

do what you can where you are with what you have

[THEODORE ROOSEVELT]



Mayor Pam Iorio's commitment to Tampa's youth extends to her friends at Alexander Elementary School.

Dear Friends,

Education plays an important part in the foundation of our community. City government is working to support the education of our local students. We are committed to helping our children grow up with the strengths, knowledge and skills they need to become successful and productive citizens.



The city has developed programs focused on youth leadership, mentoring, academic achievement, the arts and reading. All students deserve the support that leads to a solid education. By dedicating resources to help provide that support, more students will be given an opportunity for a thriving educational experience.

The city has forged partnerships with schools, businesses and community-based organizations to help our children succeed. Our goal is to enhance the educational experience of Tampa's students preparing them for a bright, successful future.

We should all work together to ensure our youth are provided a strong, quality education. I invite you to get involved in one of the city's education initiatives — please join me in supporting Tampa's commitment to youth.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Pam Iorio.

Pam Iorio, Mayor



The ability to read is fundamental to success. Recognizing that reading lays the foundation for all learning, the City of Tampa established the **Mayor's Summer Reading Initiative** at recreation centers throughout Tampa. By hiring teachers, the City of Tampa encourages children to continue to build upon the reading skills they work so hard to develop during the school year. A cooperative effort between the city, the school district and public school teachers, the Summer Reading Initiative engages more than 1,200 children in daily reading activities for six weeks during the summer. **To support youth literacy across the city, contact Tampa Parks & Recreation Deputy Director Pete Burgue, (813) 274-7740 or pete.burgue@tampagov.net.**

"The city's initiatives greatly add to the educational experiences of our students. They are a vital partner in helping to make the grade for Tampa's youth."

— MaryEllen Elia, Superintendent
School District of
Hillsborough County

The **Mayor's Make the Grade** program is focused on supporting Tampa's most challenged public elementary schools. The city, in partnership with the local business community, works to improve the schools through various programs and projects including mentoring and tutoring; on-campus beautification projects; and providing incentives for students, teachers and parents. One of the program's initiatives, the Passport to Enrichment, produced in partnership with many of the city's leading arts and cultural institutions, provides students with an opportunity for hands-on, experiential learning outside of the traditional classroom. Through the Passport program students receive discounts or free admission to participating attractions. **To learn how you can "make the grade," contact Neighborhood Services Administrator Santiago Corrada, (813) 274-7938 or santiago.corrada@tampagov.net.**



Quality arts programs are essential to a vibrant community and they make a significant impact in the lives of children. Arts-focused young people are more likely to graduate from high school and continue their studies; more likely to enjoy reading; and more likely to be involved in community service. Recognizing the arts play an important role, a partnership with the Hillsborough County School District and the Unsinkable Molly Brown Foundation was formed and the **Mayor's Arts Education Fund** was created. Through this initiative, the city encourages support of the foundation's arts education programs including the Musical Instrument Challenge Fund, Visual Arts Challenge Fund and Artist in Residency program. Donations to the Mayor's Arts Education Fund will allow music and art teachers to purchase much-needed instruments and arts supplies. **For more information on how you can help promote quality arts education programming in our public schools, contact Creative Industries Manager Paul Wilborn, (813) 274-8016 or paul.wilborn@tampagov.net.**

The **Mayor's Youth Corps** (MYC) is a leadership program that introduces high school students to public service and gives them a voice in shaping our community. Through the program, Youth Corps members improve leadership skills and become more engaged citizens. The mayor meets with the Youth Corps participants on a regular basis to discuss new ideas and initiatives that impact Tampa. In addition, the MYC provides its membership with opportunities to "give back" to their community through volunteer service. The program is open to youth attending both public and private high schools located within Tampa. **For more information on how to apply for the Mayor's Youth Corps, contact Mayor's Youth Corps & Volunteer Coordinator Rebecca Heimstead, (813) 274-5909 or rebecca.heimstead@tampagov.net.**



All children are born with the potential to succeed and contribute to society. However, some children do not receive all the support they need to thrive. Without the intervention of caring adults, many would fall behind and struggle to achieve their full potential. The **Mayor's Mentoring Program** partners with the School District of Hillsborough County and Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide city employee mentors to help children with reading, writing and other schoolwork. Perhaps their most significant contribution is the quality time they spend with the children — providing the knowledge that someone believes in them. Participating mentors discover the many benefits of mentoring, including the satisfaction of positively impacting the life of a child. **For more information on how you can help a child fulfill their potential, contact Mayor's Youth Corps & Volunteer Coordinator Rebecca Heimstead, (813) 274-5909 or rebecca.heimstead@tampagov.net.**



TAMPA

Commitment to Youth