



## Creating Economic Opportunities Everyday

### May 2017 Newsletter

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#### CEO's Corner



"It's not how much you make, it's how much you save."

This is a statement my grandmother would often base her life choices around. Unfortunately, for more and more Americans, being able to save is a major challenge. A national survey reveals that 68 percent of residents making less than \$21,000 per year, do not have any emergency funds saved. United Way of Florida's ALICE Report, updated for 2017, shows this problem is even more textured. In addition to those living below the federal poverty level, nearly six million more Floridians living just above the poverty line still struggle to pay for the basic costs of living including food, health care, housing, child care, and transportation.

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To address this issue, CDC of Tampa has created collective impact models that bundle services to increase the likelihood of becoming financially self-sufficient. Through our collective partnerships, we have helped thousands of residents increase their assets – homeownership, savings, education, small business, and income – which has been the hallmark of CDC of Tampa since its inception. It is only through a unified effort that we can truly transform our neighborhoods and residents while also helping each to reach their God-given potential.

Yes, our city and county have a poverty problem. By working together, we can create many opportunities for residents to rise above these statistics. CDC of Tampa believes our county has the potential to be a national leader in helping its residents build more prosperous futures for themselves and the communities they call home. Join us in making #365WINS a reality --- a place where economic successes become everyday occurrences!

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## **Safe & Sound Hillsborough to Host Inaugural Violence Prevention Conference**

On June 3, Safe & Sound Hillsborough will host its inaugural Violence Prevention Conference, SafeSummit'17. Located at the University Mall, this event will bring residents from all over Hillsborough County together with community agencies, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, support services, along with private sector and faith based leaders, with a focus on healing our communities and developing strategies and solutions to prevent violence from spreading in Hillsborough County.

There will be three main components during this event. A Reentry Roundtable will discuss employment strategies for ex-offenders. A Youth Summit entitled TEENTalk will allow Hillsborough County teens and young adults to speak on



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Public Health Summit will address Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Domestic Violence and other issues that contribute to violence in our communities. Our 2017 conference will focus on cultures and effects of violence – how we learn violence, the context of violence, and culturally impacted responses to the root causes of violence.

Join us this year as we consider these issues and discuss how communities have and can continue to come together to effectively understand the impacts of violence on resiliency, why it affects people in different ways, and the exportation of the effects of violence. We will spend the day exploring what works, where there are challenges, how to communicate better with each other, and how to collectively move to solutions.

For more information and to register for the event, go to [www.SafeandSoundHillsborough.org](http://www.SafeandSoundHillsborough.org).

Check out a story from [83 Degrees Media](#), which includes information about the program.

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### **Hardest Hit Fund Success Story**

Ms. Maharaj initially applied for the Florida Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) program in 2012. She recently received the assistance needed to stay in her home.

Here is her story:

*In 2003 my family and I decided to move to Florida, after living in New York for 15 years! It sure was a nice change. Our family grew and after purchasing our starter home, we decided to have our dream home built. In 2006 our home was completed and we were more than ready to move in. Unfortunately, we did not foresee what was going to happen. Our taxes sky rocketed and my mortgage went from \$1,500 to \$2,100 a month. This is when the domino effect happened. Since 2007 I have been back and forth with my mortgage company trying to save my home. My home was in foreclosure and was ready for sale. After many sleepless nights, the only thing I could do was pray. I decided if God wanted this home for me and my family, I would be able to somehow retain it. I left my faith in God's hands.*

*That is when he brought an Angel to my rescue. Her name is Katria Watkins. She had so much patience to deal with me and all my questions. At one point, it was touch and go, where I thought I would not be approved for this program. By the grace of God, he gave her the ability to find a way to help me and my family. After a little over a year, I will never forget that wonderful day when Mrs. Watkins called me and said “you have been approved!” One of the things she said was “you must be doing some heavy praying, because I have never seen a loan get approved in a matter of days!” My answer was, “IF YOU ONLY KNEW” With tears in my eyes, I thanked her for all her due diligence. I hung up the phone and cried and cried and cried, and then I praised the good Lord for placing this angel in my life. Kaytra Watkins, thanks so much for all you have done and may God bless you today and always.*

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## **Our May Press Conference Celebrated Partnerships**

Thank you to all who came out to celebrate the kick-off our 25th Year Anniversary! Each month until our Gala in October, we will have a press conference to highlight a new accomplishment.

In May, we celebrated our partnership with the following organizations:

- United Way Suncoast - build a collective impact model - Economic Prosperity Center
- City of Tampa - train and hire 36 youth every summer
- Children's Board of Hillsborough County - ensure middle school youth achieve greatness
- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) - train incumbent workers in compressed natural gas (CNG) technology
- Safe & Sound Hillsborough - move the safety and wellbeing of our students to the forefront



More to come as we celebrate #365WINS!

## Mark Your Calendar for the Anniversary Gala!



Join us on Friday, October 27th as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary in style with business leaders, elected officials and community champions at TPepin's Hospitality Centre for what promises to be a moving and memorable evening! As we celebrate 25 years of serving the Tampa Bay community we would like to reflect on “Building on Our Legacy: Creating Economic Opportunities Everyday.”

We hope you will keep this date open and join us for this community celebration by sponsoring a table. For sponsorship information, visit the [Sponsorship Opportunities](#) page on the website.

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