



2025 Board of Directors

Officers

Dr. Daphne Fudge, Chair
Early Education Advocate

Steve Marciano, Vice Chair
BayCare

Dr. Fred Hicks, Treasurer
Early Learning Coalition of
Hillsborough County

Mark Hall, Secretary
Egnyte

David Heizer, Immediate Past Chair
Humana Market Point

Members

Tracie Bergman
Hillsborough County Schools

Richard Beynon
Stratus Group

Marina A. Choundas, Esq.
Foley & Lardner LLP

Mistine Dawe
Pinellas County Schools

Bill Stamp
Independent Consultant

Jenna Stock Wunsch
Raymond James

Debbie Viveiros
The Bank of Tampa

Robert C. Wood, CPP, CFE
Allied Universal Security Services

Kevin D. Zwetsch
Brick Business Law, P.A.

Our 2025 Impact:
1,334 Volunteers Served 277,205 hours
Valued at OVER \$8,316,150 to Tampa Bay

Every hour served helped:

- A child become more confident in the classroom
- A lonely senior get a caring friend they can count on.
- A struggling family get food on the table
- A disheartened veteran become empowered for a better future.
- An older stay active and purposeful through volunteering.

Now you have an opportunity to fuel that same impact in 2026.



Donate Today!

Suncoast Credit Union Will Double Your Gift!

When you donate to Seniors in Service, Suncoast Credit Union will match your donation—dollar-for-dollar—up to \$90,000, doubling the impact you make in our community.

Every day, thousands of seniors across Tampa Bay wake up feeling alone or unsure of where to turn. But hope arrives when neighbors look out for neighbors. Our volunteers are neighbors who offer friendly calls and wellness visits to isolated seniors, feed hungry families, help students thrive in the classroom, and support veterans on their path to stability.

Charles, a veteran, shared what that support has meant to him:

“Seniors in Service has been a true blessing. Your support connected me with fellow veterans and reminded me I’m not alone.”

Your generosity fuels this compassion. Donate today and help keep the innovation and the kindness going strong.



SuncoastCreditUnion

Suncoast Credit Union isn't just about banking, it's about building brighter futures for everyone they serve. Guided by compassion and community, Suncoast invests in programs that empower community members of all ages to thrive. Through youth outreach and financial literacy workshops, they're helping the next generation learn and grow with confidence. Their commitment to seniors shines just as brightly, from fraud prevention education to programs that promote independence, well-being, and peace of mind. Whether supporting families, schools, or nonprofits, Suncoast shows up with heart making a lasting difference through every partnership. We're proud to call them a true ally in creating stronger, more connected communities!



**SCAN
HERE TO
DONATE**

SeniorsInService.org/Double-Your-Impact/

Venmo: @SeniorsinService

Thank you to our funders!



2025: A Year of Growth and Innovation in Action

This year brought exciting growth across Seniors in Service, creating new ways to engage volunteers and more opportunities to help seniors, veterans, children, and families thrive.

Celebrating a Breakthrough Year for Our Literacy Programs!

This year, we welcomed 109 new Classroom Grandparents and expanded into 15 new schools across Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. With more volunteers, more classrooms, and more family engagement, we're helping more students build confidence, strengthen reading skills, and feel supported every day.

Our Readers in Motion program—trusted for more than a decade to engage entire families through at-home reading challenges and hands-on STEM activities—has now expanded from Tampa into high-need schools in St. Petersburg, bringing the same education and family support to even more children.



Delivering Healthy Food with a Powerful Side of Social Connection

Health Buddies and Operation: Veteran Connect launched a new service this year to deliver fresh produce to seniors with chronic conditions and isolated veterans living in poverty. Each food delivery comes with friendly conversation, encouragement, and cooking tips. For those managing chronic illness or limited resources, these deliveries provide more than food—they offer nourishment, skill-building, and a pathway to better health.



"I ate junk food just to keep from going hungry. The vegetables and cooking lessons you provided helped me fill the gaps with healthier choices."

-Tony, Veteran Served by Operation Veteran Connect

New Companion Transportation Program Brings Relief and Rides to Seniors

We have so many passengers who cry,” shared Program Coordinator Michelle Mason about our new Companion Transportation Program in Southshore. “These are tears of joy and relief.”

This program fills a vital need for older adults in South Hillsborough County who struggle to reach routine and life-saving medical care. Our team of 11 compassionate volunteers does far more than drive. They ease anxiety, offer companionship, take notes during appointments if needed, and help connect seniors to services that promote healing.

Thanks to the generosity of Community Foundation Tampa Bay and AdventHealth, we launched this program in June 2025 with a goal of providing more than 500 rides in the first year—ensuring seniors feel supported every step of the way.



Launched Senior Disaster Support to Build Resilience Before the Storm

We’ve transformed the way 575+ older adults face disasters. Too often, seniors weather floodwaters, powerless apartments, and long, sleepless nights completely alone. Senior Disaster Support is changing that.

Built on the simple belief that strong community connections build resilience, we began by creating neighbor-to-neighbor networks in eight senior communities hit hardest by recent hurricanes. Our relationship-centered disaster support program offers monthly activities that foster trust, build camaraderie, and provide vital guidance on evacuation planning, home safety, emergency alert technology, and recovery strategies.

By helping neighbors truly know and rely on one another, we’re creating something storms can’t wash away: a community grounded in care and connection.

On the Move: Our Outreach Van and Trailer are Helping Us Reach New Heights of Service

We proudly launched our brand-new mobile outreach van and trailer, made possible through the generous support of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

Their investment is making a difference by bringing disaster support resources directly to seniors, delivering books and educational supplies to children and families, and connecting isolated veterans—some of whom haven’t left their neighborhoods in years—to new experiences and opportunities for engagement. By taking our services on the road, we’re breaking down barriers and reaching seniors, veterans, and families in new and meaningful ways.



Our Tampa Office Got a Face-Lift

Our office is now a safe, welcoming space where volunteers can gather, learn, and share their passion for service. This year’s renovation added a new deck and canopy, a storage shed, fresh flooring, brighter lighting, and improved landscaping.



Before



After

This year, 1,334 volunteers served 277,205 hours to transform lives.

One hour of kindness can echo across a lifetime. Our volunteers are more than helpers, they are true changemakers. Over 1,300 remarkable individuals share their wisdom, compassion, and steady hands to lift others up. Together, they're shaping a community where compassion fuels action and every contribution leaves a meaningful mark.



40

Operation: Veteran Connect members

supported 3,660 fellow veterans by connecting them with healthcare, nutritious meals, affordable housing, and vital resources to enhance their quality of life.

89 Veterans

now have a comfortable, furnished place to call home thanks to housing support and furniture deliveries

"I've learned I can't change the world alone, but together we can,"

shares Dan, a blind veteran who spent years homeless before finding his new purpose serving in Operation: Veteran Connect.

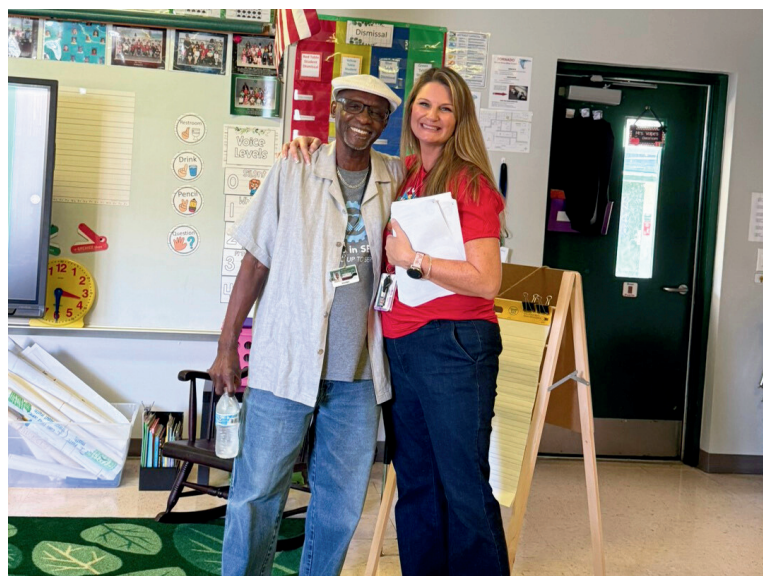
203 Classroom Grandparents dedicated 136,219 hours helping students grow, learn, and thrive in the classroom.

89% of Students

Improved their literacy skills

1,201 Students

Received 1-on-1 tutoring for the entire school year





171 Health Buddies

Empowered seniors to take charge of their health building confidence, boosting independence, and preventing avoidable ER visits.

“My Health Buddy Frank is exceptional. Despite our age difference, we really connected. He’s kind, respectful, and listens. This program was something I needed more than I realized.”

-Lenny, Health Buddies Client

"I feel so happy and at ease knowing my mom is in the best hands. Ms. Tia has been such a blessing to our family, and I'm truly grateful to have her with us. Thank you, Seniors in Service, for everything you do."

-Earnestine (Daughter of Senior Companion Participant)



67

Senior Companions

Devoted 53,699 hours to bringing friendship, comfort, and connection to 134 older adults.

Volunteers provided
22,896 Hours
Of emergency food support for hungry families

"Volunteering has brought joy back into my life. I look forward to serving every single week."

-Margie, RSVP volunteer



1,143 Disaster Kits

and vital information were provided to seniors at outreach events to gain safety, confidence to face a storm, and connection to resources.

576 Senior Neighbors

Received monthly companionship and preparedness resources in 8 high-risk communities.

20 Companionship Clubs

created opportunities for friendship and learning for 500 South Shore seniors through shared support for Low-Vision and Parkinson's, as well as fun opportunities for laughter and friendly competition, like Chair Volleyball and Trivia.



Meet Robin, a Chore Corps Club member. He changed the Barnetts' AC filters when they couldn't. With Mr. Barnett on oxygen in the hospital and Mrs. Barnett recovering from a broken hip, Robin's kindness made all the difference.



Meet Clara, age 90, one of our very first passengers for Companion Transportation. She survived Stalin's occupation in Budapest and now lives without family in the U.S., relying on the kindness of our volunteer drivers to get to her medical appointments!



11 Companion Transportation Volunteers

provided 300+ life-changing rides for 90 South Shore seniors, ensuring they could reach vital medical appointments from cancer treatments to surgeries with dignity, safety, and peace of mind.

Every Statistic Has a Story!

The numbers show our reach, but the stories show our heart. Here are just a few of the volunteers who chose to show up and care—and the people whose lives were transformed by their compassion.



“God must really love me to send me a grandma like Ms. Myrna. I just simply love her,” shared Mrs. Litz, an elementary school teacher in Hillsborough County. Grandma Myrna’s support goes far beyond academics—she’s a comforting, steady presence who makes even the hardest days brighter. When Mrs. Litz was diagnosed with cancer, Grandma Myrna encouraged her through every step of treatment, offering support, comfort, and even homemade remedies. Mrs. Litz lovingly calls her “a celebrity in the classroom.” Students greet her with pure excitement each morning.



Nancy needed a 100-mile round ride for a treatment that involved anesthesia. She shared, “I couldn’t have done this without the Companion Transportation volunteers. **Knowing someone cared enough to take me all that way, it meant everything.**”

When Joan joined Health Buddies, she’d visited the ER 10 times in 3 months. At first, she was hesitant to talk to her Health Buddy, Ella, saying, “Young people don’t always understand what it’s like to live like this.” But as Ella consistently called and truly listened, Joan opened up about her struggles with food insecurity and connected with resources she hadn’t known existed. “There were days when I didn’t know what I would eat. Now, I have help and a new friend,” she shared.

After 12 weeks, Joan had only gone to the ER twice—and her mental health improved dramatically, showing how compassionate connection can transform a person’s well-being.



For years, Paul, a proud veteran, faced one setback after another, and without a Social Security card or Alien Resident card, he couldn’t receive benefits or find work. Those missing documents kept him stuck, no matter how hard he tried. Then he met our Operation: Veteran Connect volunteers.

Together, they worked to remove this barrier, and today, Paul finally holds both cards in his hands and is ready to start his new job. As he put it, **“Seniors in Service gave me the ‘A’ team—and they got it done!”**



Carmen is a Senior Companion with a gift for listening—and for drawing. Each time she visits a homebound senior, she brings her sketchbook. As they share memories and pieces of their lives, Carmen quietly captures their stories in gentle sketches. Her visits give seniors the chance to see their cherished memories honored and beautifully remembered.



Margie and Ron are indispensable members of the volunteer team at Florida Food Force in Pasco County. Week after week, they help provide hundreds of families with nutritious meals, making a tangible difference in the lives of those struggling to put food on the table.

Shirley volunteers each week at ECHO’s Resource Center in Brandon, helping struggling families find the clothing they need to feel confident and dignified as they work to rebuild their lives. Her dedication brings comfort, hope, and a sense of normalcy to those facing challenging times.





SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE

**1306 W Sligh Ave
Tampa, FL 33604
(813) 932-5228**

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAMPA, FL
PERMIT NO. 1094



AmeriCorps



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

Follow us on social media
@seniorsinservice



In This Issue:

- Double Your Impact with Suncoast Credit Union **1**
- 2025: Service Innovation in Action **2**
- Growing To Meet Emerging Needs **3**
- Guess how many volunteer hours you gave in 2025? Now guess higher. **4**
- Learn Why Having a Health Buddy "Feels like Hitting the Lottery" **5**
- Companionship Promotes Healing **6**
- The Stories Behind the Statistics **7**

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Thank You, Tampa Bay!

Seniors in Service represents a whole community of people who care. Loneliness and despair are no match for the energy, kindness, and commitment that our volunteers bring. By showing up week after week, they create meaningful connections, strengthen communities, and remind everyone that support and friendship make all the difference.

To the countless volunteers who show up day after day, we say thank you. You are the heart and soul of our community and true everyday heroes!

