

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD'S COMMUNITY COUNCILS

25 YEARS OF BRIDGING COMMUNITIES



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Investing In Children.
Strengthening Our Community.



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BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

JWB'S Community Councils were established in 1994 to maximize community participation by identifying community strengths and needs.

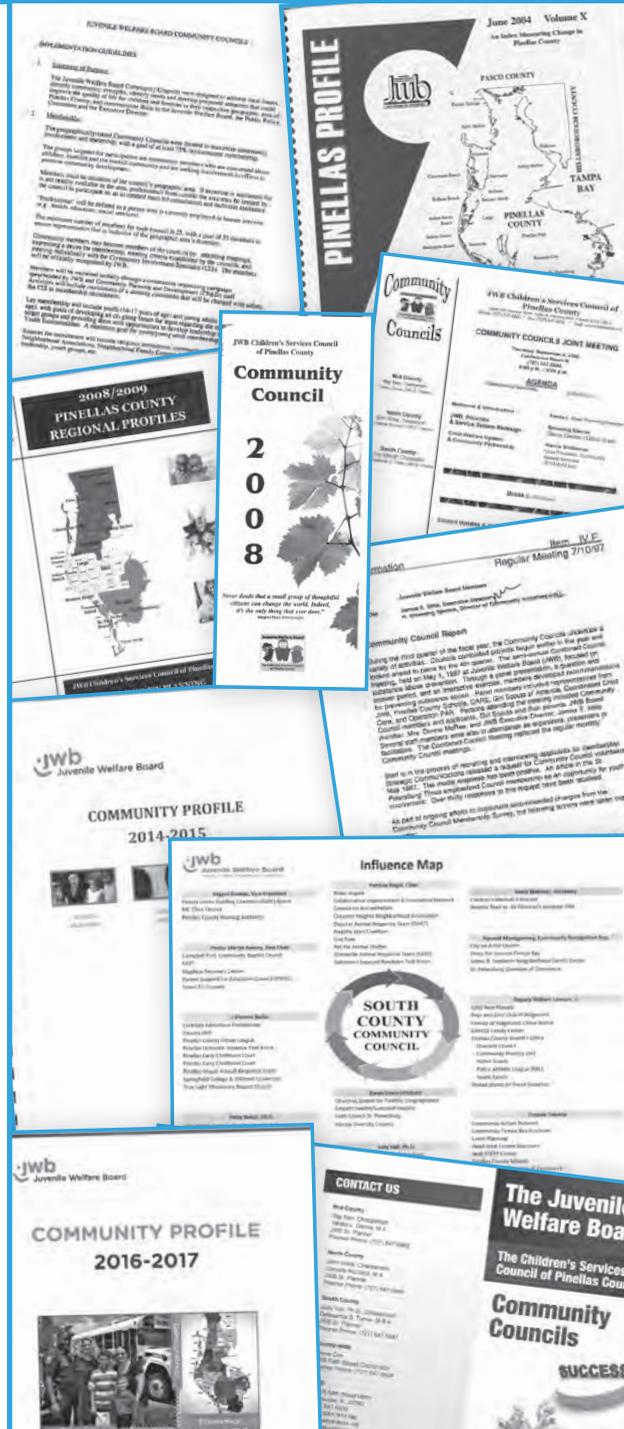
Each Council works on developing solutions consistent with the JWB Strategic Plan to improve the quality of life for children and families in their respective geographic regions.

For 25 years, JWB's Community Councils have coordinated and facilitated advocacy projects to address community needs and trends impacting children and families.

From their creation to the present, JWB's Community Councils, and their milestones, have exemplified the power of partnerships and collaboration.

OUR CREATION

- In January 1989, the JWB Board passed a unanimous motion to authorize the development of a campaign coordinated in-house by JWB staff to focus on community engagement.
- The JWB Board received the Neighborhood and Community Development Plan for 1991-1996 which proposed “multiple geographically-based citizen committees”.
- Four geographically-based committees were formed to serve north, upper mid, lower mid, and south Pinellas County with the requirement of 75% lay and consumer representation.
- In January 1994, JWB hired a Community Involvement Specialist for the development and support of the Community Councils.
- A Steering Committee convened in April 1994 to refine the Implementation Plan and to develop strategies for countywide recruitment and operating guidelines which led to the first Council Meeting in September 1994.
- In 2004, an internal assessment by JWB staff evaluated the effectiveness of the Community Councils; this led to Joint Councils and Board Workshops, Joint Councils Executive Committee Meetings, formal work plans for each Council, and stronger community connections as depicted by the group’s Influence Map.
- In October 2005, the JWB Board determined that Council members would be nominated for membership and then appointed by the Board.
- In 2014, Community Councils were included in JWB’s new and fourth Strategic Focus Area: Strengthening Community.



MID-COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Advocated for the expansion of the Youth Arts Corps in Mid-County to teach fine arts to at-risk youth
- In 2007, presented at the Children and Youth Cabinet advocating for youth and family services in the Mid-County Region
- Convened the first meeting with 25 faith-based organizations to engage the faith-based community; this initiated what is known today as FOCUS (Family Concept Unified to Serve)
- Facilitated community conversations for the opening of the Police Athletic League (PAL) Sports Complex in Lealman
- Served as the local structure for the Young Child Wellness Committee for Project LAUNCH
- Facilitated the identification of community leaders and the first neighborhood to be selected by the Adopt-A-Block Initiative in 2014
- In 2015, created the Mid-County Youth Leadership Council providing the foundation for the Youth Leadership Initiative
- Coordinated the first Health Fair at Pinellas Park Middle School to increase student and parental engagement
- In 2018, facilitated two community conversations to listen and advocate for the needs of the growing Hispanic Population in the Mid-County Region
- Coordinated the first Community Bus Ride with other stakeholders in the High Point Community



MOVING FORWARD

Moving forward, JWB's North, Mid-, and South County Community Councils will continue their work to inform, educate, and advocate for the needs and issues impacting families and children in the respective regions of Pinellas County.

By recruiting and maintaining a diverse and inclusive membership, they will ensure continuous advocacy and community engagement and will be well positioned to respond to emerging trends.

The Community Councils will continue to use data to inform decisions about planning and implementation of community improvement strategies.

They will continue to serve in an advisory role to the JWB Board by keeping in touch with the needs, strengths, and trends of the communities, and will provide this information to JWB to assist in decision making.

Moreover, the Community Councils will serve as JWB's ambassadors by sharing its mission, programs, and initiatives with multiple community stakeholders.

For more than 70 years, the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County (JWB) has been committed to making children a priority, advocating for their best interests and investing to improve their futures.

JWB is a high-performing, data-driven organization established by a Special Act of the Florida Legislature to strengthen the lives of children and families in Pinellas County. As a countywide special taxing district, we responsibly direct our community's investments to give children the best opportunities to lead healthy, successful, and satisfying lives.

Governed by an 11-member Board of Directors, JWB and our partners served more than 66,000 children and families last year. We invest in 88 programs with 49 nonprofit agencies and work collectively to address childhood hunger, grade-level reading, and preventable child deaths. Our investments and work are focused in four areas: School Readiness, School Success, the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and Strengthening Community.



Juvenile Welfare Board

Investing in children. Strengthening our community.

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County

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