Our Volunteers Did It Again! We Won a Prestigious Award from Hillsborough County Public Schools

Seniors in Service gleefully accepted the Department of Education Family and Community Involvement Exemplary Program Award at the 2017 Volunteer Awards on May 11, 2017. From a pool of 48 finalists, our Lowry Park Neighborhood Initiative and Foster Grandparent Program took home the win. We were especially proud because we were nominated by the principal and Kindergarten teachers of our partner school Oak Grove Elementary. Thanks to the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County and the Corporation for National and Community Service for funding these valuable programs.

And at the Head Start/Early Head Start Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon...

Foster Grandparent Head Start and Early Head Start Volunteers Enita Heyward, Doris Saddler, Eula Cones, Martha Donnell, Addie Boyd, Sarah Edwards, Joyce Osby
Join Us for the 33rd Annual Bridging Generations Breakfast

Wednesday, September 27th, 7:30am-9am at the Centre Club,
123 S Westshore Blvd (8th Floor of the Parking Garage), Tampa
Tickets and Sponsorships available now at www.seniorsinservice.org/events

Kelly Ring featured our Senior Companion Program on Fox 13 News
“What’s Right with Tampa Bay”!
Check out the video here: http://bit.ly/CompanionsFox13

Senior Companion Bernice Khaemba has been volunteering to visit homebound elderly for 17 years with Seniors in Service! The heartwarming story features her visiting her beloved client Helen Fulghum. Check it out!
Kindergarteners from Oak Grove and Egypt Lake Elementary Finished the Year with a Sunset Safari

On a balmy Friday evening in May, over 100 children, parents, siblings, teachers and community volunteers came together at Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo in recognition of their involvement and achievements through the Seniors in Service Lowry Park Neighborhood Initiative (LPNI). LPNI strengthens literacy through science exploration—specifically for at-risk children in the Lowry Park neighborhood, inspiring a love for reading by bringing lessons to life.

This bilingual program engages parents and siblings in Zoo activities to include the whole family in joyful learning experiences, including live animal encounters. Coordinated by Seniors in Service, LPNI is a collaboration between devoted Foster Grandparent Tutor Volunteers, Hillsborough County Public Schools’ passionate staff and fun-loving animal instructors from the Zoo with generous funding from The Children’s Board of Hillsborough County.
Our Volunteers Share Stories of Service for Older Americans Month and SeniorCorps Week

The month of May was Older Americans Month and the week of May 15-19 was SeniorCorps Week. Our volunteers knew how to make it a party! Last year in May, our volunteers became “Seniors in Service Ambassadors” by learning about the organization to help spread the word about all that our volunteers accomplish in the community. So this year, they were ready to take it up a notch and become master storytellers. They shared stories about the children they mentor and tutor and stories about the homebound elderly they provide companionship to. And, of course, we finished off the day with a rousing game of bingo!

[ Above] Pinellas Foster Grandmas shared heart-wrenching stories of children who don’t get love at home, so they’re desperate for it at school. [Right] Contract Manager Renee Johnson from the Corporation for National and Community Service poses with Senior Companion Volunteer Gilbert Jones and his “Service to Mankind Award” from Tampa East Sertoma for his work with veterans. [Below] CEO Tammy Criollo welcomes our Hillsborough County volunteers to the celebration!

“Students who are loved at home, come to school to learn, and students who aren’t, come to school to be loved.”

-Nicholas Ferroni, educator
Our Volunteers Share Stories of Service for Older Americans Month and SeniorCorps Week

Our Pinellas volunteers who went above and beyond to be Ambassadors this past year!

Congratulations to Foster Grandparent Volunteer Gloria Spike for being named the Department of Education Outstanding Volunteer of the Year! Gloria serves at Robles Elementary.

Our monthly volunteer trainings are one of the things that makes our organization unique. Our volunteers get fresh information and social time together that bonds the group to their service and each other! Our Pinellas County volunteers shared stories of children with behavioral issues finding support and acceptance from their Foster Grandparent volunteer - finally enabling them to learn at school.
**Board News**

**Congrats and Saying Goodbye...** Board Member and past Chair Darren Farfante was appointed to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court. Unfortunately, this means he has to resign from our board. Darren charmed over 300 volunteers last December at the “Hats Off to Volunteers” luncheon, where he presented an award to Foster Grandma Dorothy Abreu for her 21 years of volunteering with Seniors in Service. He said, “I guess they asked me to do this since I’ve been on the Board ALMOST as long as you’ve been volunteering.” We’re sorry to see you go but we are so proud of you! Thank you for your many years of Board service - we’ve been lucky to have you.

**Additions to the Board...** PJ Nassar, Vice President of Private Banking for Hancock Bank joins our Board. PJ brings more than 12 years of private banking experience along with other community involvement including Leadership Tampa Alumni, Greater Tampa Chamber’s Emerge-Mentorship Program and Finance Committee for St. Joseph’s Hospitals.

Al Perotti, Jr., CPP, CHS-V, Director of Corporate Security & Emergency Management for TECO Energy joins our Board. A life-long native of Tampa, Al retired as a Major, after 31 years with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office.

**On the go...** Board Member Marina Choundas was admitted to the prestigious, international Governing for Non Profit Excellence Program at Harvard Business School this fall. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay for your generous scholarship support in making this happen!

---

**Special Thanks to our Funders!**

- Hillsborough County
- Children’s Board of Hillsborough County
- PCS
- Live United
- Community Foundation of Tampa Bay
- Juvenile Welfare Board
- Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Corporation for National & Community Service

---

**Bill Payer Program is BACK!!**

Imagine that you or a loved one has difficulty managing monthly finances due to physical/mental challenges in your life such as visual impairments, arthritis, severe memory loss. What if you had someone who was compassionate enough to assist you with these daily burdens? Seniors In Service has a unique program that does specifically that!

Welcome RSVP volunteer Susan Paquette who brought our bill paying program back to life, assisting seniors in this situation. Susan had a passion for this after helping her sister manage her bills for almost an year. Susan is changing the life of Annie - who suffers from glaucoma and rheumatoid arthritis - by providing bill paying assistance (pictured here with RSVP Coordinator Almeka Parks). Susan assists Annie with opening and organizing her mail, setting up her monthly expenses and income, and managing her timely paying of bills. Because of Susan’s service, not only is Annie now worry-free about evictions, late fees and utility shut-offs, her level of anxiety is reduced and she finally has peace of mind. Thank you, Susan!
CEO Corner

PROOF that volunteering improves your health...

Our Volunteers are amazing and without them we wouldn’t be able to provide the quality community impact to those we serve. Yet, so often I hear our volunteers say that they receive so much more from volunteering than they give. Although it’s hard to imagine, now there’s proof they’re right! Contributing to a growing conversation around the health benefits of volunteering, particularly for older adults, the Corporation for National and Community Service launched two longitudinal studies in 2015 to assess the impact of service on Senior Corps volunteers. The evidence-based study showed that:

• After just one year of service: Nearly half of Senior Corps volunteers reported improved health and well-being, and more than one-third initially reporting they were in good health, reported improved health at the end of the one-year period.
• Almost two-thirds of Senior Corps volunteers reported a decrease in feelings of isolation, and 67% of those who first reported they “often” lack companionship, reported improved social connections.
• Approximately 40% of caregivers who rated their health as fair or poor before respite support, now rate their health as good.

Find out how you, too, can enjoy the health benefits of giving through volunteer service by calling us at 813-932-5228 or visit us at seniorsinservice.org/volunteer.

Senior Hall of Fame

Foster Grandparent Volunteers Ray Petren and Brenda Gilstrap were named to the St. Petersburg Senior Hall of Fame!

Ray proudly displays his honor with staff members Tammy Criollo and Vanesha Corpening and the Sunshine Center’s Carole Ware-McKenzie.

Social Media Love from MacDonald Training Center

We were honored to be named a Finalist for the Tampa Bay Business Journal’s Non-Profit of the Year in Public and Societal Benefit.
INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Hillsborough County Public Schools Exemplary Program & Head Start Partner Awards
Grandma Sees Her FIRST In-Person Rays Game
Our Senior Companion Program Featured on Fox 13’s “What’s Right With Tampa Bay”
LPNI Sunset Safari, Graduation and Scavenger Hunt
Older Americans Month and SeniorsCorps Week
2 Volunteers Enter St. Pete’s Senior Hall of Fame
CEO Corner: SeniorCorps Volunteering Brings Health
2 New Board Members & Marina Goes to Harvard!

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