Impact Report

2025-2026







HILLSBOROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Our Mission

To ensure every student in Hillsborough County receives an outstanding public education that equips them for a fulfilling future.

Our Vision

Hillsborough County Public Schools is one of the best places to work and teach - where 100% of students graduate with the ability to pursue anything they can dream.

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A Note From Our Leaders

At Hillsborough Education Foundation, we believe public education is the foundation of a thriving community. Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, every teacher deserves the resources to inspire learning, and every school deserves a community that believes in its potential. For nearly four decades, this commitment has guided our work to unlock opportunities for students, invest in teachers and strengthen public schools across Hillsborough County.

Throughout the past year, our programs have continued to address critical needs in classrooms and communities. The Teaching Tools Resource Center provided educators with essential supplies, while Tech Connect helped students and families overcome barriers to technology and internet access. Together, these programs helped ensure more students have the tools and resources they need to learn, grow, and reach their potential.

This year also marked a significant milestone in expanding opportunities for students. In partnership with Hillsborough County Public Schools, our Student Centers of Postsecondary Exploration (SCOPE) initiative expanded to **all 29 high schools**, giving students greater access to personalized college and career planning. FAFSA completion increased districtwide from 33.8% to 55.54%, a 21.74 percentage-point gain that reflects meaningful progress in helping students access financial aid and pursue education beyond high school.





Anna Corman
President & CEO



Sean Shaw
Board Chair

Our commitment to student success begins long before graduation. Through the Transforming Early Literacy Initiative, we continued strengthening early reading instruction, with participating schools reaching an **average kindergarten literacy proficiency rate of 57% in Year 4**. This achievement surpassed the 40% benchmark and marked a second consecutive year of improvement. Take Stock in Children provided students with mentoring and college readiness support, while our scholarship programs helped make their educational aspirations more attainable. These efforts reflect our belief that every stage of a student's journey matters.

Beyond our programs, we continued bringing together educators, business leaders, and community partners to address challenges facing public education. From supporting student attendance to connecting schools with valuable community resources, these partnerships demonstrate what is possible when we work together toward a shared goal. By investing in students and teachers today, we are helping build stronger schools and a stronger community for generations to come.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the people who make our mission possible. To our donors, volunteers, educators and partners, thank you for believing in the potential of every student and the power of public education. Your generosity and commitment continue to open doors, create opportunities, and strengthen our schools. Together, we are building a future where every student in Hillsborough County has the opportunity to succeed.

Unlocking Opportunities For Students

Tech Connect



Technology has become essential to how students learn, complete assignments and connect with their schools. Yet for many families, access to a reliable computer and internet connection remains a barrier. Through Tech Connect, Hillsborough Education Foundation helps close that gap by putting technology, resources and digital support directly into the homes of students who need them most.

During the 2025-26 school year, **Tech Connect reached 1,316 students across 171 Hillsborough County Public Schools.** By providing computers, school supplies and other essential resources to families, the program helped students and their siblings overcome barriers to learning and stay connected and engaged in their education.

This year, Tech Connect also strengthened its support for students experiencing homelessness. HEF secured additional funding to extend technology and other essential resources to more students facing housing instability. By bringing technology to meet students where they are, the program provides greater stability and access to learning for students facing some of the greatest challenges.

Since its launch in 2020, Tech Connect has impacted **more than 9,200 children across Hillsborough County.** With access to technology and meaningful support, students are better equipped to participate in their education, families can stay connected to their schools, and more children have the opportunity to learn and succeed.

"My daughter enjoys using her laptop for reading, learning, and working with educational programs. It has already become a very important part of her education and development."

- Nurkama Kubanychnek, parent of a Tech Connect student

Community Scholarships

The 2025-26 school year marked another year of growth for HEF's Community Scholarships program, reflecting the generosity of community partners and their commitment to helping students pursue their futures beyond high school.

$1,290,386
Awarded in scholarships in 25-26, a nearly 15% increase over last year.

439
Total scholarships awarded to Hillsborough County Public Schools seniors.

$2,939
Average amount awarded to each scholarship recipient.



These scholarships do more than ease the financial burden of higher education. They open doors for students, help families overcome financial barriers and provide graduates with greater opportunities to pursue their goals. Each award represents an investment in a student's potential and a stronger future for Hillsborough County.

Student Center of Postsecondary Exploration

For many students, planning for life after high school can feel overwhelming. From exploring career options to navigating college applications and financial aid, the path forward is not always clear. The Student Center of Postsecondary Exploration (SCOPE) was created to help students turn uncertainty into opportunity by providing personalized guidance, resources and support to make informed decisions about their futures.

Working alongside advisors and counselors from Hillsborough County Public Schools, SCOPE provides individualized coaching to help students explore college, career, military and technical education pathways. During the 2025-26 school year, the program recorded **6,448 one-on-one visits across 29 SCOPE sites**, connecting students with the guidance they need to develop and pursue their postsecondary plans.

For one senior at Brandon High School, that support helped change the direction of their future: ***"I was going to take a year off from school, but after seeing my options and receiving help with financial aid, I decided to apply to HCC."***

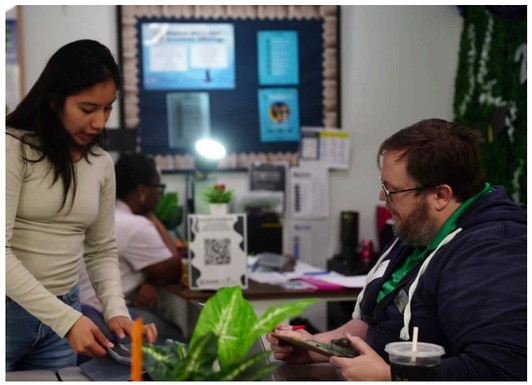
"Before SCOPE, I wasn't really sure what to do and I ended up missing deadlines. But this year, they've helped me reach those deadlines and get what I needed to done."

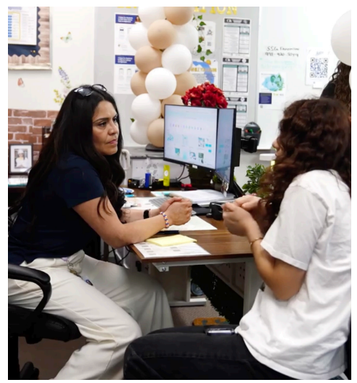
- Rosana
Riverview High School Senior

SCOPE also worked to reduce financial barriers to higher education through school-based FAFSA workshops, family nights, individualized assistance and translated outreach. Student incentives encouraged participation, contributing to a **districtwide FAFSA completion rate of 55.54%** and helping more students take an important step toward accessing financial assistance.

A significant milestone this year was SCOPE's transition to Hillsborough County Public Schools, positioning the program for long-term sustainability and continued impact. Building on the foundation established with support from Hillsborough Education Foundation, the transition reflects a shared commitment to ensuring students continue to have access to the guidance and resources they need to plan for life after high school.

Together, these outcomes reflect the lasting value of investing in postsecondary guidance and creating a sustainable model that helps more students explore their options, build confidence and take meaningful steps toward their futures.







Take Stock in Children of Hillsborough County

For hundreds of Hillsborough County students, the path to college begins with someone who believes in their potential. Through Take Stock in Children of Hillsborough County, HEF connects students with caring volunteer mentors, dedicated College Readiness Coaches and the promise of a college scholarship, helping them overcome barriers and build a foundation for lifelong success.

309
students served

253
active mentors

5,666
mentoring sessions

Students also benefited from **883 visits with College Readiness Coaches**, providing personalized guidance as they navigated high school and prepared for their futures.

College readiness remained a priority, with students participating in **virtual college tours and visits to five Florida universities.** These experiences helped students explore their options, envision new possibilities and take meaningful steps toward their postsecondary goals.

The results reflect the power of sustained support. **All 69 seniors in the program graduated with a standard diploma, achieving a 100% graduation rate**. Students also received **$511,961 in scholarships** to help make their educational aspirations a reality. The program earned a perfect 100% Balance Scorecard rating, received the Luminary Award and maintained its Gold-level designation in Florida's statewide evaluation.

"I have someone who encouraged me to be the best I can be. I walked into high school as a freshman scared to go out of my way and be the person I knew I should be and she truly helped me a lot and I really appreciate her. "

- Karisma
Take Stock in Children mentee



Right: 2025-26 Mentor of the Year Linda Lawson (right) with her mentee, Karisma.

Transforming Early Literacy Initiative (TELI)

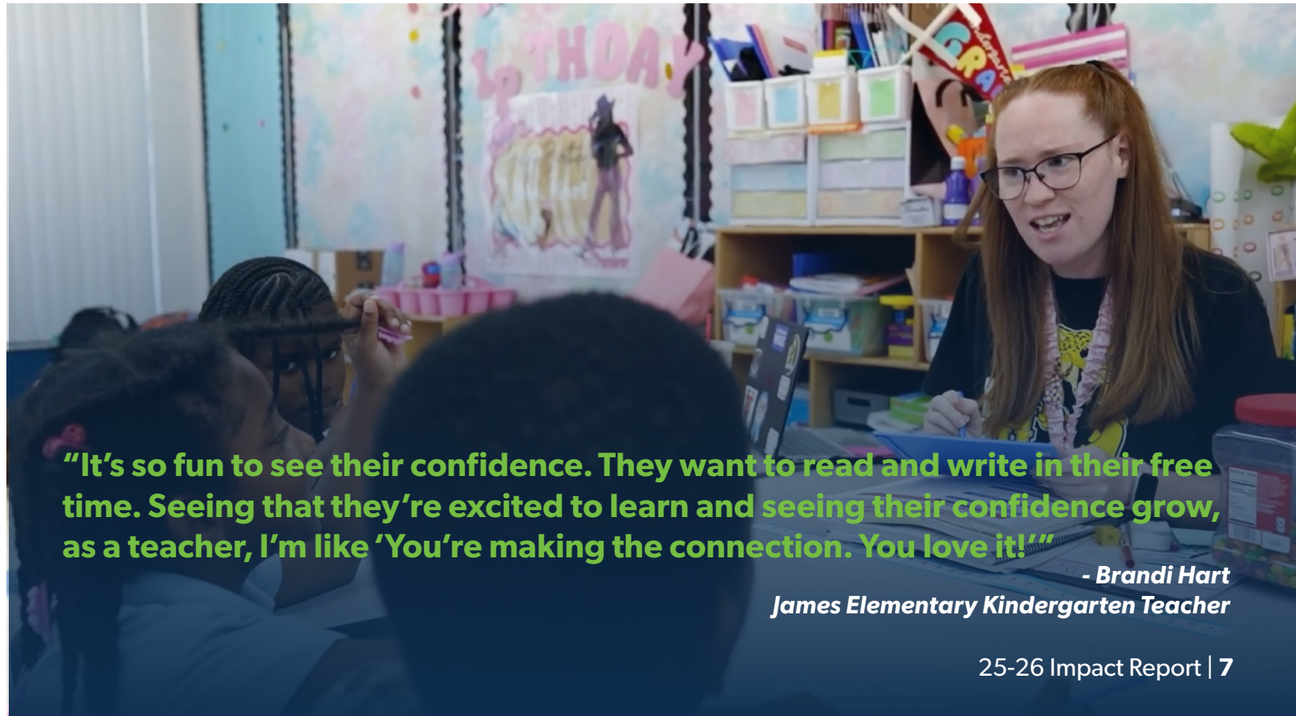
Reading proficiency is a foundation for lifelong learning, opening doors to academic achievement and future opportunities. Yet too many children enter school without the early literacy skills they need to succeed. Through the Transforming Early Literacy Initiative (TELI), Hillsborough Education Foundation is working to change that trajectory by strengthening early reading instruction and helping young learners build the skills they need to thrive.

A partnership between Hillsborough Education Foundation and Hillsborough County Public Schools, supported by Helios Education Foundation and other partners, TELI brings targeted literacy instruction and professional development to some of the district's highest-needs schools. During the 2025-26 school year, **the initiative served 1,435 students and 84 teachers across 16 schools, providing 13,020 hours of coaching** and professional development to strengthen classroom instruction.

The results demonstrate meaningful progress. At the start of the initiative, just 9% of students met the kindergarten literacy proficiency benchmark. By the end of Year 4, average kindergarten **literacy proficiency at participating schools had climbed to 57%**, again surpassing the 40% benchmark and continuing a steady upward trend in student achievement.

Educators are seeing the difference in their classrooms. Among teachers surveyed, 88% reported greater gains in student literacy and increased engagement in literacy activities, while 95% said participating in TELI helped them feel better supported as educators. These outcomes reflect the importance of investing in teachers and providing the tools, training and ongoing support needed to strengthen early literacy instruction.

Looking ahead, Hillsborough Education Foundation is excited to **expand the Transforming Early Literacy Initiative during the 2026-27 school year**, reaching more elementary schools and extending its impact to more students and educators. Through this continued work, HEF remains committed to strengthening early literacy instruction and helping more students build the foundational reading skills they need to succeed.



"It's so fun to see their confidence. They want to read and write in their free time. Seeing that they're excited to learn and seeing their confidence grow, as a teacher, I'm like 'You're making the connection. You love it!'"

- Brandi Hart
James Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Investing IN TEACHERS

School + Classroom Enrichment Grants

During the 2025-26 school year, Hillsborough Education Foundation awarded **254 School and Classroom Enrichment Grants totaling $220,209**, a 15% increase in the number of grants awarded over the previous year. These grants gave educators the resources to bring creative ideas to life, transforming classrooms into spaces where students can explore, discover and engage in meaningful learning experiences.

From hands-on science experiments to innovative literacy and arts projects, these investments reached **36,060 students across 115 schools**. Each grant provided an opportunity to enhance classroom instruction, spark curiosity and encourage students to develop critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving skills. By investing directly in educators and their ideas, HEF is helping create learning experiences that inspire students and strengthen public education across Hillsborough County.

"Because of your funding, my students were able to participate in *Paws, Purpose, and Possibilities*. The grant funds were used to launch a research project and a field trip to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. Students were able to identify the characteristics of positive leadership, what it means to serve their community, and how an act of kindness can cause a ripple effect."

- Stephanie Bowe, Wilson Elementary Gifted Education Teacher



A Wilson Elementary student reads to a dog at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay as part of the "Paws, Purpose, and Possibilities" project.

Teacher Support + Recognition: Excellence in Education

Hillsborough County's public schools are filled with extraordinary educators and support staff who make a lasting difference in students' lives. On Jan. 22, 2026, Hillsborough Education Foundation partnered with Hillsborough County Public Schools to celebrate these dedicated individuals at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts. The 2026 Excellence in Education Awards, themed **"Hillsborough's Treasures,"** honored the people whose passion, commitment and service make our schools shine.

From an impressive field of **690 nominees**, three outstanding individuals were recognized for their contributions to public education:

Christi Atkinson

Teacher of the Year
Science/AICE Teacher
Wharton High School

Mary Torres-Cerezo

Instructional Support Employee of the Year
Licensed Professional Nurse
Willis Peters Exceptional Center

Ché Counce

Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year
Access Points Teacher
Symmes Elementary School





Above: The 13 finalists for Teacher of the Year, Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year, and Instructional Support Employee of the Year take the stage for EIE 2026.

Left: EIE 2026 winners (pictured left to right) Mary Torres-Cerezo, Christi Atkinson, and Ché Counce.

With more than **1,000 guests gathered at the Straz Center**, the evening brought together educators, families, colleagues and community members to recognize the remarkable individuals who inspire students and strengthen our schools every day. From the classroom to the front office and beyond, the celebration highlighted the many ways educators and support staff help students feel supported, valued and empowered to succeed.

The Excellence in Education Awards serve as a powerful reminder that behind every student's success are dedicated individuals who believe in their potential. By celebrating these educators and support staff, we honor their contributions and reaffirm our community's commitment to supporting those who shape the future of Hillsborough County.

Teaching Tools Resource Center

Every child deserves the basic supplies that make learning possible, yet many students in Hillsborough County arrive at school without the materials they need. Through the Teaching Tools Resource Center, Hillsborough Education Foundation helps bridge that gap by providing educators with free classroom supplies, ensuring more students have the tools to learn, participate and succeed.

During the 2025-26 school year, the Teaching Tools Resource Center served 3,633 teachers, distributing more than $3.46 million in classroom supplies.

With an **average shopping value of $415**, educators were able to access essential materials at no cost, helping them create engaging learning environments while reducing the financial burden of purchasing supplies for their students.

Nearly 48% of the value of supplies distributed consisted of basic classroom essentials, including pencils, crayons, glue and paper. Among the resources provided were **441,648 pencils and 46,937 books**, putting critical learning materials directly into the hands of students. These everyday items may seem small, but they help ensure children can participate fully in classroom activities and build the skills they need to succeed.

Behind every shopping experience is a community of volunteers, donors and partners who make this work possible. Their generosity helps keep the Resource Center stocked and ensures teachers have a reliable source of support throughout the school year.

549
Individual and group volunteers

Volunteers devoted more than
3,800 HOURS

253
Schools and educational sites served

Together, we are investing in educators, removing barriers to learning and helping create classrooms where every student has the opportunity to thrive.







"For teachers, allowing us to shop around and take what we need, that's going to give us the sense of relief in order to provide for our students and still give them the best that we can."

- Erin Morrisey
Nelson Elementary 5th Grade Teacher

Strengthening Public Schools

CEOs in Schools

Strong public schools and a strong business community go hand in hand. Through CEOs in Schools, Hillsborough Education Foundation brings business and community leaders into local schools to experience firsthand the opportunities, successes and challenges shaping public education in Hillsborough County.

In partnership with Hillsborough County Public Schools and Vistra Communications, CEOs in Schools connects local leaders with elementary school principals for an immersive experience inside the classroom. During the 2025-26 school year, the program matched a CEO or high-level executive with 149 public elementary schools in Hillsborough County. Participants engage with students and educators, learn about the day-to-day realities of running a school and see how public education is preparing the next generation for college, careers and the workforce.

But the impact is designed to extend far beyond a single day. The relationships formed between business leaders and principals can grow into lasting partnerships, connecting schools with untapped resources, expertise, volunteers, and community relationships. At the same time, business leaders return to their organizations with a deeper understanding of public education and the vital role the broader community can play in supporting student success.

"It's a relationship. There's excitement, there's energy to get into the schools. And it is also a great way for us to learn about what is happening here in our community. I can promise you this: as much as you will give back and learn, you will get so much more out of it just by your participation,"

- Phillip Lee, West Florida Market President, Florida Blue

By opening school doors to community leaders, CEOs in Schools helps to build stronger connections between classrooms and the community around them. Those connections create opportunities to listen, learn, and work together, strengthening the network of support surrounding Hillsborough County's students and educators.



Phillip Lee, meets with students at Mendenhall Elementary during CEOs in Schools: One Day of Change.



*During our 2025 Supply Drive season, we collected nearly **35,000 pounds of school supplies** to distribute to Hillsborough County students and teachers thanks to our generous community!*

Our Financial Overview

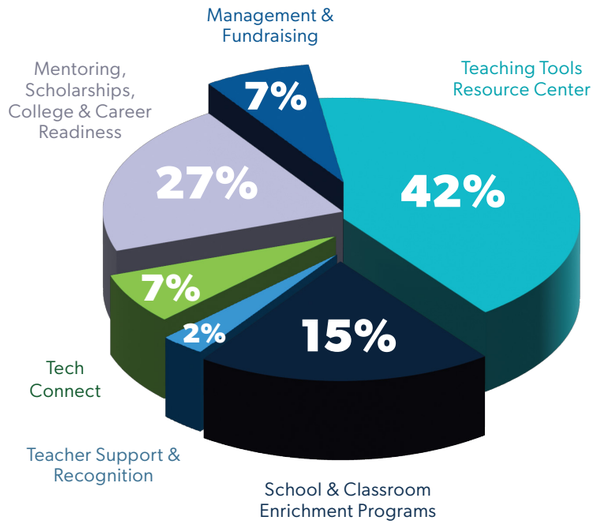
93 cents of every dollar you invest is used directly for our initiatives. Our dedication to being responsible stewards of donors' contributions has earned us these accolades.

Platinum Transparency 2026 Candid.

Charity Navigator ★★★★ FOUR-STAR 2026

Rated Exemplary by Foundations for Excellence

FAMILY FRIENDLY TAMPA BAY FAMILYFRIENDLYTAMPABAY.ORG FAMILY FRIENDLY BUSINESS AWARD® PLATINUM



Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	2026	2025
PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Contributions	$3,235,186	$4,435,498
Fundraising Events (Net)	$269,930	$223,612
Donated Goods & Services	$3,614,815	$3,689,716
Government Grants & Other Grants	$2,068,876	$2,620,608
Investment Income	$964,962	$823,025
Contract Revenue	$150,265	$204,858
Other Revenue	$2,400	$2,490
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	**$10,306,434**	**$11,999,807**
PROGRAM SERVICES & EXPENSES		
Program Services	$9,826,143	$10,267,910
Management & General	$351,341	$419,517
Development/Fundraising	$379,857	$388,053
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES & EXPENSES	**$10,557,341**	**$11,075,480**

Our Generous Partners

$250,000+

Children's Board of Hillsborough County
Consortium of Florida Education Foundations
Suncoast Credit Union/Suncoast Credit Union Foundation

$100,000+

Community Foundation Tampa Bay, Inc.
The Estate of Helen Gilbart
Ivy Enrichment Foundation of Tampa Bay Inc.
Mary and Bob Sierra Family Foundation, Inc.
Spurlino Foundation
Take Stock in Children
TECO Energy, Inc.
Think Big for Kids

$75,000+

Citi
Helios Education Foundation

$50,000+

Jacarlene Foundation
Kathy Shockey
The Mosaic Company
Natalie Burke
Old Republic National Title Insurance Co.
Pinellas Education Foundation
Rays Up Foundation

$25,000+

Amscot Financial
Aon
CORE Construction Services of FL, LLC
Cynthia and Fred Weiss
The Each Child Foundation
Edward T. Bedford Foundation
Gentleman's Quest of Tampa, Inc.
George Edgecomb Bar Association
Gopher Resource
HCA Healthcare Foundation
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
Hillsborough County Public Schools - Employees
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Humana, Inc.
Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay
The LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation
Mark Fernandez
Publix Super Markets Charities
RSM US Foundation

$10,000+

A.D. Morgan Corporation
Aetna Inc.
Ajax Building Company, LLC
The Allen Family
Amgen
Arthur Scott Myers
Baker Family Foundation
Barr & Barr
Bloomin' Brands, Inc.
BusPatrol America LLC
CBRE, Inc.
Centegix
City of Tampa
Creative Contractors, Inc.
Crowe Foundation
Daikin Applied Service
Daniel Currea
Donald W. Wallace and Erika R. Wallace Family Foundation
Equinix
FleischmanGarciaMaslowski Architects
Florida Blue
Friends of U.S. Military Families, Inc.
Gerdau Corp.
Harriet Harris
HCA Florida Brandon Hospital
JE Dunn Construction
JP Wiseman Construction Services, LLC
Long & Associates Architects/Engineers, Inc.
Mabel and Ellsworth Simmons Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Manhattan Construction, Inc.
MGT Impact Solutions
New York Yankees Tampa Foundation
Owens Corning
Painters on Demand, LLC
PBK Architects
Physicians at Brandon Regional Hospital, Inc
Sanwa Food Group
Saunders Foundation
Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation, Inc.
Tampa Bay Seminole Club
Tampa Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.
Tierra, Inc.
United Healthcare
University of South Florida, College of Education
Valley National Bank
The Vinik Family Foundation
VoltAir Consulting Engineers, LLC

$5,000+

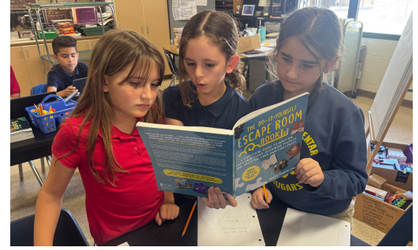
AAA Restoration and Builders
Advanced Drying System
Altar'd State
Andrew Harris
B&I Contractors, Inc.
BankUnited
The Beck Group
The Billy Turney Foundation, Inc.
Coca-Cola Beverages Florida
Corebridge Financial
Coursemojo
CPPI
Davis Islands Garden Club, Inc.
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Engineering Professionals Inc.
Envision Lighting System
Frank Brady
Fred Rothenberg
GEICO Local Office - Riverview
Gettel Foundation
Gilbane Building Company
Hill Ward Henderson
Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association, Inc.
Hillsborough College
Holmes Architects
Horus Construction Services, Inc.
John Riesenburger
KBA Engineering
Kelly Educational Staffing
L. V. Thompson Family Foundation
NewGenTek
Phoenix Engineering Group
PROCEDEO
Pure PM
Ringling College of Art and Design
Robert and Linda Anston
Ron Silverman
Sports Club of Tampa Bay Inc
Tampa General Hospital
Tannia G. Peeples
Tianne Doyle
Trenam Law
United Way Suncoast
Upper Tampa Bay Education Foundation, Inc.
Vistra Communications
WGI, Inc
Wilder Architecture, Inc.

$2,500+

Anna and Kyle Corman
BAL Engineering, Inc.
Bandes Construction
The Bank of Tampa
Betty Castor
Catalina Marketing Charitable Foundation
CKT Asset Management Company
Countryside Glass & Mirror
DC Studio Architecture and Planning
Derrick Brooks Charities, Inc.
Ford & Associates, Inc.
Gen H Consulting, Llc
Grow Financial Federal Credit Union
Hillsborough Association of School Administrators, Inc.
Hillsborough County Tax Collector
Hobby and Hobby PA







J.O. DeLotto & Sons
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Terri Monken
Trane
University of Tampa
Waste Pro Of Florida, Inc
Wharton Smith, Inc.

$1,000+

A. Woodson Isom
Amy Ferrera
Arlethea and Inniss Goden
Audio Enhancement
Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign
Bay Area Manufacturers Association
Bernard and Laura Gaffney
BSA Lifestructures Inc.
Captrust Financial Advisors
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Charles Moore
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Dealer Tag Agency Inc
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PRACTICE
Rosanna Valenzuela
Shagbark Properties
Stacy Newsom
Sue M. House
Tate Kubler
Theresa Carson
Thomas Ray
Trent Allen
Vanessa Silva
Zuleyka Castro

$500+

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Prime Group Insurance Services, Inc.
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