

PRESS RELEASE

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***Pasco Tax Collector Mike Fasano  
Announces the Launch of  
“Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation  
Check-off Month”***

**Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano** announces that the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation will be the tax collector’s featured charitable organization for the month of May. Nationally, the month of May is recognized as “Better Hearing & Speech Month.” The purpose of the month is to help bring attention to hearing and speech issues. Locally, the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation is the key to providing hearing and speech services to children throughout the county and state. Sertoma reports that hearing loss is the number one birth defect in America with 3 out of every 1000 children being born with some level of hearing loss.

The Pasco County Tax Collector will promote the Children’s Hearing Help Fund charitable check-off. The Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation is a Pasco County-based organization that assists deaf and hard-of-hearing babies and children succeed through the use of technology and other means. In Pasco County alone 13,000 students are screened for hearing loss by audiologists affiliated with Sertoma and All Children’s Hospital. Additionally, for those children who do need hearing aid technology, Sertoma assists in providing new devices as children grow as well as batteries to keep the hearing aids functioning.

Customers who wish to support the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation may check-off the box on their license renewal and/or auto registration forms to contribute \$1 or more to the fund. Cash donations will also be accepted by the tax collector.

“Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation’s Children’s Hearing Help Fund is extremely grateful that the Pasco County Tax Collector, Mike Fasano, has agreed to promote the voluntary check off on driver licenses and motor vehicle registrations in their 4 locations in Pasco County for the month of May,” states Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation **Executive Director Craig McCart**. “May is Better Hearing & Speech Month and is a wonderful opportunity to promote our services and encourage those who are applying or renewing a driver licenses or vehicle registrations to add a dollar to their fees to support the Children’s Hearing Help Fund. The Children’s Hearing Help Fund assists hard of hearing babies and children to avoid a life of isolation so they can hear the world around them, succeed personally, academically and socially.”

“I encourage customers to consider supporting this excellent charity,” **Tax Collector Mike Fasano** suggests. “Hearing loss can be devastating at any age, but in a newborn or small child it can hinder their development and ability to succeed in life. The services provided by the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation’s Children’s Hearing Help Fund have made the lives of countless children better. Your donation of any amount will assist children in being able to live their lives to the fullest.”

The check-off promotion runs through the month of May. Contributions to the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation can be made at all four tax collector locations in Pasco County: New Port Richey, Gulf Harbors, Land O’ Lakes and Dade City. Contributions can also be added to renewals that are processed via the mail. For more information about the check-off promotion, please contact **Greg Giordano, Director of Customer Relations**, at the tax collector’s office: 727-847-8179.

Please visit [www.pascotaxes.com](http://www.pascotaxes.com) for additional information about services provided by the Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office.