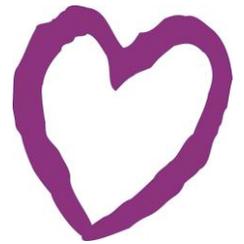




Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

**FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTERS**



Brandon Success Story

A Safe Place



5 Protective Factors: Concrete Support in Times of Need

Children's Board Family Resource Centers are funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and administered by the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County. Managing partners include: Champions for Children, Children's Home Network, Family Community Advisory Councils, REACHUP, Inc. and St. Joseph's Children's Wellness and Safety Center.

All programs and services are at no charge to families and individuals.



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In July 2016, Daniela, her husband, Mario, and their four month old daughter, Mia, arrived from overseas. Through online research, Daniela's sister found that the Children's Board Family Resource Centers offered a Mobile Medical Clinic which provided physicals and vaccinations at no cost through St. Joseph's Children's Wellness and Safety Center. Wanting to make sure that Mia was up to date with her vaccinations, they made an appointment in August of 2016.

Daniela explains, "The country from where we came had no running water or electricity. I had a newborn and I couldn't cook food or bathe her! There was a shortage of vaccinations and the vaccinations that were available were not up to date."

For this reason, she made it a priority to come to the Mobile Medical Clinic at the Brandon Center as soon as possible. During their visit, they completed an Ages and Stages Questionnaire with Luis Diaz, a child development specialist. They were relieved to know that she is developmentally on track. Surprisingly, the one thing that made a difference in Mia's life was receiving developmental toys at her appointments. Daniela adds, "We did not have any toys – we couldn't bring much when we came. So it has been wonderful that every time we came to the Mobile Medical Clinic, Mia received a new developmental toy! We had everything that we needed – just not any toys for her."

Overcome with emotion, Daniela shares the difficult situation that her family was experiencing and the choice they made to come to the United States. After giving birth, Mia's welfare became her whole life. Sadly, she decided to close her dental clinic because they did not have a future in their country. In thinking about when they arrived, she recounts, "The first two months were really difficult. But coming to the Mobile Medical Clinic wasn't just a help – this was more than that – when I come here, we feel safe...in this country, we feel safe. In my country, where I have the possibility of having everything but I had to run because we didn't have anything, this country gave us hope!"

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