

This nomination is for the following award: **Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award**

First Name **Lorie**

Last Name **Tonti**

Library Affiliation (if applicable) **Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library**

Title (if applicable) **Manager of Learning Experiences**

Street Address **102 E. 7th Ave.**

City, State, ZIP **Tampa, FL 33602**

Telephone Number **813-204-2671**

E-mail Address tontil@hillsboroughcounty.org

Are you nominating an individual or a group/organization for this award? **Group/Organization**

Library (Other Organization or Research Team) Being Nominated **Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library**

First and Last Name of Head of Organization **Andrew Breidenbaugh**

Title of Head of Organization **Director of Library Services**

Street Address **102 E. 7th Ave.**

City, State, ZIP **Tampa, FL 33602**

Telephone Number **813-273-3660**

E-mail Address of Head of Organization breidenbaugha@hillsboroughcounty.org

Dates of programs **May 7, June 4, July 16, August 6, September 10, October 1, November 5 and December 3, 2016 – January 7, February 4 and March 4, 2017**

Are the programs directly related to the mission of the library where they were presented? **Yes**

Library mission statement **Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library promotes lifelong learning, an informed citizenry, individual intellectual freedom, enhanced quality of life, and broadened horizons for all residents of Hillsborough County through a network of neighborhood libraries with open access, a community focus, responsive service hours, welcoming environments, broad and relevant materials in a variety of formats, and highly qualified employees.**

Will you be submitting any supporting documentation? **Yes**

If you would like us to review web pages in consideration of this application (including videos or other supporting materials that are stored online), please enter the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) below.

<http://www.pbs.org/video/2365849765/>

<http://www.observernews.net/2016/07/21/at-southshore-regional-library/>

<http://www.tbo.com/news/education/books-and-readers-will-arrive-by-school-bus-in-poor-neighborhoods-20160502/>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1143058435733722.1073741863.278541768852064&typ>

Essay The presence of books in the home greatly influences a child’s academic success. Nearly 25 percent of children in Hillsborough County live in poverty, meaning that children who need these books the most may not have access to them, leading to struggles on their path toward school readiness. Families in at-risk or underserved areas are often limited by a lack of transportation. The Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library, the Junior League of Tampa and WEDU PBS have partnered together to develop a Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity known as (MILO), to help address these community needs. It is the mission of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library (THPL) to promote lifelong learning, an informed citizenry, individual intellectual freedom, enhanced quality of life, and broadened horizons for all residents of Hillsborough County through a network of neighborhood libraries with open access, a community focus, responsive service hours, welcoming environments, broad and relevant materials in a variety of formats, and highly qualified employees. In 2016, 96% of parents and caregivers reported that their child’s participation in THPL classes added to their school readiness. MILO strives to expand the impact of THPL’s mission by taking these early literacy experiences beyond our neighborhood libraries and into the underserved communities that need these services the most. MILO encourages family reading and leads to higher educational success for the Children of Hillsborough County. The MILO initiative consists of monthly Saturday programs that are held at community locations (primarily public libraries and Children’s Board Family Resource Centers) throughout Hillsborough County, targeting rural and urban neighborhoods that have been designated as at-risk or underserved. MILO minimizes that limitation by traveling to the most underserved communities in Hillsborough County. MILO provides free books to children, while working with caregivers to use books as educational tools to boost their children’s academic success. The program focuses on children **ages three to eight years old and their caregivers. MILO brings monthly Saturday programs to libraries and Family Resource Centers, arriving in a brightly-wrapped bookmobile which advertises the initiative. The Junior League provides free books, so children in these underserved communities can select fun and interesting titles to begin their home libraries. Library staff, WEDU staff, and Junior League volunteers offer engaging, interactive literacy stations. Children get to meet favorite PBS Kids TV show characters, as well as participate in digital literacy opportunities. These events also encourage families to get a free Hillsborough County public library card, so that community members can take advantage of the library’s services. The initial partners applied for and received a grant from the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, which provided funding for the design and installation of the bus wrap, monthly character costume rentals, outreach and promotional materials and activity materials for the literacy stations. Many of the events also received additional generous funding from the Junior League which resulted in providing groceries to the participating families. The Junior League also provided additional funding for the August 2016 event so that families could receive brand new backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies. Through the MILO initiative, the community partners assist in bridging the gap for at-risk and underserved children to reach grade level reading by third grade, a key indicator for academic success. In 2016, the first eight MILO events reached 857 people in an effort to bring educational literacy activities to families that otherwise may not have these opportunities and thereby expand the reach of the Library’s current learning experiences. By providing free books, the Library encourages children to build a home library and become lifelong readers and library users. “Literacy is the foundation for success in life and this program will further validate our efforts to make**

sure children in Hillsborough County are ready to learn and succeed,” said Kelley Parris, Executive Director of the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. “WEDU has an extensive history of providing free educational services in the community not only on-air, but also online and through community outreach events. The MILO initiative is a great addition to our collection of services that also honors WEDU’s mission of providing quality educational content that enriches lives. This is a great collaboration between partners that are dedicated to inspiring a love of reading and learning,” said Susan Howarth, WEDU President and CEO. “I couldn’t be more impressed with the collaboration, dedication, and ideology of this mobile library. The partners in this project made it a reality I am very proud of. MILO is just one more example of how Hillsborough County values children, education, and community. We are providing more than literacy, we are providing hope in our community,” said Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandy Murman. “To see our library system extend outside our brick and mortar structures is exhilarating. To know that we have the partners and the means to provide critical literacy opportunities across Hillsborough County makes me very proud today,” said Andrew Breidenbaugh, Director of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library.

Summary The Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity (MILO) is an incredible success story that illustrates how crucial and beneficial it is to partner with valuable community organizations. Many of our community organizations share the important goal of helping children meet school readiness and grade-level reading achievements and shrinking the digital divide, so it is a natural fit to work together to achieve these goals. By working together with the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, the Junior League of Tampa, and WEDU PBS, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library has all been able to expand our reach and share valuable resources. MILO has allowed us to help make a difference in the lives of Florida’s children.



MILO

**Mobile Interactive
Literacy Opportunity!**

**Saturday, August 6
10 a.m. — 1 p.m.**

Join us for a fun-filled day of interactive activities to encourage and celebrate a love of reading and school success!

FREE Backpack with School Supplies for first 100 children!

FREE Groceries for First 300 Families with Children!

Activities include:

- Reading Circles
- Arts & Crafts
- Technology Station
- Book Giveaways
- Meet-and-Greet with Curious George!



MILO is brought to you in partnership with:





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e-newsletter

May 2016



A MESSAGE FROM KELLEY PARRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners and
Advocates,

Once again this month, I was reminded how fortunate children and families are to live in Hillsborough County. On Wednesday, April 20th, I had the privilege to stand before the Board of County Commissioners, as they considered a proposal brought forth by Commissioner Beckner to provide \$150,000 to the Children's Board for match grant funding for quality summer programming. On behalf of the Children's Board and all of the community



Executive Director, Kelley Parris

OUR MISSION

The Children's Board invests in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in Hillsborough County.

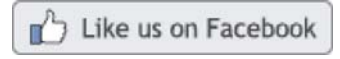
WANT
TO
KNOW
MORE?

members that have expressed a need for quality out-of-school opportunities as a critically important component to keeping our kids safe during the summer months, I would like to thank the Board for their support and vision. Not only did the Board unanimously support the allocation of the summer programming funds, they saw the urgent need to address the rapidly expanding and changing needs of the children and families residing in Eastern and Southern Hillsborough County. I was honored when they allocated an additional \$25,000 to develop a plan to incentivize agencies and build capacity in underserved areas of Hillsborough County. We are looking forward to leading this effort with support from our partners.

My best,

Kelley

We welcome you to join in the conversation!



AND



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

On Tuesday, April 5th the Children's Board along with community partners gathered at the Glazer Children's Museum to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month. Photos from the program (below) feature the Proclamation presented by Commissioner Murman, A wrapped semi-truck provided by the Florida Truckers Association with prevention messaging, Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) as well as local law enforcement. A special thank you goes out to the Glazer Children's Museum for their unwavering support of this event and providing such a beautiful venue.



INTRODUCING...MILO



The Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library, the Junior League of Tampa, and WEDU PBS have partnered together to develop a Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity known as (MILO). MILO was developed to encourage family reading, and lead to higher educational success for the children of Hillsborough County.

Studies have shown that the presence of books in the home is one of the greatest influences on a child's academic success. However, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that nearly 25% of children in Hillsborough County live in poverty - which means that the children who need these books the most may not have regular access to them, and as a result may struggle on their path toward school readiness.

"Literacy is the foundation for success in life, this program will further support our efforts to make sure children in Hillsborough County are ready to learn and succeed." said Kelley Parris, Executive Director of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County.

The MILO initiative will consist of monthly Saturday programs to be held at community locations (primarily public libraries and Children's Board Family Resource Centers) throughout Hillsborough County, targeting rural and urban neighborhoods that have been designated as at-risk or underserved. The program focuses on children ages three to eight years old and their caregivers. The events will be held the first Saturday of each month beginning May 7, 2016.

"I couldn't be more impressed with the collaboration, dedication, and ideology of this mobile library. It wasn't long ago that the partners assembled to explore the idea of a mobile interactive library project. I was honored to be thought of as an influential champion for the project. I jumped at the chance to lend my support. MILO is just one more example of how Hillsborough County values children, education, and community. We are providing more than literacy, we are providing hope to the children in our county." said Commissioner Sandy Murman.

For more information, please contact Lorie Tonti, Manager of Learning Experiences, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library at 813.273.3638.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING
UPDATE

The Children's Board is currently negotiating with multiple organizations to provide funding to increase access to high quality summer programming for children in Hillsborough County. The anticipated timeline to complete negotiations is no later than Friday, May 6th. Following successful negotiations, we will be releasing additional information on Monday, May 9th including; locations, agencies and contact information on our website at www.childrensboard.org.

CONTACT US

Paula Scott, Director of Public Relations

1002 East Palm Ave. Tampa, FL 33605

813.204.1729 | fax 813.228.8122

scottps@childrensboard.org



Good News

from our funded partners

Regular Board Meeting

June | 2016



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Housing Authority of the City of Tampa

Bridges, a JUST Neighborhood Collaborative

Housing Authority Launches Reading Centers in Support of National Campaign for Grade Level Reading

The Housing Authority of the City of Tampa, in part with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, a nationwide effort to improve literacy among the nation's poorest children received a visit from Secretary Julian Castro. This initiative will provide literacy programs in public housing community centers, offer extra help in schools and summer camps, and provide easy access for parents. As part of the launching of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, HUD Secretary Julian Castro wanted to meet the program participants of the BRIDGES Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP). During his visit, he read a book to a group of children and the children read along with him.

Below: Secretary Castro reading with children from the Parent-Child Home Program at Encore on April 29, 2016.



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Gulf Coast and Jewish Family and Community Services

Woman to Woman

Graduation 2016

Woman to Woman is a leadership program for teen mothers. Our teen mothers are encouraged to graduate high school, participate in post high school education, obtain a career that allows them to be self-sufficient and provide for their family, and become nurturing and knowledgeable parents and leaders in “our” community. A barrier to reducing the disparity in teen pregnancy is the cyclical nature of teen pregnancy fueled by low levels of education and income in a teens’ family. Teens in the Woman to Woman program agree that education is a priority and are willing to deter additional births until this goal is met.

Many of our teen mothers are the first in their family to graduate high school and break a family cycle of low levels of education.

Merline is a teen mom that came to the United States from Haiti with her boyfriend to find a better life. She joined the Woman to Woman program November 2014. Her goals were to graduate from high school and get her citizenship. Merline and baby became homeless when she split up with her boyfriend. The Woman to Woman Teen Specialist linked her to Alpha House and eventually helped her transition over to Metropolitan Ministries where she was able to enroll in Uplift U. Merline received her citizenship January 22, 2016 and on May 27th 2016 she graduated from high school with a \$1000 scholarship for college. She aspires to become a registered nurse like her Woman to Woman mentor. She has a very proud two-year old daughter.



Merline, Daughter and Mentor



This year we are proud to announce that we have 21 graduates out of a potential 21 graduates!

Our staff attend all graduations. So far we celebrate:



Cardierra, Graduated from Hillsborough High School, has a daughter who is 7 months old. She will be attending Hillsborough Community College in August.



Monica, graduated Hillsborough High School, has a daughter who is two years old. Will be attending Brewster Tech College so she can transfer to USF for Nursing.



Alexis, graduated from Hillsborough High School, has a daughter who is 1 year old and wants to join the military.



Tsheera, graduated from Armwood High School. She is pregnant with a boy. She graduated with a 4.2 GPA and will be attending Hillsborough Community college for Accounting. She received a scholarship for \$2500 from Academy of Finance. Her goal is to get her Master Degree in Accounting.

THANK YOU to the Children's Board of Hillsborough County for supporting our efforts to encourage teen mothers to see the possibilities for their future.

Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordinating Office, Inc.

Family Focus

Tampa Family Health Centers, Inc. was awarded a \$325,000 HRSA grant for a substance abuse service expansion project. The Substance Abuse Service Expansion program will be a team-based, fully integrated program offering medication assisted treatment through the coordination of services at Tampa Family Health Centers Inc., Agency for Community Treatment Services Inc., and Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordinating Offices Inc. The goal is to detect and address the broad spectrum of behavioral health needs, specifically opioid addiction among primary care patients, with the aims of early identification, quick resolution of identified problems, long-term problem prevention, and “wellness promotion”.

In addition, Dr. Fields, our Medical Director, was interviewed by ABC Action News Morning Blend Segment. During that segment Dr. Fields discussed the effects of Marijuana and teenage use and how families can best see the warning signs.

DACCO



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Capstone Digital

myON Reader

“It’s a simple fact ... the more kids read, the better readers they become!

With myON, students can read in and out of school time, over weekends, holidays and school breaks. Independent, self-directed reading is supported right along with reading of texts assigned by teachers.” –myON.com

Here in Hillsborough County, our Read on myON Partnership not only knows this, they live this. Our partnership works tirelessly to promote reading both in and out of the classroom as well as during summer. To date, our students have browsed more than 19.6 million books and finished more than 9.1 million books since the partnership’s inception in 2012. In the month of May, we have registered nearly 100 new preschool & homeschool children on the platform bringing this total to over 5,000 individual users in just these two groups.



We have also been fortunate to be included in the MILO partnership. This partnership was established with WEDU, Junior League, HCPLC, and Children’s Board, to provide Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunities to students in high needs areas throughout Hillsborough County. myON is proud to support this partnership by providing a unique user name and password for children and registering the children on the myON platform. The MILO bus is a sight to see. Equipped with laptops and hot spots for access to myON, children are able to read on myON on the bus!

In other exciting news, myON has also partnered with WWE wrestler Titus O’Neill, Mayor Bob Buckhorn and Inferno Professional Women’s Full Tackle Football team to create public service announcements encouraging students in Hillsborough County to read this summer.

As summer approaches, did you know that National Summer Learning Day is July 14th? Hillsborough County has the most events planned for this day in the entire country. myON, SunCoast United Way, Campaign for Grade Level Reading and the Hillsborough Public Library is partnering to make this event a huge success for the county’s students.

This summer we are counting on all of our partners to help us get the message out in our community on the importance of summer reading. “Like” and “Share” the Read on myON Facebook page; follow @myonreader and @myONStreetTeam on Twitter. From these accounts myON will be promoting the Summer Reading Challenge and the Mayor’s Challenge.

These challenges will motivate students to read and award that reading with great prizes such as, fun sports toys, T-shirts, movie tickets, books, certificates and more. The Mayor’s challenge includes iPads and tablets awarded via a drawing based on entries for reading just 10 books on myON or print material.

GET *in the* GAME
Read on myON 2016
READ!

READ ON MYON
PRESENTS
THE MAYOR’S CHALLENGE
2016

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity (MILO)

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library, the Junior League of Tampa, WEDU PBS

Studies have shown that the presence of books in the home is one of the greatest influences on a child's academic success. However, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that nearly 25% of children in Hillsborough County live in poverty – which means that the children who need these books the most may not have regular access to them, and as a result may struggle on their path toward school readiness. Additionally, according to the National KIDS COUNT by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 20% of children under age six in Florida read with family members less than three times per week. This figure highlights the importance of not only providing books in the homes of at-risk children, but also working with parents and caregivers to use these books as educational tools that will boost their children's academic success.

To help address this issue, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library (THPL), the Junior League of Tampa (JLT), WEDU PBS, and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County have worked together to develop a Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity (MILO) programming unit. This initiative will give Hillsborough County children and their families an opportunity to visit a public library or Family Resource Center in their community for free engaging, interactive literacy opportunities that will encourage family reading and lead to higher educational success.

The MILO initiative consists of monthly Saturday events to be held at public libraries and Family Resource Centers throughout Hillsborough County, targeting rural and urban neighborhoods that have been designated as at-risk or underserved populations. Each event includes a mobile unit that advertises the initiative while on the road, and that also serves as a programming space at each Saturday MILO event, family literacy activity stations, and book distributions to help build home libraries.

We are all incredibly excited to announce that MILO debuted at the Family Food Fest in Sulphur Springs on May 7th and held its second event on June 4th at the Seffner-Mango Library. During both events, approximately 150 people from Sulphur Springs, Seffner-Mango and Thonotosassa communities participated in Reading Circles, mingled with Curious George, engaged in literacy activity stations, learned about and explored digital reading options, and received free books and healthy groceries to take home. We are excited to continue this project over the next year and reach even more families!

Upcoming Saturday MILO events are scheduled 10am-1pm, July 16th at the SouthShore Regional Library in Ruskin, August 6th at the Robert W. Saunders Library near Ybor City, and September 10th at the Town 'N Country Family Resource Center.



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The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Inc.

2-1-1

During EMS week (May 15-21), staff from TransCare Medical Transportation, a division of the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, visited students at Primrose School in Carrollwood and Little Wonders School in Tampa as part of a summer water safety initiative implemented by Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children. Though not a direct Children's Board funded activity, the Crisis Center is dedicated to support the safety of our community's children and are proud of our shared commitment.

TransCare Supervisors read the story "Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim", and talked with the kids about water safety. Their visit to the school culminated in a tour of a TransCare ambulance where they answered questions, and reinforced the fact that EMT's, firefighters, and police officers are safe people that are there to be helpful.



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The Crisis Center

Help me Grow Care Coordination

Success Story

A single mother of 3 young children called 2-1-1 looking for resources for rental assistance. She was transferred to the Child Development Infoline after the Intervention Specialist assessed for developmental concerns for the caller's children. Her eldest daughter was about to be 5 years old and had recently been diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder (PDD), developmental language disorder, sleep disorder, and sensory processing disorder by a neurologist, but mom stated she was never offered any follow-up services. The Child Development Infoline Care Coordinator was able to screen the child and send a referral form to the Early Childhood Council who directly referred the child to Child Find. Mom was still having financial difficulties and did not have transportation. The Care Coordinator was able to ask the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay's Family Stabilization department for an all-day bus pass so she could get to her evaluation appointment. She was given services for her daughter, including speech therapy and an Individual Education Plan to get her ready for Kindergarten. Mom was very grateful and expressed to the Care Coordinator that she never expected to get so much help just from calling 2-1-1.



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