

Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. Helen Gordon Davis, former Florida State Representative and Senator, is one such person; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated advocate for the civil rights of women, children and minorities, she has worked tirelessly with numerous organizations throughout Florida on their behalf; and

WHEREAS, her impact on the Tampa Bay area has been particularly significant. Recognizing the need for a center that could help women deal with the emotional and financial trauma of divorce, widowhood, or separation, then State Representative Davis led the way in 1978 to found the Women's Survival Center, today known as The Centre for Women, which today continues to assist those most in need through neighborhood services, collaboration and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, helping establish the first Displaced Homemaker Program at The Centre for Women, Senator Davis also co-sponsored legislation state-wide, ensuring that women who were affected by these life-changing events were able to receive peer counseling, job training, and support to help them enter the job market. She later sponsored additional legislation establishing the Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund from marriage license fees and divorce filing fees, a funding process that continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, through her continued commitment and dedication, The Centre for Women has become a vital non-profit service provider in our community, offering hope and providing the tools for successful and independent lives to women, elderly and children through such projects as the Senior Home Improvement Program, Project Recovery, The Centre for Girls, additional counseling through the Family Service Association, and many others; and

WHEREAS, recognized by the Florida Senate earlier this year for her vision and pioneering efforts, the City of Tampa is honored to join The Centre for Women in congratulating Senator Davis for this honor and in paying tribute to her for all she has done for the citizens of our city.

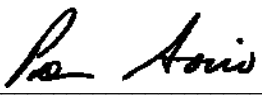
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 16, 2008 as

"HELEN GORDON DAVIS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in acknowledging the profound impact her efforts have had on improving the quality of life for all citizens of our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 16th day of October, 2008.





Mayor