

FLORIDA Women™ MAGAZINE

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Central Florida Edition

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Caregiver's
Helping Hand, Inc.

By Deborah Bostock-Kelley

Caregivers Helping Hand Inc. Gives Baby Shower to Hillsborough County Moms-to-Be on Public Assistance

The "14th Annual Day of Pampering" is Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ragan Park, 1200 East Lake Avenue, Tampa. Guests can register on Eventbrite at [momstobe2023.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/momstobe2023) or text 813.431.1814.

For more information, please contact Richedeon Hills-Ackbar at caregiverstampa@gmail.com or via text/call (813) 431-1814.

Sometimes, compassion's ripple effect can span a lifetime. In the 1990s, Richedeon Hills-Ackbar, a single mother, experienced the kindness of receiving two baby showers during her time of need. This profound gesture of support inspired her to extend a helping hand to other mothers facing similar circumstances.

In 2009, the "Annual Day of Pampering for Moms-To-Be" was born. Now, after 14 years, Richedeon and community volunteers have impacted the lives of countless expectant mothers through her nonprofit, Caregiver's Helping Hand, Inc.

On Saturday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the nonprofit hosts the "Annual Day of Pampering for Moms-To-Be" at Ragan Park. Made possible by sponsorship from Rebein Brothers Trail Lawyers, this community baby shower welcomes all Hillsborough County mothers-to-be on public assistance. The event extends its inclusivity to Dads-to-be, Grandmas-to-be, big-brothers-to-be, and big-sisters-to-be.

With horrific stories in the news of infant abuse, Richedeon provides invaluable resources to empower new mothers. Recognizing the challenges that can arise without a support network, she arranges for community speakers to provide guidance and preparation for the journey of parenthood.

Addressing the importance of safety, Richedeon emphasizes the need to leave potentially harmful situations and advocates against leaving children with those who might pose a risk. Her mission is to grant young mothers a sense of self-sufficiency, as tasks that may seem simple to some—like budgeting—can prove challenging for those without experience. Financially strained mothers often lack the know-how to budget for essentials like diapers or formula.

Expectant mothers attending the event will enjoy complimentary food, engaging activities, and informative workshops. Richedeon's goal is to offer resources from various agencies and essential items that parents may require for their newborns.

Belly painters, prenatal massages, blankets from the Linus Project, and a custom-made diaper cake made with love by Richedeon are some of the free services and gifts for moms-to-be.

"The shower will include resources to different agencies that support parents and items new parents may need like book bags for the Dads filled with items needed for an outing like diapers, wipes, blankets, bottles, and change of clothing," said Richedeon. "We are trying to give moms-to-be a good start to parenting their newborns by showing kindness in their time of need. Someone once gave me. I'm just giving back."

Reflecting on the driving force behind her work and the most gratifying comment she's heard from her guests over the last fourteen years as an event and nonprofit founder, Richedeon simply answered, "Thank you."

Caregiver's Helping Hand, Inc. accepts gently used and new items for newborns, babies, and toddlers.

Items needed include newborn diapers, baby bags, pacifiers, socks, blankets, hats, t-shirts, headbands, rattles, bottles, teething toys, strollers, mobiles, baby wipes, lotion, shampoo, powder, crib sheets, baby swings, baby monitors, and bottle warmers, etc.



Deborah Bostock-Kelley, founder of WriteOne Creative Services since 2005, excels as a graphic and web designer, PR copywriter, and playwright. A recipient of the Gobiuff Foundation Grant, Tampa Bay Theatre Festival Denise Deneen Award, and Theatre Tampa Bay Jeff Norton Dream Grant, she's renowned for her socially impactful one-acts and full-length plays across Tampa Bay's stages. She's also a Marketing Director for PowerStories Theatre, a Broadway World theatre reviewer, and a journalist for several local magazines. Beyond her professional pursuits, Deborah champions charitable causes through her grassroots variety showcase, *Life Amplified*, raising awareness on issues like human trafficking, bullying, and LGBTQ rights. She is an invisible illness warrior who proves you don't have to be your diagnosis. www.thewriteonecs.com