



THE MCS INSIDER

The official newsletter of
Manatee Children's Services, Inc



Our History and Mission

"To advocate for and provide the resources, skills, and shelter to alleviate abuse through prevention and intervention for all children and their families."

Manatee Children's Services was founded in 1977 by Carol Chamberlain: a librarian, teacher, and social worker with a passion for child advocacy. Through her work in social services, Carol learned that Manatee County had a dire need for shelter to house abused children removed from their homes. She rallied a group of citizens to make the shelter a reality and, to this day, MCS continues to operate as Manatee County's only emergency shelter for child victims of abuse and the county's only Child Advocacy Center.

We provide a full spectrum of programs serving over 16,000 children and families annually. We offer programs in treatment, prevention, intervention, and residential services. Such programs include an emergency shelter, long-term group homes, mental health services, parenting education and training, forensic medical and specialized child victim interview services, support services for relative caregivers, teen pregnancy prevention, and children's personal safety. Visit our [website](https://www.mcsfl.com) to learn more.

In this edition:

- **September Child Abuse Prevention Series**
- **Meet the New MCS Residential Director**
- **Residential Program Events**
- **GAP Back-to-School Drive Recap**
- **MCS in the Community**
- **Community Spotlight of the Month**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SEPTEMBER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SERIES

To register, please visit our Eventbrite invitation: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/signs-of-child-maltreatment-how-to-identify-and-ask-the-right-questions-tickets-406807019747>



SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 11:00 A.M. TO 12:30 PM SIGNS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT: HOW TO IDENTIFY ABUSE AND ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

Please join us for an information session as part of our ongoing Child Abuse Prevention Series funded by the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation. In this session, participants will learn how to identify signs of physical abuse, such as behavioral changes and physical symptoms. Participants will also learn how to use open-ended questions when speaking with children about possible abuse.



Presented by:

Kimberly Griffin, MSW
Child Protection Team
Coordinator

Kimberly Griffin holds a master's degree in social work and began her career with MCS in 2007 as Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator. In 2012 she became Case Coordinator for the Child Protection Team (CPT), conducting forensic interviews with children when abuse and neglect were suspected. Ms. Griffin currently oversees the MCS Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team and the Child Protection Team.

Click [here](#) to register
through
Eventbrite.com

For questions, please contact
Krista Post, Development
Coordinator: kristap@mcsfl.com

LOCATION:

RAYMOND JAMES
LAKEWOOD RANCH

8120 Lakewood Main St.
Suite 201
Bradenton, FL 34202

*Tiffanee
McNair*

W E L C O M E

TO OUR TEAM



MCS is happy to welcome our new Residential Director, Tiffanee McNair.

Tiffanee graduated from the University of Florida with bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in education. Upon graduating, she immediately began working in the field as a Caseworker Team Lead for the Safe Children Coalition for five years. While working at the SCC, Tiffanee continued to pursue her education and earned her master's degree in counseling from Webster University. In the pursuit of obtaining her master's, she dedicated her time as an intern for Volunteers of America for two years. Next, she began her career with HOPE Family Services, Manatee County's domestic violence agency. During her 16-year career with HOPE, she worked as a children's counselor and Interim Shelter Director while raising her son, along with a niece and nephew who came into her care.

"What I like most about working with MCS so far is the support I get from my coworkers," Tiffanee said. "What I'm looking forward to most about working here is seeing how the lives of the lives of these families will be positively impacted from the work we do."

With deep roots in her faith and spiritual life, Tiffanee has always been a strong believer in the philosophy that "it takes a village" to raise children. She has helped start numerous youth and sports nonprofit organizations and has served on the board of many local youth sports and religious organizations in the community. Tiffanee believes her love and passion to help children has always been her purpose and calling.

"Children are young, naïve, and impressionable," Tiffanee said, "and it's our job to protect them at all costs."



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM CELEBRATES "FAMILY FUN MONTH"

August was "Family Fun Month," a time that serves as a reminder to take a break and celebrate special family memories together. This is especially important during a time of high stress with Back-to-School. Family Fun Month also acknowledges the diversity that exists within the term "family," from single-parent and double-parent households, blended families, adopted and foster families, and LGBTQ families.

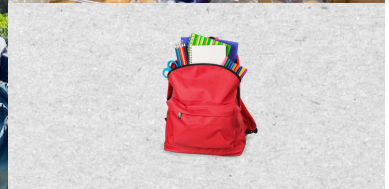
Children and staff in the MCS residential program enjoyed the final days of summer break with a park outing to GT Bray for picnicking and playtime. They loved the food, fun, and spending quality time together. They also bonded through educational group sessions led by Madison and Hilda from Selah Freedom who educated the girls in our Girls Group Home about human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Since foster youth are a high-risk population for trafficking, prevention and education are key. Manatee Children's Services is happy to partner with Selah to gain awareness and help protect the youth in our care.



GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS' BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP

MCS staff and clients had a wonderful time celebrating the first in-person Grandparents as Parents (GAP) support group since before the pandemic. Caregivers received backpacks from Tiny Hands, school supplies from Sisterhood for Good and in-kind community donations, and gift cards. They were also able to bond with one another through lunch and comradery.

GAP, a prevention program for kinship caregivers, provides support, mentoring, and resources to caregivers who are raising grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or other relative children after removal from the home due to abuse or neglect.



MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Manatee "Youth at Risk" Program Open House

MCS hosted our first open house since before the pandemic, and we are happy to say it was a great success! Thank you to all who attended.

The open house was a recognition and celebration of the Manatee "Youth at Risk" program, a multidisciplinary team approach in which professionals with similar goals and specializations provide intervention for children ages 10-17 who are at risk of first-time or repeated criminal charges, residential facility placement, mental health crises, and/or removal from the home due to behavioral issues.

Our open house also recognized the Equity Access grant from the Verena and Peter Gowa Fund II of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Inc., Unrestricted Fund. We are so grateful for this gift from these wonderful funders.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

of Sarasota County



OPEN
HOUSE

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Columbus Painting, LLC

MCS would like to recognize Columbus Painting, L.L.C., for going above and beyond in dedicating their labor and resources to painting our Child Protection Team building last month.

Jacob Columbus, owner of Columbus Painting, is a fellow member of the local Business Network International (BNI) group. When he heard about our need for new paint, he immediately felt the urge to help. CPT often serves as the first stop for victimized children and families, so a warm, welcoming environment is imperative in helping clients feel at ease.

Columbus, founded in 2006, is a full service painting company specializing in residential interior and exterior painting services. Jacob's advice to customers is, "Don't 'brush' me off and risk your paint peeling off." Thank you, Jacob, for your outstanding service to our community.



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Click on links below to view our website and follow us on social media:

