

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the youth of our nation are our most precious resource and all children, including the more than 380,000 American children under the age of 18 that are currently in the foster care system, deserve a safe, and happy life, and approximately 3,200 of those in foster care reside in Hillsborough County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, each May, **National Foster Care Month**, provides the opportunity to raise awareness about the urgent needs of these children, and to encourage citizens to get involved in the lives of these youth, whether as a foster parent, volunteer, mentor, employer or in other ways; and

WHEREAS, the National Foster Care Month Campaign goals are to raise awareness about the magnitude of foster care, develop a positive framework for maintaining visibility and interest in the issue to support the year-round efforts of the National Foster Care Month partner organizations, and to issue a *Call to Action* that motivates, inspires and facilitates many more Americans to help **Change a Lifetime** for a young person in foster care; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of National Foster Care Month, Eckerd Community Alternatives | Hillsborough, in partnership with the Governor's Office, Florida Department of Children and Families, Hillsborough County Children's Board, Idlewild Baptist Church, and many other local providers, businesses, civic and faith-based organizations, will sponsor its inaugural **"Walk a Mile for a Child"** at Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park in downtown Tampa, Florida on May 18, 2013 to bring awareness about foster care in our city, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of "Walk A Mile for A Child" sponsors to have every child in the Hillsborough County foster care system have a person walking on their behalf and sending the message that each of these children matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2013 as

"WALK A MILE FOR A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in walking on behalf of a child in Hillsborough County foster care, and thank the many dedicated foster parents, individuals and organizations who have made a difference in a child's life.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of May, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

