

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the future prosperity of Hillsborough County, Florida depends on nurturing the healthy development of the approximately 300,000 children currently living, growing, and learning within our diverse community, and research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that communities work together to increase awareness about child abuse and how to stop it because prevention remains the best defense for our children, and it takes a collaborative effort among neighbors, community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement, the courts, and government agencies to succeed in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the **Children's Board Keeping Kids Safe Partnership** in Hillsborough County is committed to reframing the information of child abuse prevention for child welfare and other social service agencies to a message of educational, emotional, social, and physical prosperity for all children, and that this message must become our community declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Board Keeping Kids Safe Partnership in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Florida's Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign, and the Florida Department of Children and Families will be engaging communities throughout Hillsborough County in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and types of concrete support families need within their communities; and

WHEREAS, the *Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign for Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-off* will be held at the Glazer Children's Museum on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, and the event, featuring the *Berenstain Bears*, will include a Glazer Children's Museum visit, Safety Tip information, and a variety of fun activities; and

WHEREAS, all children have the right to grow and reach their full potential in safe and secure homes, neighborhoods and communities, and it is incumbent on each resident of Hillsborough County to value, nurture, support, and advocate for our children and their well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2014 as

"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and call upon all individuals, schools, courts, businesses, agencies, faith-based organizations, and local communities to make children a top priority and to join in this observance by urging residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 18th day of March, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

