

PRESS RELEASE

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Tax Collector Shines a Spotlight on Stop Child Abuse Specialty Tag

During the month of April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office will be partnering with *Pasco Kids First* to bring attention to the scourge of child abuse. *Pasco Kids First* is a countywide program that assists law enforcement in determining whether or not children have been abused or neglected. For 25 years *Pasco Kids First* has been providing these needed services, offering help and support to countless families in crisis. *Pasco Kids First* works closely with other community agencies to assess the needs of children and families through early intervention and community education with the goal of promoting a healthy and nurturing family environment.

The five branches of the Pasco County Tax Collectors Office will be promoting the *Stop Child Abuse* specialty license plate and the "Prevent Child Abuse" voluntary charitable donation check-off throughout the month of April. Additionally, any customer can stop in the office and make a cash donation if they wish, whether or not their vehicle registrations are coming up for renewal.

"*Pasco Kids First* is grateful to the entire tax collector team for their commitment to share the important message about child abuse prevention to Pasco County residents," states **Rick Hess, Executive Director** of *Pasco Kids First*. "Getting prevention right early is less costly to society and to individuals than trying to fix things later. We all play a role when it comes to the healthy development of our county's children."

"Each month our office chooses a charitable organization to highlight to help raise funds and awareness of its mission," **Tax Collector Mike Fasano states**. "In April we are proud to help shine a spotlight on child abuse, as well as *Pasco Kids First*, the agency that takes the lead in helping break the cycle of abuse. I encourage

anyone who may support the mission of *Pasco Kids First* to stop in and purchase a specialty tag or make a donation to this fine agency.”

Individuals who have automobile registration renewals coming due in April may choose to trade in their regular license plate for the Stop Child Abuse specialty tag. Customers may also purchase the tag for newly registered vehicles. Additionally, customers may also check the box on the back of their registration form to donate \$1.00 to the cause. Cash donations separate from vehicle registration and renewals will also be accepted.

For more information about the services provided by *Pasco Kids First* please contact Becky Bennett, Director of Development at 727-835-7962 or visit www.pascokidsfirst.org For details about the promotion or other services available at the *Pasco County Tax Collector's Office* please call Greg Giordano, Director of Customer Relations at 727-847-8179 or visit www.pascotaxes.com