Seniors in Service Receives Commendation from Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners

Thank you to Commissioner Sandy Murman and the other Commissioners for honoring Seniors in Service with a Commendation in July.

“Volunteers offer physical, mental, and spiritual support to at-risk children, low-income seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities ... [they] impact the lives of more than 2,000 children and 500 seniors annually ... The Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida does hereby commend Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay for helping County residents of all ages through the generous volunteerism of senior citizens.”
Forget the politics....

it’s nice to have POTUS recognize our Senior Corps volunteers!

The White House
Washington

August 26, 2016

America is what it is because we built it together. With collective effort and in common purpose, generations have endeavored to enrich their communities and our country, adding their voices to a tradition of civic engagement that has guided us since our Nation’s founding. The America we know today was shaped by the contributions of people of all ages and from a multitude of origins, and we are joined together by a belief in the enduring power of our country’s promise.

As Senior Corps volunteers, you have helped carry forward this legacy and set a powerful example of service—one that can have a tremendous impact on the lives of those around you and inspire others to step forward to serve. In your dedication, we see the spirit of shared purpose—the understanding that we are all bound to one another—that is at the core of our national character.

As you gather from across our country to reflect on the difference you are making, know you have the deep appreciation of a proud and grateful President.

Senior Companion
Volunteer Wilbur Wiggins Honored as a 2016 Heroes at Work by the Tampa Bay Business Journal!

His volunteer work with other veterans makes him a hero ... every day.

His secret to success...
“Be a country boy.”
Senior Companions offer a homebound elderly or a disabled person much-needed support such as companionship, light housekeeping, running errands and just maybe a caring new friend. For someone who feels lonely and isolated, a Senior Companion provides a vital connection to the outside world. Helping someone remain living independently, with dignity, is not only the right thing to do – it’s the very measure of our humanity. Thank you, Senior Companions!

So What Do Senior Companions Do?

Seniors in Service:

9-22-16

Glariso,
I am writing to express how thankful I am for Seniors in Service to have sent Maria Rivera to me. Maria has been a blessing of help. Maria’s assistance and companionship is accomplishing the exact need it was created to provide. I am not a senior, I am a permanently disabled person. My disability makes many necessities difficult or impossible but with the assistance of Maria life has been easier.

Maria has been extremely reliable and has rearranged her schedule several times over the 1 1/2 years she has been coming to my home.

If there is an award I can nominate Maria for I happily will.

Sincerely,
Reynaldo Gonzalez
Bridging Generations Breakfast
A Gathering to Support Seniors in Service & Volunteerism

Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent Jeff Eakins shared his 8 Guiding Principles to build a strong, student-centered culture. He stressed how volunteers are an integral part of the plan.

Superintendent Eakins joins School Board Member Sally Harris and school counselor Rennex Franklin.

Board Chair Susan Boyd shares perspective from her 16 year experience with Seniors in Service from Volunteer Bill Payer to Board Room.

Special Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors...

Humanitarian Sponsors

Don and Erika Wallace
Family Foundation

Mentor Sponsors

Daniel Ruiz

Bob Tomczak  Susan Boyd

Tampa East Sertoma Club
Our own Senior Companion Volunteer Gilbert Jones shared his passion for helping veterans. He offers them support and camaraderie without judgment or expectation. His humility and authenticity are an inspiration ... to all of us!

It was a glorious morning of honoring volunteerism and community impact. Our volunteers make it all happen for school kids and needy, homebound elderly and veterans.

Emcee BayNews9 Trevor Pettiford exuded charisma and enthusiasm yet again. Can someone please get that man a raffle prize???

Peggy Leclerc with International Diamond Center shares a moment with Foster Grandparent Volunteer Rackel Perez. Rackel stole our hearts when she said, “I just love helping the kids. Especially the kids nobody else wants. I’m so proud of them.”
Our glamorous Board Member and State Farm agent Herma White poses with Sonia Jackson Myles, author of “The Sister Accord: 51 Ways to Love Your Sister” at the 2016 TBBJ Bizwomen’s Summit.

Our New Satellite Office at The Sunshine Center in St Pete

Thanks to new funding from the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County we have opened a new satellite office at The Sunshine Center in downtown St Pete. This will allow us to be closer to our 40 new Foster Grandparent Volunteers as well as the 40 Volunteers we already had in Pinellas. The Sunshine Center has given us such a warm welcome. We can’t wait to continue growing our partnership there.

Our New Satellite Office at The Sunshine Center in St Pete

Thanks to new funding from the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County we have opened a new satellite office at The Sunshine Center in downtown St Pete. This will allow us to be closer to our 40 new Foster Grandparent Volunteers as well as the 40 Volunteers we already had in Pinellas. The Sunshine Center has given us such a warm welcome. We can’t wait to continue growing our partnership there.

Thank you, Saunders Foundation

We are so grateful to private Foundations whose philanthropy supports our volunteers’ tremendous community impact.
Kindergarteners at Oak Grove Elementary were treated to some special guests at their Zoo-To-School experience on October 12th!

Kindergarteners got a chance to see environmental science brought to life through real-life animal encounters. And the experience will go on with integrated curriculum, one-on-one tutoring by a Foster Grandparent Volunteer and Ed-Zoo-Cation nights that will engage the whole family— including siblings and parents. These kids love it and that makes learning so much easier!

Pinellas County Schools’ Dr. Valerie Brimm Joins Our Board

Seniors in Service is thrilled to welcome new Board Member Dr. Valerie Brimm, Director of Strategic Partnerships for Pinellas County Schools. Dr. Brimm oversees the district’s Volunteer and Mentor Program, Family and Community Engagement Program, Parent Advocate Program, 21st Century Community Learning program and coordinates Community Organizations, Faith-Based Groups, and Business/Corporation partnerships. Dr. Brimm states, “The Foster Grandparent volunteer program directly aligns with the responsibility of my duties as well as the services provided by this office.” We look forward to continuing to grow our stellar partnership and collective impact with Pinellas County Schools and its other supportive partners.
Commendation from Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners
Letter from President Obama
WINNER ... 2016 Heroes at Work Award Goes to Senior Companion Wilbur Wiggins!
So What Do Senior Companions Do?
32nd Annual Bridging Generations Breakfast
New Volunteers and Satellite Office in St Pete
CEO Corner ... 2016 Was Quite a Year!
Oak Grove Kindergarteners Met a Tarantula!
New Board Member Dr. Valerie Brimm

Special Thanks to Our Funders:
The Corporation for National and Community Service
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
Children’s Board of Hillsborough County
Hillsborough County Public Schools
Pinellas County Schools
Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas
United Way Suncoast
Saunders Foundation
Rays Baseball Foundation
Mabel & Ellsworth Simmons Foundation
S.L. Gimbel Foundation
John and Cynthia Ruzic Endowment
Seniors in Service Endowment

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REFER TO: CH2047