

# Good News

*from our funded partners*

**Regular Board Meeting  
February 1 2025**



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**Children's Board**  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

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# Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

## Girl Scout Troop Program



January was a busy month for Girl Scouts of West Central Florida troops supported by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. Several girls completed their Outdoor Badge, learning how to care for the environment and appreciate nature by making art with found natural items. They also participated in a nature scavenger hunt, searching for outdoor elements such as flowers and spider webs. Additionally, they explored their creativity by drawing landscapes inspired by nature.

Their favorite activity was planting wildflowers. Using cups as pots, they named their plants and made plans to care for them as they watched them grow.

We also held our Investiture Ceremony, where the girls recited the Girl Scout Promise and Law to symbolize their commitment to Girl Scouting. During the ceremony, they received their uniforms, fostering a sense of belonging and pride as they prepared to display earned badges and accomplishments. Many parents participated, pinning their daughters' membership pins onto their uniforms.

The girls also began working on their Entrepreneurship Badge as they kicked off Girl Scout Cookie Season, learning about entrepreneurship and financial literacy. First, they studied facts about the cookies to help them describe their products to customers. They reinforced this knowledge by creating a 'fortune teller' activity to help recognize the different cookie varieties.

Next, they explored financial literacy by creating shopping lists with a budget of \$30, learning the value of money and smart spending. As they continue working toward completing the badge, they will develop additional financial skills, such as budgeting, customer communication, goal setting, and achievement.



# Champion for Children

## Family Focus

### Testimonial

We are excited to share quotes from new fathers participating in the New Parents' Network group, supported by the Family Focus grant. These fathers have found the group to be a valuable resource in their parenting journey:

"I love learning about the different stages of my child's growth and how to handle situations I can relate to."

"I love this class! It has taught me so much about developmental stages and how to navigate them."

"I've loved every bit of this class—couldn't ask for better."

"This class exceeded my expectations! The teachers are great, and I wish there were a group every day."

These heartfelt words highlight the impact of the program in supporting and empowering new parents.



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# Preserve Vision Florida

## Children's Vision Health and Safety Services



Preserve Vision Florida (PVF) has reached an exciting milestone, screening 174 students in a single session—the highest number completed in one day!

This record-breaking achievement took place at Universal Academy of Florida (UAF), a valued PVF partner for the past four years. Thanks to partnerships like this, PVF continues to expand access to essential vision care, helping more students succeed in school.

Early detection of vision issues is critical, as undiagnosed problems can impact a child's ability to read and learn. By providing timely screenings, PVF ensures students stay on track for academic success.

To learn more about bringing vision screenings to your school or center, contact Jennifer Whittington, VP of Programs & COO, at [jwhittington@pvfla.org](mailto:jwhittington@pvfla.org).

# Children's Board Family Resource Center

## North Tampa

Melisa and her son are active members of our center, regularly participating in Center led programs and monthly activities. Over the years, Melisa has watched her son grow more confident, and she couldn't be happier.

She shared that the staff has been incredibly kind and supportive, helping her son make friends and socialize more than ever before. For her family, the center has become a safe and welcoming place to receive support and services.

"I am so happy to see my son grow and thrive here," Melisa said.

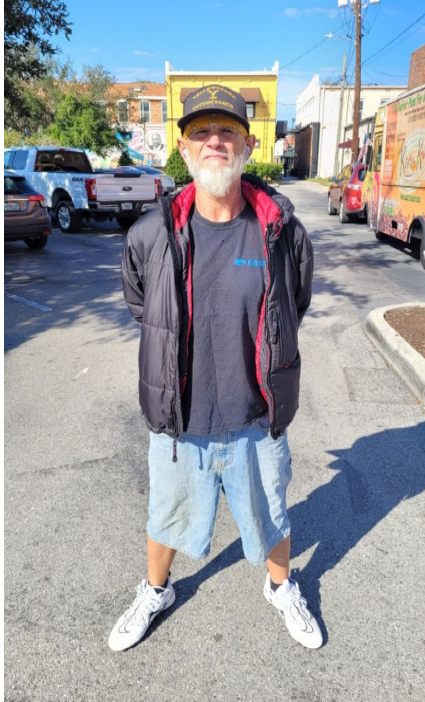


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# Children's Board Family Resource Center

## Plant City



Kevin came to the Plant City Family Resource Center searching for an opportunity to better himself. In the process, he has inspired not only our staff but also others in the community. He is a true example of how someone can change their life.

“I didn’t know which way to go—east, north, south, or west. But something in my higher power told me to keep walking, and that’s where my help stood. Someone I can call a mentor: Carson.”

Kevin is a beacon of hope for others. He uses his past as a foundation to reflect and grow, pushing himself forward rather than letting it hold him back. His journey is one of resilience and determination.

“With the help of my beliefs and the strength of what I now call my ‘safe place,’ everything I once thought was unattainable is now within reach.”

Kevin is more than a center member—he is a symbol of hope. He refers to our staff as “friends,” and we are proud to call him our friend too.

Great job, Kevin!



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# Children's Board Family Resource Center

South County



Liliana is a very active member of the Children's Board Family Resource Center of South County. She brings her daughter to many of our programs such as Little Chef and I'm an Artist. Liliana likes to help us organize our activities and is generous in supporting our efforts through donations. She is in the process of becoming our volunteer and we are truly thrilled.

"Since I arrived in this country in July 2023, this center has been a blessing in my life. I arrived from Cuba with my 9-month-old baby and after a hard journey, without clothes and without many conditions, here they lovingly gave me everything they had, they taught me how to get to places to obtain necessary resources and they provided clothes for me and my daughter. I still come to this wonderful place because I feel like I am at home."

# Children's Board Family Resource Center

**Brandon**

Brandon CBFRC Family Specialist Haley started the year by introducing new, engaging activities at our center, including Sightings Sight Words, Math Mania, and Explorer Club.

Haley designs exciting games that make learning fun for children. After completing the six-week programs, participants receive a certificate and celebrate with a graduation party. Thanks to her creative approach, we have seen an increase in children's attendance.

Reflecting on her experience, Haley shared:

"I am passionate about teaching. Before becoming a Family Specialist, I was a preschool teacher, and I loved seeing children learn and grow. It's incredibly rewarding to be part of the Children's Board Family Resource Centers and to help the next generation discover new things. I am proud to support and inspire young learners as they reach new milestones."

Haley's dedication and creativity continue to make a lasting impact on the children and families we serve.

