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HILLSBOROUGH KIDS PROVIDES A WAY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO HELP TEENS IN FOSTER CARE DURING THE HOLIDAYS THROUGH LUNCH AND LEARNS.

TAMPA, Fla.- November 30, 2011 Hillsborough Kids is the not for profit organization contracted by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to oversee the child welfare system of Hillsborough County. This holiday season Hillsborough Kids has found a creative way to reach out to the community to help meet the needs of over 500 local teens in foster care. A series of Holiday Lunch and Learns on “hot topics” in child welfare are being hosted at Hillsborough Kids and are open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring a holiday gift card for a teen in foster care.

The first lunch and learn will be held on November 30 and will be on “Discovering Family Finding” an approach to identifying family connections for children in foster care derived from national organizations such as The Red Cross who developed techniques during times of natural disasters to locate and reunite displaced families.

The second lunch and learn will be held on December 7 and will focus on “What’s it like to be a Foster Parent” with a guest foster parent who will share her challenging but rewarding experiences caring for teens in foster care.

The last lunch and learn will be held on December 14 and will focus on the “Lazydays Center for Youth Development” which is the homeless youth outreach program of Hillsborough Kids. The lunch and learns will be held between 12p.m.-1p.m. at the Hillsborough Kids “Family Place” building located at 9391 N Florida Ave in Tampa.

The goal of the events is to collect holiday gifts for teens in foster care while also educating the community on what Hillsborough Kids is doing to make a difference in the lives of teens and how the community can be part of it.

“A lot of people are interested in making a difference in the lives of children and teens that have been abused but just really aren’t sure where to start. Learning about what Hillsborough Kids is doing and how as an individual in the community you can come along side us, is a great place to start,” said Jeanine Bedell Director of Community Relations.

Hillsborough Kids

Hillsborough Kids is the lead agency overseeing the child welfare system in Hillsborough County. The mission of Hillsborough kids is to ensure the safety and permanency of abused and neglected children in foster care in Hillsborough County by providing comprehensive services that promote strong families.

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