

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

# 70 YEARS OF

## *Putting Children First*



The Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County was founded on the belief that all children deserve futures of more successful and satisfying lives.

JWB was created by the citizens of Pinellas County who were the first in the nation to collectively say **all children matter** by investing tax dollars to improve their futures.

For 70 years, Pinellas County residents have been making children a priority. From the early years to present, JWB milestones all add up to one thing—

**70 YEARS OF  
PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST!**

Investing in Children.  
Strengthening our Community.



# Our Creation

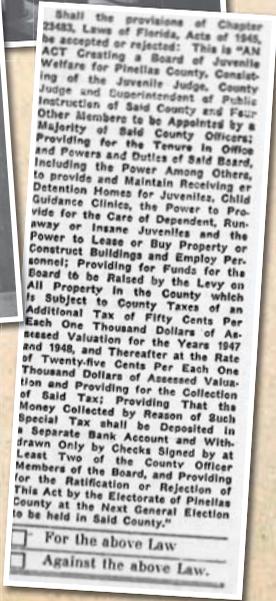
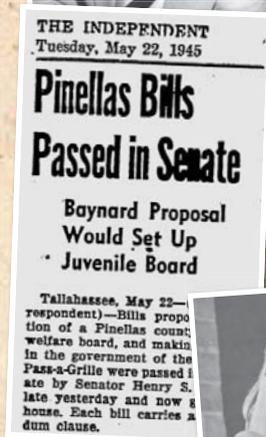
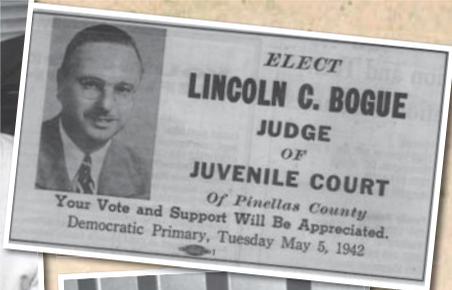
Juvenile Judge Lincoln C. Bogue and Attorney Leonard Cooperman were outraged there weren't more alternatives for troubled children other than adult jail in Pinellas County, so they led a group of concerned citizens to find a solution.

A bill was drafted to create an independent, tax-supported board to guard the rights and needs of children.

Led by Senator Henry Baynard and Representative S. Henry Harris, the Pinellas Delegation sponsored the bill, and the 1945 Florida Legislature passed it—subject to referendum.

In November 1946, Pinellas County citizens overwhelmingly voted the Juvenile Welfare Board Special Act into law by a 4-to-1 margin.

This was the first time in the United States that a community created such an entity to strengthen the lives of children and families with taxpayer support.



# 1940s

The first meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was held on May 14, 1947. Mrs. Mailande Holland Barton, one of the founders of the Junior League of St. Petersburg, became JWB's first Board Chair.

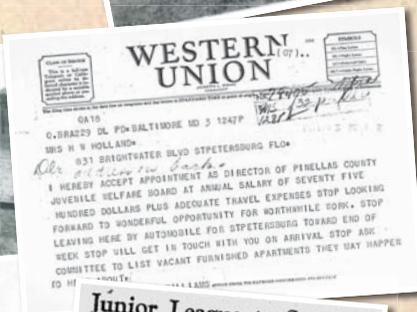
As a first order of business, the Junior League was asked to conduct a survey on the conditions and needs of juveniles to guide the Board's work.

Dr. Herbert Williams was hired to serve as JWB's first executive director. He was fond of saying, "You must catch them by six!," outlining for JWB a focused commitment on prevention and early intervention.

JWB's first employee was Nanabelle Dame, hired as a juvenile court caseworker for girls. JWB's first office was in the former St. Petersburg High building near Mirror Lake.

The organization's annual budget of \$75,000 was distributed to three agencies serving about 1,500 children.

Early successes included a Child Welfare Unit to assist with shelter and long-term foster care needs of dependent children.



# 1950s & 1960s

In the 1950s, JWB helped pass legislation to create the Pinellas County License Board, responsible for setting minimum standards for family daycare homes and centers.

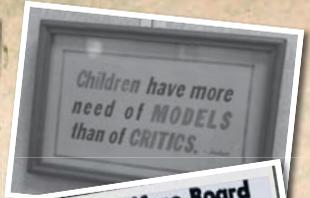
JWB also established the Marriage and Family Counseling Program as a preventive service, understanding problems of children often reflect difficulties between their parents.

In 1962, JWB was one of the first in the U.S. to fund specialized foster care and adoption placement services for children with disabilities.

Two years later, JWB began subsidizing daycare for at-risk and disabled children.

In 1965, the first Protective Services Unit for Pinellas County children was established with support from JWB.

Two years later, the Protective Services Unit began operating 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to serve children.



Dr. L. Williams, Director, Pinellas County Board of Juvenile Welfare, Pinellas County, Florida

I want to thank you for the splendid contribution you made in the hearing of this Subcommittee on education... I am impressed with the leadership you have given in Pinellas in juvenile activities which have a bearing on the education of the children... I feel that the body of cooperative information prepared from national and various leaders in juvenile work... I am sure that the child program in Pinellas will be a model for other communities... I am sure that the child program in Pinellas will be a model for other communities... I am sure that the child program in Pinellas will be a model for other communities...



# 1970s & 1980s

In the early 1970s, JWB initiated a child trauma team as a result of a JWB-sponsored study on battered children.

JWB launched the In-School Counseling Project, leading to the creation of the Pinellas County Schools Student Services Department.

JWB supported the creation of Latchkey Services for Children, now known as R'Club Child Care, Inc., providing supervision for children of working parents.

In 1974, JWB led a National Study Survey resulting in the first State of the Child Plan and organized its first annual legislative workshop for community dialogue.

In the early 1980s, JWB advocated for juvenile divisions to become part of all Pinellas law enforcement agencies.

In 1986, given the historic success of JWB's work in Pinellas County, the Florida Legislature passed a bill to enable other Florida counties to establish Children's Services Councils.



## Data-Collecting Efforts Reap Award For Pinellas' Juvenile Welfare Board

The Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) won an award for its efforts in collecting data on Pinellas County youth.

The National Association of Counties Award was given to JWB for the information it compiles to pinpoint the needs of the county's children and what factors affect the condition of children.

Through its Social Indicator Data Bank Project, JWB gathers information on the economy, dependency, offenses, delinquency and mental health in relation to youth.

The results are then sent to local agencies to help anticipate an increase in the need for social services.



## Latchkey Honors Founder, Helpers



# 1990s

In 1990, JWB proposed a millage rate increase to implement a five-year plan for Asset-Based Strategies and Neighborhood/Community Development Initiatives. The referendum was overwhelmingly approved by nearly 70% of the citizen vote.

That same year, JWB conducted a large-scale study on maternal substance abuse, distributing the report nationwide.

In 1991, the JWB Board approved the first school-based health clinic in partnership with the Pinellas County School District, Health Department and All Children's Hospital.

One year later, the Healthy Families initiative for the screening of prenatal and new mothers was approved.

In 1992, the JWB Board approved an annual award recognizing social services professionals, naming it the Cooperman-Bogue Award after JWB's founders.

That same year, the Board approved a Community Involvement Plan leading to the creation of three Community Councils in North, Mid and South Pinellas County.

In the mid-1990s, the JWB Board adopted a Neighborhood and Community Development Initiative, paving the way for today's Neighborhood Family Centers (NFCs).

## Voters Affirm The Future

Does history repeat itself? On Sept. 4, 1990, Pinellas County residents found it can, as voters approved by a 2 to 1 margin an increase in the Juvenile Welfare Board's taxing authority cap. Funding for the future of the county's children and families once again was resoundingly affirmed by concerned, caring citizens.

"Tomorrow starts today" was the slogan for the referendum. And as Pinellas County voters were reminded, "today" really started "yesterday." History was made in the mid 1940s when 80% of Pinellas voters approved formation of the Juvenile Welfare Board and granted it taxing authority. Never before in the country had special taxing district like the Juvenile Welfare Board. The next 44 years brought the development of an unprecedented network of social services for children and families in Pinellas County. The emphasis on prevention and early intervention programs as well as services became a hallmark of the Juvenile Welfare Board.

The intervening years also brought increasing recognition of the effectiveness of an independent special taxing district. The effectiveness culminated in 1986 legislation allowing formation of similar boards in other Florida counties.

The years between 1946 and 1990 were ones of tremendous population growth in Pinellas County. And the county has come to resemble a microcosm of America of the '90s with its rapidly changing demographics and intergenerational character. An increase in single-parent families and working two-parent families resulted in increased demand for appropriate, affordable child care. Stresses of everyday living caused more youth, at younger ages, to turn to alcohol and other drugs. Juvenile crime and teen pregnancy increased. And more families found it difficult to maintain their values and integrity amid a rapidly-changing, and sometimes hostile society. Services and programs to meet families' present and future needs required consistent and adequate resources even as state and federal funding dwindled.

Approaching its taxing authority cap, and mindful of its mandate to the children and families of Pinellas, the Juvenile Welfare Board decided the time had come for a referendum that would allow the Board to meet the future head on.

"Tomorrow" was Pinellas County's concern in 1946, when voters were asked to finance the future through a children's services tax. Would "tomorrow" be the same? In 1990, when the Juvenile Welfare Board asked for an increase in its taxing authority cap from 5 mill to 11 mill? In 1946, voters gave long thought to the quality of life they wanted for themselves and their children. 67% of the voters did the same. Tomorrow starts today, once again, for children and families of Pinellas.

The Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas is proud to maintain its long history of concern and action for the well-being of its citizens. And it eagerly welcomes the bright future for children and families so willingly provided by the voters of Pinellas.

*James E. Mills*  
James E. Mills, ACSW  
Executive Director

*Frank B. Bogue*  
Dr. Frank B. Bogue, M.D.  
Chairman



## Pinellas County plans family centers network

**Unlike many government programs, this one will not be limited to low-income people.**

ST. PETERSBURG — A network of family centers is planned in Pinellas County to be staffed by residents willing to lead neighbors a helping hand with literacy training, Florida is so transient that parents often live a thousand miles from their own parents, and many couples when they need advice. These centers are designed to answer those needs. The county's Juvenile Welfare Board expects to set up three centers in 1993 and seven within five years. Besides serving as a base for support groups, each would be a neighborhood meeting place. This concept is different from the traditional work of social service agencies in that they usually focus on people who have done something wrong or suffered somehow by counseling abusive parents or distributing food stamps to the poor. The new program is designed to help people who don't necessarily have problems but who want advice and a chance to talk to others.



# 2000s - Present

In 2000, oversight and accountability were enhanced by the addition of the Sixth Judicial Circuit State Attorney and Public Defender to the JWB Board.

In 2006, JWB adopted three strategic areas of focus: School Readiness; School Success; and the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

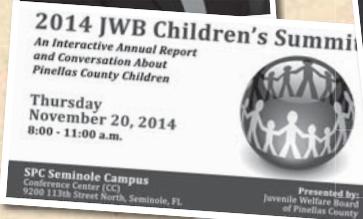
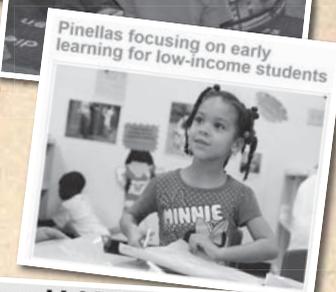
In the mid-2000s, JWB created the Family Counseling System of Care, paving the way for today's Family Services Initiative which provides real-time support for struggling Pinellas families.

In 2010, JWB launched The Children's Initiative at Fairmount Park Elementary; four years later, the successful pilot was expanded and coined Scale Up Success.

In 2011, JWB shifted from funding traditional child care to investing in high quality early learning. JWB adopted eight quality components and launched the Quality Early Learning Initiative in 2012.

In 2014, JWB achieved national accreditation through the prestigious Council on Accreditation (COA).

In November 2014, JWB held its inaugural Children's Summit featuring a live, interactive annual report and community dialogue about four collective initiatives: Preventable Child Deaths; Childhood Hunger; Student Achievement; and Grade-Level Reading.





### **OUR MISSION:**

The Juvenile Welfare Board invests in partnerships, innovation and advocacy to strengthen Pinellas County children and families.

### **OUR VISION:**

Our vision is that children in Pinellas County will have a future of more successful and satisfying lives because of the efforts of JWB and its partners.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Strengthening our Community.**

