

Good News

from our funded partners

**Regular Board Meeting
April 1 2025**



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

Preserve Vision Florida

Children's Vision Health and Safety Services



Sara's journey with Preserve Vision Florida (PVF) started at the Central Children's Board Family Resource Center, where she and her family came in for a vision screening. Using the SPOT digital screening device, our team detected signs of a vision issue and referred her for a comprehensive eye exam.

From there, PVF helped schedule her appointment, set up an Uber Health ride, and guided her through the process. The exam confirmed that Sara had astigmatism in both eyes. With support from PVF, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and Optical Outlets, she received both an exam and a new pair of glasses at no cost.

As a special gift, Sara also received a Lenz Frenz, a cuddly stuffed animal with a built-in glasses case to help keep her new frames safe. Now, she can navigate the world with clarity and look toward a bright future.



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

Preserve Vision Florida

Children's Vision Health and Safety Services



As Preserve Vision Florida steps into 2025, we are proud to look back on the achievements of the past year. Thanks to the support of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, we made significant strides in promoting vision health.

Our team screened 9,126 children, parents, and caregivers in Hillsborough County at hundreds of daycares, Children's Board Family Resource Centers, and community events. We identified potential issues and connected those in need with a vision care provider, with 1,240 individuals receiving eye exams and glasses at no cost.

In addition, our vision education sessions also left a lasting impression.

"We loved the little class about how to take care of their eyes," one school director said. "The kids really enjoyed all of that."

These classes teach children and parents about eye safety at home, in play and sports, while giving information about healthy eye care.

Moving into the New Year, our team will continue to build on this momentum to broaden our impact of promoting vision health across Florida.

For more information on our sight-saving mission, visit www.pvfla.org.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

Girl Scout Troop Program



Quarter 1 was a busy month for Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's troops funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. Several girls earned their Outdoor Badge, learning how to care for the environment and appreciating nature through creative activities. They made art using items found outdoors, went on a nature scavenger hunt to find objects like flowers and spider webs, and expressed their creativity by drawing their own landscapes. The girls' favorite activity was planting wildflowers in cups used as pots. They enjoyed naming their plants and creating plans to care for them and watch 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 this ceremony, the girls received their uniforms, fostering a sense of belonging and pride as they display their badges and accomplishments. Many parents participated by pinning the Girl Scout membership pins onto their girls' uniforms, making the event even more special.



The girls also started working toward their Entrepreneurship Badge, kicking off the Girl Scout Cookie Season by learning important skills in entrepreneurship and financial literacy. First, they explored facts about each type of cookie, enabling them to confidently describe their products to customers. They reinforced this learning by creating their own cookie-themed "fortune tellers." Next, the girls began developing their financial literacy skills by creating shopping lists with a limited budget of \$30. They will soon complete the badge by gaining additional skills, including budgeting, customer interaction, goal-setting, and achievement.

Champions for Children

Family Focus



March was an exciting month for the girls in the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's Children's Board of Hillsborough County-supported troops, as we concluded the Girl Scout Cookie Entrepreneur Program. After the excitement of cookie booths, we shifted our focus to earning STEM badges.

We began by teaching the girls what STEM stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This month's lessons focused on combining all four elements through fun and engaging activities.

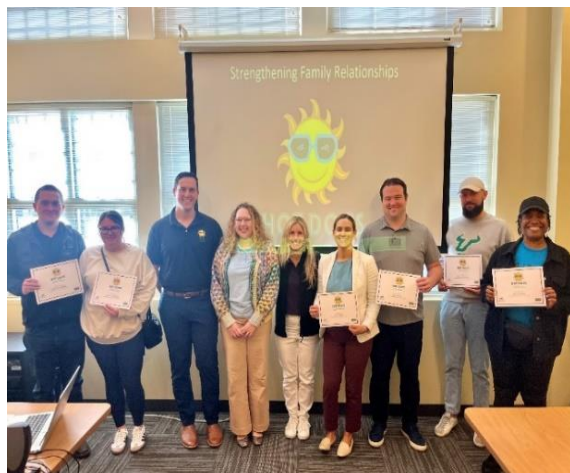
Our first topic was robots. The girls shared where they had seen robots, with popular answers including school, supermarkets, restaurants, and television shows. We explored how robots are built by designing our own out of clay, giving them names, special powers, and talents.

The girls' favorite activity was a game similar to "telephone," with a robotics twist. Each girl took turns being the engineer who gave a command. That message was then passed from girl to girl until it reached the last one—our robot. The robot had to perform the command she received, such as jumping, clapping, or nodding. Through this activity, the girls learned how miscoding can cause robots to misinterpret commands, reinforcing the importance of clear communication in engineering.



University of South Florida Board of Trustees

Helping Our Toddlers, Developing Our Children's Skills (HOTDOCS)& Developing Our Children's Skills K-5 (DOCS K-5)



The DOCS Parenting Programs kicked off 2025 by serving 31 families in Hillsborough County. Participants shared how the program has made a positive impact on their parenting:

"I feel like this program will be a resource moving forward with parenting throughout my son's childhood and adolescence."

"HOT DOCS has given me techniques for times when I babysit my granddaughter... I was able to catch her doing something good and saw an instant change."

The families and professionals of the Monday morning cohort at the Children's Board celebrated their successes with a graduation ceremony and the presentation of certificates.

This winter, we held several outreach events to increase awareness and access to the DOCS programs. We hosted an all-day event at USF Health Pediatrics and distributed materials proudly displaying CBHC sponsorship. We also shared resources at several community pediatric clinics throughout Hillsborough County.



Our project coordinators traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, to attend the 2025 Association for Positive Behavior Support conference. They participated in engaging learning sessions focused on helping families access community-based resources and closing gaps in behavioral health care for youth with disabilities. We were grateful for the opportunity to learn new strategies from national experts in child development, education, and parenting.

Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

HealthySteps Hillsborough

Testimonial

After meeting with the mother and infant at their one-month well-child visit, the HealthySteps Specialist provided a referral for respite care to the Caregiver Support Services (CSS) program through the Children's Home Network, Inc. The mother had a high score on her postpartum screening and expressed a need for support. She shared that the baby would cry continuously, and even something as routine as grocery shopping had become overwhelming.

After connecting with CSS, the mother was able to begin scheduling respite care.

When the HealthySteps Specialist followed up, the mother shared:

"Thank you so much for reaching out to me. Everything is going well. It's a really good program for families that are in need. Thank you so much for your support and help. I am grateful for your support and referral."



University Area Community Development Corporation

Get Moving! Mind, Body, Soul

Testimonials



Aslan and Kion joined the Get Moving! program in September, and it has been a true pleasure getting to know both them and their family. Their father, Alvin, has also been an incredibly supportive volunteer, adding to the strong sense of community within the program.

We are especially grateful for the impact your team had during the holiday season, particularly through the wonderful Christmas community event at the center. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed it and truly appreciate the effort that went into making it such a special occasion.

Reflecting on our journey with Get Moving!, it feels like just yesterday we were eagerly starting the program—and now my boys are proudly wearing yellow belts. Time has flown, and your team has made a significant difference in our lives. I've seen a remarkable transformation in my sons personalities—their confidence, obedience, and discipline have grown immensely. Beyond that, we've found a true sense of belonging and community. From day one, you made us feel genuinely valued.

Karate has become a meaningful outlet for my boys, contributing to both their mental and physical health. We are incredibly grateful for the mentorship, coaching, and leadership your team provides. Thank you for welcoming our family, for creating a safe and supportive environment, and for making us feel like we belong. We look forward to continuing this journey with you all.