

Good News

from our funded partners

**Regular Board Meeting
January 1 2025**



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

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University Area Community Development Corporation (UACDC)

Get Moving! Mind, Body, & Soul



The James/Johnson family started the Get Moving program in November 2023. Joshua and Jeremiah started in karate. Journi soon followed in January when she turned seven. They found other interests and participated in cooking, swim and art. The Harvest Hope playground and splash pad was an added bonus to allow, Rikema to keep her two youngest busy while their siblings were participating. They have been a wonderful family to get to know. When asked for feedback on our programs, Rikema was more than happy to share the positive impact the Get Moving program has had on her family. See below.

The UACDC has been nothing but amazing and extremely helpful for our family. They have almost every program you can think of and it's all for free. That plays a huge role in my family of seven, trying to provide, while also keeping the kids busy at no cost. My three older children were in art, cooking, taekwondo, & swimming and that's not even a quarter of what they offer. I, 1,000% recommend them to any family that's looking for activities for the kids. Thank you so much UACDC. (Rikema Hamby, mother of five).



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Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

HealthySteps Hillsborough

HealthySteps Hillsborough is a nationally recognized early childhood program that partners with USF Health Department of Pediatrics. HealthySteps meets with families during well child visits to share information on developmental milestones, positive parenting, community resources and to provide support to families who want the best possible future for their children.

HealthySteps Specialist met with the mother at her daughter's 12 month well visit. As the HealthySteps Specialist provided Safe Baby education, the mother shared that her daughter's Pack n' Play has broken. The mother explained that she was between jobs and was preparing to start a new job training program. She did not have the financial means to buy a crib at that time.

Due to safety concerns, the HealthySteps Specialist discussed utilizing ASO as a payer of last resort and the mother agreed. As a result, the HealthySteps Specialist was able to provide a convertible crib with the ASO funds. As the mother is trying to get back on her feet, she was very grateful for the assistance. She stated, "Thank you very much. I really appreciate it! This will help us out!"



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Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay

Foster Grandparent Program with Readers in Motion

August has been a re-energizing month for our Readers in Motion Education Advocates! We kicked off the school year with a series of energetic and heartwarming Open House events at all of our Readers in Motion schools. The excitement was real at Oak Grove Elementary, where students and their families eagerly gathered to meet their teachers and, for many, to reunite with their beloved “Classroom Grandma”! It was truly heartwarming to witness the joy on the students' faces as they ran up to their Education Advocates from



previous years, showering them with warm hugs and beaming smiles. These moments of connection melted the hearts of our dedicated Education Advocate volunteers, reminding us all of the deep impact they have on these young lives.

Parents shared touching stories about how their children would come home every day last year, full of enthusiasm, talking endlessly about their “Grandma” at school. It’s clear that our program has become an integral part of the school community, creating lasting memories and bonds.

This year, we’re thrilled to welcome new students and even siblings into the program, expanding our Readers in Motion family. We are especially excited to announce that Booker T. Washington has joined our roster of schools! Although they are new to Readers in Motion, they are no strangers to “Classroom Grandmas” – they’ve already made our Education Advocates feel right at home. The warm welcome was beautifully highlighted by the display of our Education Advocate volunteers' names in the Kindergarten hallway—a gesture that speaks volumes about the school’s commitment to fostering these special relationships.

As we look forward to the rest of the school year, we’re filled with gratitude for the continued support of our school communities, Children’s Board, and the opportunity to touch even more lives.