PhoneFriend

Community Concerns:
Due to society's changing structure over 40,000 children in Hillsborough County are regularly given the responsibility of caring for themselves.

PhoneFriend was designed to meet the needs of families in this situation by providing social contact assistance and reassurance for both children and their parents.

Many children are in self care after school when a parent or adult cannot be with them. Today this situation is increasing in our community at a rate of 5% annually. For this reason Northside Mental Health Center sponsors the PhoneFriend Program.

For More Information Call: Northside Mental Health Center PhoneFriend Program 12512 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 977-8700 ext. 357

681-OLIE
(6543)

“A voice For Kids To Call On”
PhoneFriend
A toll-free after-school phoneline for children to call for information and support, sponsored by Northside Mental Health Center.

- To provide support and information for children at home in self-care.
- To provide homework assistance, using textbooks provided by the Hillsborough County School System.
- To provide support to families with latchkey situations.
- To refer children to other agencies, if needed.
- To provide listening and activity ideas for children who are feeling lonely, fearful, bored or concerned.
- To provide trained volunteers to listen, communicate and encourage callers.

Other Services
During the summer months PhoneFriend offers interesting stories, riddles, jokes or timely information to callers on a 24 hour story and joke line. The stories and the jokes change weekly to inspire the children to call.

Operating Hours
Children can talk with a PhoneFriend on instructional school days:

Monday- Thursday 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Fridays - 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

This one-of-a-kind program receives all of its funding from private & corporate donations, grants and the Auxiliary of Northside Mental Health Center.

Northside Mental Health Center is a not-for-profit corporation which provides a full range of innovative and high quality mental health programs.

Services include:
- Outpatient counseling for individuals and families
- Specialized Treatment Services for abused and neglected children
- TANF/WAGES mental health overlay
- Outpatient Clinical Case Management Service
- Family and School Support Teams
- Family Intervention Services
- Psychiatric Services for adults and children
- Centralized Case Management
- Medication Case Management
- Intensive Case Management
- Forensic Program
- Co-Occurring Services
- Day Treatment Program
- Supported Employment
- Social Network Program
- Supported Housing Case Management
- Supported Living