



Story aired on the evening news on Friday, October 28th. To listen, follow this link and the story begins in the 29th minute of the program: 📻

Eckerd Family Foundation "Connected by 25"- Wilmer Ramirez

Friday, October 28, 2005

AS THE LEAD FUNDER, THE ECKERD FAMILY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED A NEW 1.3 MILLION PROGRAM TODAY FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH. GOVERNOR JEB BUSH JOINED IN TO TALK TO COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS ABOUT THE PRIVATELY FINANCED PROGRAM THAT WILL HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO "AGE OUT" OF FOSTER CARE AND TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD. WMNF'S REPORTER WILMER RAMIREZ WAS AT TODAY'S BRUNCH AND FILED THIS REPORT. "WOULD YOU OPEN A DOOR FOR ME" WAS THE TITLE OF AN OPENING VIDEO PRESENTED TO COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO PRESENT THE HARSH REALITY OF FOSTER YOUTH AS THEY TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD. AFTER HER APPEARANCE IN THE VIDEO, KRYSTAL HARPER, A FOSTER CHILD HERSELF, TALKED TO THE LARGE CROWD ABOUT HER PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS SHE AGED OUT OF FOSTER CARE... ACT... THE PROGRAM, CONNECTED 25 IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MUST LEAVE THE CHILD-WELFARE SYSTEM WHEN THEY TURN 18. KRYSTAL TALKED HOW THE PROGRAM OPENED A DOOR FOR HER AND HOW SHE BECAME INVOLVED... ACT... GOVERNOR JEB BUSH JOINED IN TODAY'S BRUNCH AND TALKED ABOUT THE ADOPTION INITIATIVE AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE ROLES BUSINESSES CAN PLAY IN BECOMING PART OF THIS PROGRAM... ACT... GOVERNOR BUSH EMPHASIZED HOW ANYBODY CAN OPEN UP A DOOR FOR SOMEBODY... ACT... HE CLOSED BY STATING A QUOTE AND ENCOURAGING EVERYONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ACT... AFTER TODAY'S BRUNCH, LISA AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO HILLSBOROUGH KIDS TOLD US WHAT SHE WENT THROUGH AND HOW THIS PROGRAM WILL HELP FUTURE GENERATIONS... ACT... CONNECTED 25 WILL LINK FOSTER YOUTHS BY AGE 25 TO BANKS, EDUCATION, HOUSING, JOBS, AND OTHER SUPPORT SYSTEMS TO HELP THEM BECOME SUCCESSFUL ADULTS. FOR WMNF I'M WILMER RAMIREZ

FMI CONNECTED BY 25 - 401 East Palm Avenue/ Tampa, FL 33602

FMI www.Cby25.org

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