



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES, INC. RECEIVES \$10K DONATION FROM SUNTRUST FOUNDATION

The donation will support the required MATCH funding for the School Readiness Program.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. has been presented with a \$10,000 donation check on Friday, 4/15/16, from the **SunTrust Foundation**.

The donation will allow ten (10) children who are currently on the Coalition's waitlist for educational services to be placed. With this financial support from **SunTrust**, five (5) children from Pasco County and five (5) children from Hernando County will be enrolled in the School Readiness program. The School Readiness program offers financial assistance to working or in school, income eligible families to help offset the cost of child care.

The **SunTrust Foundation** supports nonprofit organizations and institutions engaged in the areas of education, health and human services, arts and culture, and other nonprofit activities because of the essential role these arenas play in improving the quality of life for the entire community.

The funds donated by the **SunTrust Foundation** will serve as a MATCH donation to the Coalition in partial fulfillment of its fund requirement to the State of Florida. This represents the single largest corporate donation to the Coalition.

The Coalition is required to raise approximately \$360,586 for Pasco and Hernando Counties in MATCH funds for this year alone, or risk losing that amount from its 2016-2017 School Readiness budget. The loss of School Readiness funds could potentially maintain an even higher volume of children on the waitlist for School Readiness services (over 1,200), but also children currently enrolled in the program could be removed from the program.

This donation from the **SunTrust Foundation** will not only provide ten (10) children with the strong educational foundation they need to succeed academically, but this contribution will also support families, communities and economic development.

The Coalition recently launched an AD HOC Fundraising Committee with the purpose of increasing the amount of donations received for MATCH funds.

Community members interested in making a donation to support a child should visit www.phelc.org/donate

For more information about the SunTrust Foundation, visit www.suntrust.com

For more information about the Coalition and its services, visit www.phelc.org.

About the Coalition

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is one of 30 Early Learning Coalitions in Florida. Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is for all children who are four-years old on or before September 1st. School Readiness provides subsidized child care for low-to-moderate income working families. The nonprofit serves over 13,000 children between infancy and twelve-years old, working with more than 400 providers in the counties.

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