

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, dignity is indicative of self-respect or appreciation for someone's differences, and a high moral characteristic that should be aspired to by all, creating an inclusive environment and breaking down traditional barriers by fostering self-empowerment, regardless of an individual's disabilities or personal struggles; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, J. Clifford MacDonald, with the support of parents of developmentally disabled children and several community groups including the Junior League of Tampa Bay, established one of the nation's first pre-school programs designed for children with developmental disabilities in a one-room school house in the Drew Park neighborhood of Tampa, Florida, and the **MacDonald Training Center** (MTC) expanded the following year to include a nursery and kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, with the Founder's guiding philosophy, *The awakening of parents to the recognition of the handicap of their child; the intention to do something about it rather than hide it*, MacDonald Training Center has grown to become a nationally recognized institution and among the first in the United States to develop supported employment and living services as an alternative to workshops and group homes, and the first organization of its kind in Florida to close its own group homes to move forward with its vision of being a leader and innovator in service to people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, with the mission *to empower people with disabilities to lead the lives they choose*, MTC advocates self-responsibility aided through many services that include a community living program which promotes individual living and personal decision making, and complete employment training that include providing opportunities for creating professional resumes, acquiring essential jobs skills, work habits, and successful work force techniques; and

WHEREAS, MacDonald Training Center is dedicated to continuously improving the quality of the vocational, employment, and residential services that have been provided to people with developmental disabilities in the Tampa Bay area for the past sixty years; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of its **60th Anniversary** the MacDonald Training Center is hosting a **Founder's Day Luncheon** on May 8, 2014 in the organization's Art Gallery, and the event will include special recognition to the many civic groups, leaders, and friends that have been instrumental over the past six decades in building MTC into a leading and nationally recognized institution that challenges the status quo and provides a path to independence for those with developmental challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 8, 2014 as

"MACDONALD TRAINING CENTER DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating MacDonald Training Center on this 60th Anniversary milestone, and in thanking the many individuals and organizations that have contributed to its success in fulfilling the mission of encouraging people with developmental disabilities to lead the lives they choose.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 23rd day of April, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor