



PRESS RELEASE

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Tax Collector Mike Fasano Announces April Will Be "Lauren's Kids" Charitable Giving Month

Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano announces that *Lauren's Kids* will be the tax collector's featured charitable organization for the month of April. *Lauren's Kids* is an organization that works with local school districts to prevent childhood sexual abuse through education & awareness. Additionally, *Lauren's Kids* helps heal survivors with guidance and support. *Lauren's Kids* was started in 2007 by **Lauren Book**, now a state senator and herself a victim of years of childhood sexual abuse by a trusted caregiver. **Senator Lauren Book** has taken her own experiences and has turned them into an opportunity to help children find hope and healing.

The **Pasco County Tax Collector's Office** will promote the *Lauren's Kids* specialty license plate and charitable check-off during the month of April. It is estimated that 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys in the United States are sexually abused before the age of 18. A staggering 90% of the victims personally know the predator who preys on them. Sadly, it is estimated that 30% of childhood sexual abuse is never reported.

Individuals who have vehicle registrations coming due in April can trade-in their existing license plate for a *Lauren's Kids* specialty plate. Customers may also purchase the tag for newly registered vehicles. Customers who purchase a specialty tag will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. Additionally, customers may also check the box on the back of their registration form to donate a specific dollar amount to the cause. Cash donations separate from vehicle registration and renewals will also be accepted.

"The **Pasco County Tax Collector's Office** has been an invaluable partner in the fight to prevent child sexual abuse and help survivors heal since 2015," states **Senator Lauren Book**, Founder of *Lauren's Kids*. "Their commitment to community service and the safety of all is reflected in their work with *Lauren's Kids*, and we are so grateful to have their continued support in the fight to protect childhood."

“I encourage customers to consider supporting the excellent work that **Senator Lauren Book** and her organization do to help children heal from dreadful abuse,” **Tax Collector Mike Fasano** comments. “**Senator Book** estimates that 95% of sexual abuse is preventable through education and awareness. It is an honor for the **Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office** to once again team with *Lauren’s Kids* to train a new generation of children about this crime and how they may find help and healing if they do become victims of it. Your purchase of a specialty tag or a donation in any amount to *Lauren’s Kids* will make a world of difference to a hurting child in our community.”

The specialty tag and the check-off promotion run through the month of April. Contributions to *Lauren’s Kids* can be made at all five tax collector locations in Pasco County: **Wesley Chapel** (COMPARK 75 – 4610 Pet Lane), **Gulf Harbors** (US Highway 19, New Port Richey), **Land O’ Lakes** (north of the Central Pasco Government Center), **East Pasco Government Center** (Dade City) and the **West Pasco Government Center** (Little Road, New Port Richey). Contributions can also be added to renewals that are processed via the mail. For more information about the charitable giving program and/ or the specialty tag/ check-off promotion, please contact **Assistant Tax Collector Greg Giordano** at 727-847-8179. For more information about *Lauren’s Kids* please visit www.LaurensKids.org

Please visit www.pascotaxes.com for additional information about all services provided by the **Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office**, including addresses, phone numbers and other information that may be helpful.

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