



For Immediate Release:  
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**Dozens of Schools in Hillsborough County Embark on Program to Build, Decorate and Donate Rain Barrels for their Communities**

(Tampa) Barrels by the Bay, a non-profit organization committed to educating individuals about conservation and sustainability, has teamed up with Coca-Cola Beverages Florida (Coke Florida) and the CVS Health Foundation to launch the Barrels by the Bay Tampa Project on Friday, January 12, 2018. Forty classrooms throughout Hillsborough County public and private schools will participate in the school program to convert recycled Coke Florida syrup drums into colorful rain barrels to help their local waterways.

Syrup drums and rain barrel conversion kits will be distributed to nearly 40 registered classrooms in Hillsborough County, Florida at the Coke Florida Headquarters on Friday, January 12 from 2:30PM to 4:30PM. The Tampa Project gives students of all ages the opportunity to learn more about their local waterways and how stormwater runoff concerns can be minimized through the use of rain barrels. In addition to the barrels, participating teachers will be provided all painting, education, and installation materials for the project. All painted rain barrels will be installed into local infrastructure of the classrooms' choosing, helping to protect their community's water resources.

"The Tampa Bay is an integral part of the Hillsborough County community, and we are committed to engaging and inspiring students to protect the Bay through the Barrels by the Bay Tampa Project. The students participating in our program are brightening rain barrels to improve water conservation efforts and sustainability throughout their communities. The student's participation as the next generation of change makers will expand their awareness of the importance of their community's waterways", Megan Rosenberger, President and Founder.

"At Coke Florida, it's our responsibility and privilege to make a positive difference for our consumers, communities and environment," said Erin Black, Coke Florida's Vice President, Risk Management and Sustainability. "That is why we place priority on water stewardship and commit to do our part to conserve, restore and replenish our local water supplies. We're excited to continue to partner with conservation partners such as Barrels by the Bay to create local rain barrel workshops and community education opportunities."

Please visit [www.barrelsbythebay.org](http://www.barrelsbythebay.org) to learn more about the Barrels by the Bay Tampa Project.

## **The Barrels by the Bay Story**

After a devastating rainfall flooded her hometown community, Megan Rosenberger began to educate her community about rain barrels and their positive impact on pollution and flooding reduction. In March 2015 while a midshipman at the US Naval Academy, Megan founded Barrels by the Bay, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate individuals about world's water resources.

Since its founding in 2015, Barrels by the Bay has reached nearly 10,000 participants in five states and Washington, D.C., reducing as much as 16 million gallons of potentially contaminated rainwater runoff annually. The Tampa Project marks the eight school program for the Barrels by the Bay team. For more information about Barrels by the Bay, visit [www.barrelsbythebay.org](http://www.barrelsbythebay.org). Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/barrelsbythebay](https://www.facebook.com/barrelsbythebay), Twitter [www.twitter.com/barrelsbythebay](https://www.twitter.com/barrelsbythebay) and [www.instagram.com/barrelsbythebay](https://www.instagram.com/barrelsbythebay).

## **About Coca-Cola Beverages Florida**

Coca-Cola Florida, headquartered in Tampa, is one of the largest privately held, independent Coca-Cola bottlers in the United States. The company employs over 4,600 associates and serves customers, consumers and communities across the Sunshine State. As the local steward of the world's most complete non-alcoholic ready-to-drink portfolio of consumer-centric beverages and brands, including over 600 unique products and twenty billiondollar brands, Coca-Cola Florida is fully committed to delivering mutually beneficial value propositions to its local partners and being an integral part of every community it serves. For more information, visit [www.cocacolaflorida.com](http://www.cocacolaflorida.com).

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