



SULPHUR SPRINGS  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
of PROMISE

# neighborhood News

February, 2015

*Newsletter of the Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise*



## Ezra... at Five Months Is Learning to Read at Layla's House



Ezra and his parents Krystal and Horace are residents of Sulphur Springs and big believers in Layla's House. They have participated in the Baby University, Boot Camp for New Dads and the Nurturing Parenting class.

While Ezra is not quite reading yet, he loves to listen while his dad reads to him and he tries to turn the pages of the book. Horace, who works in Sulphur Springs as a barber, appreciates all that he has learned at Layla's House. Horace noted that Layla's House has taught him "what to expect" and how to deal with the "realities of being a new parent." Horace added, "We are doing well at five months with Ezra and I know Layla's House will help me know what to prepare for when Ezra turns one."

Krystal, who works as an administrative assistant at Community Stepping Stones, said with great enthusiasm that "Layla's House is about learning and love for the whole family." She further added "When I first became pregnant, I had no clue how to live with being pregnant and how to prepare to be a good parent. The people at Layla's House were there to for me every step of the way."

*"Layla's House  
is about learning  
and love for the  
whole family."*

Latoya Randolph, Program Director at Layla's House, said that she really sees the benefit of working with the moms and families before birth and then moving forward as the child grows. Latoya also noted "We have capacity to help more families in Sulphur Springs and we encourage more moms and family members to stop by Layla's House or check out the programs at [www.Layla'shouse.com](http://www.Layla'shouse.com) or call 813-443-5004.

Layla's House is a parent and child together learning center for early childhood development and family support from birth to age 5 and programs for expectant parents are also provided. Approximately 500 kids and families were served by Layla's House in 2014. Layla's House is managed by Champions for Children of Tampa Bay and receives financial support from the Children's Board of Hillsborough County.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Head Start Sulphur Springs has space for your child... sign up at the Spring Round Up!



For children ages 3-5 years old, Head Start provides early childhood development and education and focuses on getting your child ready for kindergarten.

To enroll for September 2015, please join the Spring Round Up on March 27, 2015 from 9:30 to 12:30 pm held at the Norma and Joseph Robinson Partnership Library at Sulphur Springs Elementary School. Offered by the Hillsborough County Public Schools; for more information contact 813-740-7870, ext 379





## Children's Board of Hillsborough County... a Key Funder for Programs in Sulphur Springs

Children's Board of Hillsborough County invests more than \$1.2 million annually in funding for children and families in Sulphur Springs.

Maria Negron, Director of Programs for the Children's Board, observed why it is working... "Our effort in Sulphur Springs is a focused, long-term investment in the neighborhood. Because we are locally funded, we see the positive changes occurring in the community and watch the children grow and develop over time."

**Programs funded by the Children's Board in Sulphur Springs include** Champions for Children; Parents and Children Advance Together (PCAT), a family literacy program; the Tampa YMCA's Community Learning Center at Sulphur Springs Elementary School; Big Brothers Big Sisters; and Devereux Kids Family Support Services and the Youth Spring into Action teen leadership council.

"The Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise community initiative has helped build connections and cooperation amongst the various service providers," noted Martha Guzman, Contract Manager for the Children's

Board. "There is much greater resident involvement and the providers are all working together."

**The Children's Board provides services throughout Hillsborough County and in 2014 served 155,324 individuals.**

The mission of the Children's Board is to promote the well-being of children and families by uniting community partners, investing in innovative opportunities, and leading the county in best practices so the whole county can reach its full potential.

In 1988, the citizens of Hillsborough County voted to create the Children's Board to meet the critical needs of Hillsborough County's children, an agency funded by 0.4589 mil property tax (less than 46 cents

for every taxable \$1000 in property value). In November 2016, the agency will be placed on the ballot asking the voters of Hillsborough County to re-authorize the Children's Board.

*Because we are locally funded, we see the positive changes occurring in the community and watch the children grow and develop over time."*



## Head to the Hoops: Join the Sulphur Springs Community Basketball League

In March 2015, The Derrick Beltran Foundation, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department, Hope Street and the Tampa YMCA will partner to start a new Basketball League for Sulphur Springs residents.

### LEAGUE INFORMATION:

**Ages:** 7 to 12 years old  
**League Breakdown - 12** teams total which will include the following:  
 - 4 Co-Ed Teams Ages 7-9 /  
 - 4 Girls Teams Ages 10-12 /  
 - 4 Boys Teams Ages 10-12

**Team Size:** each team will have a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 10 players

**Practice Days:** Monday and Wednesday, 6:15-7:15pm @ Springhill Park Community Center Gym

**Game Day:** Saturday Afternoon (Times TBD) @ Springhill Park Community Center Gym

**Volunteer Coaches are needed.** For more information, contact Harold Hart at 813-478-4454



EDUCATION  
 CAREER  
 COMMUNITY

[www.ssnop.org](http://www.ssnop.org)

SULPHUR SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD of PROMISE

Building a Brighter Future Together... Education. Career. Community.

Visit our website at [www.ssnop.org](http://www.ssnop.org) to learn more.