

# Proclamation



*Pam Iorio, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens, Margaret Palmer is undeniably one such person; and

**WHEREAS**, after seventeen years of visiting inmates at the Hillsborough County Jail under the “Come Hideaway and Talk” (CHAT) program, Ms. Palmer founded the Hillsborough House of Hope in December, 1999, a non-profit, Christian-based residential program, because she saw a need for assistance for women when they were released from jail in order to prevent the “revolving door” syndrome; and

**WHEREAS**, after raising funds to buy and remodel a house, Hillsborough House of Hope opened their doors to their first woman in January, 2002 and has since provided women released from incarceration a temporary residence whereby they receive job training and placement assistance, Bible study, and classes in nutrition, self-esteem, women’s health issues and parenting; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 23, 2009, the Hillsborough House of Hope expanded with an independent residence across the street from the original facility for women who graduate from the supervised program utilizing grant funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Tampa; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 22<sup>nd</sup> a “Celebration of Hope” dinner will be held and Margaret Palmer will be presented with the first Hillsborough House of Hope Founder’s Award for her steadfast commitment, perseverance and unwavering faith and this award has been established in her name to honor future graduates for their exemplary commitment to successful completion of the Hillsborough House of Hope program; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme “Celebration of Hope” is befitting because as people told Margaret Palmer that the Hillsborough House of Hope vision was impossible, she continued to hope and made the dream a reality.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim October 22, 2009 as

## **“MARGARET PALMER DAY”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking her for her valuable contributions to our community.