

NEWS RELEASE

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ST. PETERSBURG AND BRADENTON NAMED AMONG BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

TAMPA BAY, FL (September 28, 2005) – The Tampa Bay communities of St. Petersburg and Bradenton were named this week among the “**100 Best Communities for Young People**” by America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth.

St. Petersburg and Bradenton were selected from a field of 1,200 communities in this first-ever national competition celebrating outstanding, innovative efforts across the country that improve the well-being of young people. The “100 Best” winners were chosen by a distinguished selection panel of civic, business and nonprofit leaders who evaluated each community based on the city’s efforts to fulfill five essential promises critical to the well-being of young people: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others.

“We’re proud that Bradenton and St. Petersburg have been recognized for their efforts to create healthy and supportive environments for our children,” said Stuart L. Rogel. “Like America’s Promise, the communities of Tampa Bay know that building strong and healthy communities – good places to do business and good places to raise families – benefits us all.”

America’s Promise is a broad-based alliance whose members work together to ensure the well-being of children and youth. Founded by retired General Colin L. Powell, the America’s Promise Alliance includes nonprofit, corporate and community groups as well as individuals across the nation.

About Tampa Bay Partnership:

The Tampa Bay Partnership is the regional organization that works with its partners to market the region nationally and internationally, to conduct regional research, and to coordinate efforts to influence business and government issues that impact regional growth and development. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership markets and advocates on behalf of the communities of Tampa Bay which include Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Lakeland, Sarasota/Bradenton and the counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

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