

November 2022



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 12,000 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:

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- **Giving Tuesday 2022: Save the Date**

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!!!

MANATEE WHISKEY SOCIETY'S CASINO NIGHT

Please join us and the Manatee Whiskey Society for this exciting fundraiser to benefit our programs at Manatee Children's Services! Tickets on sale NOW and are already selling quickly, so be sure to get your tickets and secure your seat. We are also looking for raffle prize donations, so please let us know if you are able to contribute a gift.

For tickets, visit: <https://mwscasinonight.eventbrite.com>

MANATEE WHISKEY SOCIETY PRESENTS



**DECEMBER 8,
2022**

**GOLD COAST
EAGLE
DISTRIBUTING**
7051 WIRELESS CT,
SARASOTA FL 34240



A NIGHT AT THE CASINO

\$100 PER PERSON

**INCLUDES COCKTAIL HOUR, LIGHT BITES, DINNER, DESSERT,
RAFFLES, WHISKEY VENDORS, GRAB BAGS, AND (1) STARTER CHIP PACK**

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

SPACE IS LIMITED! Reserve your tickets at: <https://mwscasinonight.eventbrite.com>

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MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY



MCS Receives Bradenton Police Department's 2022 Florida Contraband Forfeiture Fund Award Program

We at MCS are so proud to have been selected as one of ten organizations awarded with Bradenton Police Department's 2022 Florida Contraband Forfeiture Fund Award Program. This generous award of \$4,500 will support new curriculum materials to educate teens on substance use, "Darkness to Light" training for child sexual abuse prevention, and substance use screening tools for foster children.

Chief of Police Melanie Bevan awarded all ten organizations a total of more than \$30,000 in funding at the Bradenton City Council meeting on October 14, 2022.

The purpose of this program is to provide support to neighborhood agencies and organizations engaged in projects that seek to improve neighborhood safety, promote crime prevention, drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment services, or school resource officer programs. This goal is accomplished by funding neighborhood groups, associations, or organizations which have developed specific projects to address these areas of concern. The program is a highlight of Bradenton Police Department's unofficial motto, "One City, One Team," fostering relationships and investing in the future of our community.

The 2022 recipients included Boys & Girls Club of Manatee County, Inc., Bradenton Gladiators Football, Inc., Bradenton Police Department Explorer Post #1004, Drug Free Manatee, Making an Impact, Manatee Children's Services, Inc., Manatee County Girls Club, Inc. dba Just for Girls, New Manatee Broncos, Pace Center for Girls, and Replay Outreach, Inc.



Left: MCS Prevention Coordinator Jocina Newsome, Development Coordinator Krista Post, and BPD Chief of Police Melanie Bevan.

Below: 2022 Florida Contraband Forfeiture Fund Award recipients





MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Impact100 SRQ and Manatee Community Foundation

At their "Meet the Finalists" media event on October 19, Impact100 SRQ announced the ten nonprofit agency finalists that have a chance to receive \$110,500 in funding for a high-impact initiative in its 2022 giving year. MCS is so excited to have been selected as one of the ten finalists for our initiative, "Building Independent Living Through Transformative Upgrades" to fund much needed kitchen and laundry room upgrades in our Emergency Shelter. We are looking forward to the "Annual Celebration and Award Ceremony" on November 6 where each finalist will present their initiative and 663 voting members will select six final grant recipients.



We are incredibly grateful to the Manatee Foster Care Initiative Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation for their generous grant award to support new generators for the MCS Girls Group Home and Boys Group Home. Unfortunately, our homes experienced food loss during Hurricane Ian, but thanks to this much needed grant, we are now able to purchase backup generators to help avoid this scenario in the future and keep the children in our group homes more comfortable during power loss.





MCS HOLIDAY PROJECT

We invite you to bring joy to the lives of the children we serve by sponsoring a child in our annual Holiday Project. For only \$50, you can make a difference and be the reason for a child to smile this holiday season. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor in this important cause, please fill out the attached sponsor letter form and return it to us promptly at HolidayProject@mcsfl.com. Thank you in advance for your support!



I/we would like to sponsor _____ child/ren in need this holiday season.

Name of individual or business as applicable: _____

Contact person: _____ Telephone # _____ Other # _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

(Check if Applicable) ☐ we have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ for the MCS Holiday Project

You can also make a donation with a memo "Holiday Project" via PayPal to paypal.me/mcscac, the "donate" button on our website's [homepage](#), or by shopping on our [Amazon Wish List](#)

SUBMIT

Manatee Children's Services
1227 9th Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205
Fax: (941) 345-1212
HolidayProject@mcsfl.com
www.ManateeChildrensServices.com

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

kw SUNCOAST
KELLER WILLIAMS, REALTY

Robin Wentz: Keller Williams Suncoast

Robin Wentz, one of our most dedicated supporters, has been a realtor with Keller Williams Suncoast (formerly Keller Williams Manatee) for 14 years. During these years of building her real estate business, she formed a longtime friendship with our founder, Carol Chamberlain, who introduced her to our agency and mission.

After Carol died in 2018, Robin continued to honor her legacy by giving to MCS during one of the most difficult times for the children and families we serve: the MCS Holiday Project.

"When I became a member of the Community Outreach Committee at Manatee Association of Realtors and then when we combined associations with Sarasota, (now Realtor Assoc. of Sarasota and Manatee) we carried the message of the need to support the children of MCS to the realtors who work in the community," Robin said. "It was a project that many agents and business partners looked forward to every year and we were happy to participate in."



Keller Williams has a culture to give back to the communities they serve and loves working with their buyers and sellers to actively participate in philanthropy.

"We at KW Suncoast continue to look forward to bringing holiday cheer to those children and teens who have been in very difficult situations at MCS and need to be supported," Robin said.

SAVE THE DATE

Together we give.

Nov 29, 2022

GIVING
TUESDAY



MCS Child Advocacy Center
www.MCSFL.com



Giving Tuesday 2022 will be here before we know it. This year's focus is "Caregiving Through the Holidays," an initiative that will help MCS programs continue to support our hardworking caregivers through the holidays, a time when finances are especially challenging for them.



Manatee Children's Services, Inc.
A Child Advocacy Center
1227 9th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 812-9361
info@mcsfl.com

Your gift will help clients like "Martha," a grandmother who raised her grandchildren off and on since birth and became their permanent caregiver in 2016 when their mother died. "Martha" stated MCS Advocates offered extra support during the loss of her daughter and guided her through some of the hardest days of her life. She also said our support groups have been especially helpful in learning new information and talking to others with similar experiences in a group setting.

Please help MCS this Giving Tuesday by giving a gift to support our kinship caregivers through the holidays.

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

