

December 2022



THE MCS INSIDER: HOLIDAY EDITION

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](#) to learn more.

In this edition:

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"A NIGHT AT THE CASINO" IS ALMOST HERE!

We still have some tickets available and would love for you to join us at this fantastic event. What better way to kick off the holiday party season than experiencing a night in Vegas? You can BET it will be a great time!

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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GRATEFUL FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Hernando De Soto Historical Society: "Grandparents as Parents" Thanksgiving Feast

Each year, the Hernando De Soto Historical Society treats our GAP families to a Thanksgiving feast, complete with food, friendship, and - of course - their famous historic float!

Food assistance for GAP families is especially important since caregivers in GAP face financial strains from the added food, medications, energy usage, clothing, and other expenses incurred from raising children a second time around. Many of these families have also been impacted by Hurricane Ian, on top of rising food costs due to inflation. Our families are so grateful for this occasion to gather with MCS and other kinship caregivers.





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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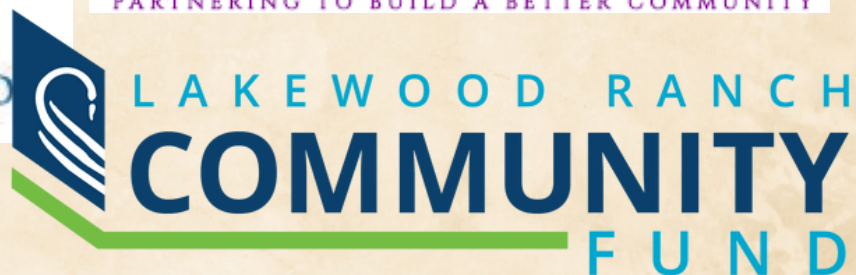


THANK YOU
FROM MCS:
HURRICANE IAN
RELIEF GRANT
FUNDING

Manatee Community Foundation, The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund, and Bishop Parker Foundation

MCS was the proud of THREE Hurricane Ian grant awards last month! Manatee Community Foundation and The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund supported our kinship caregivers who experienced food loss as a result of Hurricane Ian power outages. Thanks to their relief funding, MCS was able to assist these caregivers with food recovery.

MCS also received a grant in the amount of \$52,436 from the Bishop Parker Foundation to support new fences at the Emergency Shelter, Girls Group Home, and Boys Group Home. This need for new fencing is crucial as the existing fences had become a safety hazard due to gaps, damaged walls, and Hurricane Ian destruction. Because of our obligation to protect the foster children in our care from repeat abuse and threats to safety, all MCS residential facility addresses are classified as confidential locations; thus, exposed areas of fencing are particularly dangerous. Thanks to Bishop Parker, we will be able to replace our fences quickly with the best quality structures for privacy and durability.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce

The Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in May 1958 and has 330 members. The Chamber strives to make Longboat Key, Lido Key and St. Armands Key great places to do business while respecting the residential character of the keys.

Tourism is the Chamber's main business, and besides being the information center of the islands and providing networking opportunities for its members, the Chamber seeks ways to support the community. In fact, one of the best ways they have supported the community is by giving to the children and families served by MCS.

"We chose MCS to support at the holidays as you all do such great work with children who really need and deserve support, especially at Christmas," Longboat Key Chamber CEO/President Gail Loeftgren said. "We love this project as we know that the kids will have a much brighter holiday due to the generosity of our chamber members and our Ambassadors who spearhead this effort."



Gail Loeftgren and Andrew Vac of the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce raising money for MCS at their "Business After Hours" event.

Last year, the Longboat Key Chamber came through in a big way for MCS: after a phone call to Gail stating we still had 36 families in need of sponsorships, the Chamber came together and sponsored every single family within 24 hours! We are so grateful for this wonderful group and ask our community to support them in return by joining the Chamber and/or attending one of their events.

GIVING TUESDAY 2022



GIVING
TUESDAY

Together
we gave.



Thank You!

Every single person has the
power to change the world



November 29, 2022

Thank you to everyone who made Giving Tuesday 2022 a success during these tough financial times. Because of you, we are able to make lives brighter with "Caregiving Through the Holidays" for our kinship caregivers during a time when finances are especially challenging.

Over 2.6 million children enter care with family members when parents are unable to care for them. Your support for kinship care is crucial, as many caregivers face significant financial challenges in parenting a second time around.

If you weren't able to give yesterday, you can still make a difference. During Giving Season from November 15, 2022 to December 31, 2022, Meta will match up to \$7 million of eligible donations. By becoming a monthly donor during Giving Season, Meta may match the second donation made.

Please see link to MCS's monthly giving fundraiser:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/13093039865130>



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

