

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, March is designated as Women's History Month, a time when our nation reflects on the contributions that women make to our society, and before they can make their mark on history as women, they are girls filled with promise; and

WHEREAS, strong girls become strong women, and every girl deserves to live in a world that celebrates her existence and believes in her limitless potential, and believing in her ignites her power to trust in herself and her unique abilities to achieve her full potential; and

WHEREAS, PACE Center for Girls, Inc. is a community-based, non-residential prevention, diversion, and early intervention program established in Florida in 1985, and it serves over 2,000 girls each year throughout Florida in nineteen locations, including Tampa in Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, believing all girls and young women deserve to find their voice, achieve their potential and celebrate life defined by responsibility, dignity, serenity and grace, the mission of PACE is to provide them an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, a girl's path into the juvenile justice system is often marked by exposure to trauma, physical and sexual violence, family instability, failure in school, and low self-esteem, and in 2014, more than 12,800 girls were referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice in the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, PACE Center for Girls in Hillsborough County's successful programs have resulted in 93 percent of its girls having no involvement in the criminal justice system within a year after leaving the organization, 80 percent improved academically while at PACE, and 84 percent were enrolled in school, higher education or employed upon leaving the program; and

WHEREAS, PACE believes all girls matter and are dynamic contributors to society, and in the month of March, in honor of its 30th Anniversary, it is celebrating with **Believing in Girls Month** to bring awareness to the value, potential and contributions girls and young women bring to our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 2015 as

"BELIEVING IN GIRLS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in congratulating PACE Center for Girls on this milestone anniversary and thanking them for the dedication in supporting, empowering and making a profound difference in the lives of so many girls for the past three decades.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of February, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor