

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, established in 2008, **Children's Grief Awareness Day** was created by Highmark Caring Place, an organization with centers for grieving children, adolescents and their families, and it is designed to bring attention to the needs of grieving children and the benefits they obtain through the support of others when the death of someone close to them has occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, children who experience a death of someone important to them often feel alone, misunderstood, and that their struggles are invisible to those around them, and many do not know how to express what they are feeling, and may keep their grief to themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, before they graduate from high school, one child out of every 20 children will have a parent die, and that number does not include those children who experience the death of a sibling, close grandparent, aunt, uncle or friend; and

**WHEREAS**, the vision of the Children's Grief Awareness Day initiative is to provide a world of support for grieving children, and its mission is to help these children feel less alone and more supported through changing the culture surrounding children and grief; and

**WHEREAS**, through this awareness, it is hoped that the intended goals will be accomplished including bringing necessary attention to the impact death has on children and the benefits of support for grieving children, increasing the general knowledge of the needs of grieving children, and providing information on available resources including support groups; and

**WHEREAS**, locally, the Circle of Love Center at LifePath Hospice in Hillsborough County and the Good Shepherd Hospice Bethany Center for Grieving Children serving Polk County provide caring support in safe environments where children, teens and their families can work through their grieving and healing process, and the services include support groups, counseling, and a retreat camp.

**WHEREAS**, in honor of National Children's Grief Awareness Day, the Circle of Love Center at LifePath and The Junior League of Tampa will host a **Memorial Service** at Water Works Park in Tampa, Florida on Thursday, November 19, 2015, with the theme **Let it Shine Blue, Kids Grieve Too**.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 19, 2015 as

## ***"CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking all those involved in this initiative that brings awareness to the needs of grieving children and teens.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2015.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor