

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the *Little Red Wagon* movie tells the inspirational story of ten-year-old Zach Bonner, who began his campaign to bring awareness about the homeless youth in the United States by walking 1,225 miles from his hometown of Tampa, Florida to the White House in Washington, D.C. in 2007, and then walked an additional 2,478 miles in 2010 from Lazydays in Tampa to the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, Zach was well-known for his compassion at an even earlier age when in 2004 he collected 27 pick up truck loads of water in his little red wagon for the communities hit by Hurricane Charley, and a year later established the **Little Red Wagon Foundation, Inc.** whose motto is *Kids Helping Kids, One Wagon at a Time*; and

WHEREAS, the Little Red Wagon Foundation's mission is to continue to help kids more efficiently and among its many achievements has distributed more than 4,000 "Zachpacks," backpacks with food, personal hygiene kits and supplies to homeless youth, donated sporting equipment to programs serving homeless youth and foster kids affected by natural disasters, hosted holiday parties and gave Christmas presents to Hurricane Katrina victims, and organized days at amusement venues for those less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, the National Campaign to End Family Homelessness estimates more than 1.5 million children are homeless in the United States, going without shelter, food, access to healthcare and educational opportunities, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness reports there are as many as 50,000 unaccompanied homeless youth sleeping on the streets of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the *Little Red Wagon* movie, directed by David Anspaugh, written by Patrick Sheane Duncan, produced by the Philanthropy Project and distributed by Phase 4 Films, brings to light in a compelling fashion that homelessness can happen to anyone and that one person, even a child, can make a tremendous difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Tampa is pleased to be one of ten cities nationwide to premier the *Little Red Wagon* movie that has recently won the Heartland Film Festival's prestigious "Truly Inspiring Film" Award, and we appreciate all those involved in bringing Zack Bonner's journey and the issues of homelessness among the youth in our nation to the public's attention through this amazing story.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 10, 2012 as

"LITTLE RED WAGON MOVIE DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and welcome the citizens of Tampa to join me in thanking all those involved in the production of this inspirational movie, and to Zack Bonner for his compassion and deep commitment to those children across our nation that face homelessness.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 10th day of November, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor