

From: [Arellano, Joey](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Valdés to Host 'Period Drive' Event
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:22:17 PM
Attachments: [Final Flyer w Info .png](#)
[Final Flyer w scan.png](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2021

CONTACT

Sarah Foster
Office of State Representative Susan L. Valdés
Sarah.Foster@myfloridahouse.gov
813-673-4673

State Representative Susan L. Valdés to Host 'Period Drive' Event

TAMPA, Fla. – State Representative Susan L. Valdés (D-Tampa) in collaboration with Youtube personality Sharon “Just Sharon” Cancio will be hosting a ‘period drive’ Oct. 11- Oct. 22 to collect donations of feminine hygiene and sanitary products at her District Office in Tampa to distribute to those in need. This will be her first year hosting the event.

“In 2021 it is staggering that individuals in need do not have access to basic hygiene products,” said **Representative Valdés**. “Education plays a vital role in de-stigmatizing this normal human bodily process.”

The event partners offered the following statements:

"The problem is people don't talk about periods enough. Even though they're completely natural, it's still seen as a taboo subject. This lack of communication and education can lead to low self-esteem, feelings of embarrassment and shame, and even period poverty. If one is afraid to talk about their period, how could they ask for help?" said Sharon Cancio, known as “*Just Sharon*,” a full-time Youtube content creator with 525,000 subscribers.

"We are honored that the office of Rep. Susan Valdés is working to eradicate period poverty by hosting a period product donation drive this month. Florida, like many areas around the United States, suffers from the under-addressed crisis of period poverty. We applaud Representative Valdés and Sharon Cancio, her partner in these efforts, for tackling this issue,” said Michela Bedard, Executive Director, PERIOD, a global youth-fueled nonprofit that strives to eradicate period poverty and stigma.

"Equality Florida understands that reproductive health and LGBTQ rights are causes in common and everyone should have access to reproductive health care", said

Yordanos Molla, Deputy Field Director at Equality Florida. "Menstrual hygiene products are a vital resource for women, girls, and trans and non-binary people, especially those impacted by homelessness.

"Access to essential hygiene products like tampons and pads are a health care necessity for all people who menstruate. We are proud to support the Period Drive in their efforts to make period products accessible for everyone who needs them," said Stephanie Fraim, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida.

"Access to basic necessities, including hygiene products, is vital for good health outcomes. The Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County is happy to support the Period Drive – as it is an important initiative to increase access for women and girls in our community," said Allison Nguyen, Program Manager Office of Health Equity, DOH-Hillsborough.

"Empowered people empower others. If you are fortunate enough to be in a position to give back, don't pass up the opportunity. In efforts to promote such a worthwhile cause, we are inspired to host a drive of our own as well," said Mary Osada, President of GFWC Tampa Women of Change, member of the General Federation of Women's Club.

"A woman shouldn't have to choose between feeding herself and her personal health. Every woman should have the ability to maintain her dignity. ISTG-Tampa Bay is doing the work so that woman don't have to make such choices," said Nancy Blount, Affiliate Director of I Support the Girls - Tampa Bay, a nonprofit organization that has donated over 15.2 million products to 3,200 different social service organizations in six years.

WHEN: 10/11/21-10/22/21 Monday through Friday 10 a.m. -4 p.m.

WHAT: Donation drive collecting feminine hygiene products such as pads, tampons, panty liners, menstrual cups, sanitary wipes

WHERE: Office of State Representative Susan L. Valdés
2221 North Himes Ave Suite B
Tampa, FL 33607

###