



(Left) Marketing Manager Donna Killoren gets an encouraging hug from the Tampa Bay Rays Raymond in front of Ulele before Richard's Father's Day Family Walk/Jog. (Right) Readers in Motion Coordinator Lorena Mielke and Program Assistant Lily Morales share our 2017-2018 Cristo Rey Tampa Bay high School Corporate Work Study Partner Award.



Here's what a Readers in Motion parent says about our Zoo Tampa "Family Fun Nights"...

Other topics to help your child succeed/comments/likes/dislikes: *I like this event because the kids and adults (Teachers and parents) get to do non-school activity together and build a sense of community.*



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*Is it
 possible...*



**We love our
 volunteers
 TOO
 MUCH???**