

April 2023

# THE MCS INSIDER

The official newsletter of  
Manatee Children's Services, Inc.



Child Abuse Prevention  
Month Edition

## *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](http://www.MCSFL.com) to learn more.

## In this edition:

- **"Cruisin for Charity" Spring Fundraiser**
- **New employee spotlights**
- **February Fun**
- **MCS in the Community**
- **"Pinwheel Pals" Monthly Giving**
- **Community Spotlight of the Month**

# SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY BECOMING A PINWHEEL SPONSOR



## PINWHEEL *Sponsorship* PROGRAM

### PACKAGE INCLUDES

- ✓ 15 pinwheels for your lawn
- ✓ Social media recognition
- ✓ A special framed photo for the top sponsor

### WHY PINWHEELS?

Since 1983, April has been recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness in helping break the cycle of child abuse. The pinwheel is designated as the national symbol for child abuse prevention to represent the happy, carefree childhood all children deserve.

FOR  
DONATIONS  
OF \$25 OR  
MORE



Sponsorships also  
accepted at  
[www.mcsfl.com/donate](http://www.mcsfl.com/donate)

# JOIN US IN THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



## DANCE FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

WEAR BLUE



### ZUMBA FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE

WITH CRUNCH INSTRUCTORS

DASHA, NINETH, CAMILLA, & KRISTA

\$20 Suggested donation

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND

10:30PM - 12:00PM

CRUNCH BEE RIDGE

RAFFLE PRIZES AND SPECIAL VIP "CHILD CAMEO"



Enjoy some delicious and nutritious frozen yogurt at Menchie's River Club Plaza AND help support April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. 15% of all fro-yo and cake sales from noon to 10 p.m. will go toward our programs and services dedicated to child abuse prevention when you mention Manatee Children's Services during your purchase.

Come out to support MCS and Child Abuse Prevention Month at Crunch Fitness's Zumba fundraiser. The event is free for all ages and fitness levels, with suggestion donations. All proceeds raised will benefit our programs and services dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse.

Enjoy a carnival theme with 90 minutes of dancing led by Crunch instructors Krista, Nineth, Dasha, and Camilla. Attendees will also have access to fun prizes and will be entered to win a free month at Crunch Fitness!



EVERY SPOONFUL COMES WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Tell a team member you're supporting Manatee Children's Services and 15% of your froyo cup and cake purchase will be donated.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6  
NOON - 10PM**



# "CRUISIN' FOR CHARITY" SPRING FUNDRAISER RECAP



Thank you to our wonderful vendors, hosts, volunteers, and community supporters for making our first exotic car show fundraiser a huge success. We had a great day filled with DJ entertainment by "TipFit," demos from STEM Martial Arts, food from BubbaQue's BBQ and Kona Ice, a bounce house from Obie's Party Rentals, a silent auction with bottles from Manatee Whiskey Society, and lots of coveted raffle prizes.



# MCS IN THE COMMUNITY



Parenting Coach Nadine Knapp represented Manatee Children's Services at the City of Bradenton Government's proclamation on March 22 for April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Thank you to the City of Bradenton for honoring this important cause.



Chief Executive Officer Melinda Thompson, along with MCS Therapist Paula Styles and Board Chair Bill Tojaker, attended the City of Holmes Beach proclamation on March 28. Thank you, Holmes Beach, for your efforts to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month through your proclamation.

# FUN IN RESIDENTIAL WITH S.T.E.M. MARTIAL ARTS NINJA PARTY



Thank you to STEM Martial Arts for organizing this super fun "Ninja Party" for the foster children in our residential program. STEM Martial Arts aims to reach children through martial arts and fitness programs with the word of God. STEM teaches Biblical life skills in every class and give practical life lesson examples to help them work through the challenges they may face. STEM programs are completely free to at-risk and foster youth.



# ABOUT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Since 1983, April has been recognized as a time to raise awareness about child abuse and emphasize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Prevention services and supports that emerge from this collaboration can help protect children and strengthen families.

Community support is essential in helping MCS continue to provide education and respite to child victims of abuse and those at risk of becoming victimized. We our community joining us in this important cause.

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

