

March 2023

# 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](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**

# OUR SPRING FUNDRAISER IS ALMOST HERE!

JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD, MUSIC BY DJ "TIPFIT," PHOTO OPS WITH EXOTIC CARS, RAFFLE PRIZES, SILENT AUCTION, AND LOTS OF FUN KIDS' ACTIVITIES. SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP.

## MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

# CRUISIN' FOR CHARITY

A CAR SHOW FUNDRAISER TO HELP BREAK  
THE CYCLE OF CHILD ABUSE

MARCH  
11  
2023



CLICK HERE TO RSVP

FREE  
ADMISSION



## BUBBAQUE'S BBQ

6581 STATE ROAD 70 E, BRADENTON FL 34203

11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

50/50 RAFFLE

FOOD & BEER

BEST CAR AWARDS

RSVP THROUGH QR CODE ABOVE OR AT [HTTPS://FB.ME/E/4AXPVD2R8](https://fb.me/e/4axpvd2r8)



W E L C O M E

TO OUR TEAM



Noelle Penn:  
MCS  
Parenting  
Coach



MCS is proud to welcome our newest Parenting Coach, Noelle Penn. Noelle has prior experience as a Family Preservation Specialist in Michigan and a counselor with all school ages from elementary to college. She also worked as an adoption specialist and foster care trainer with Bethany Christian Services.

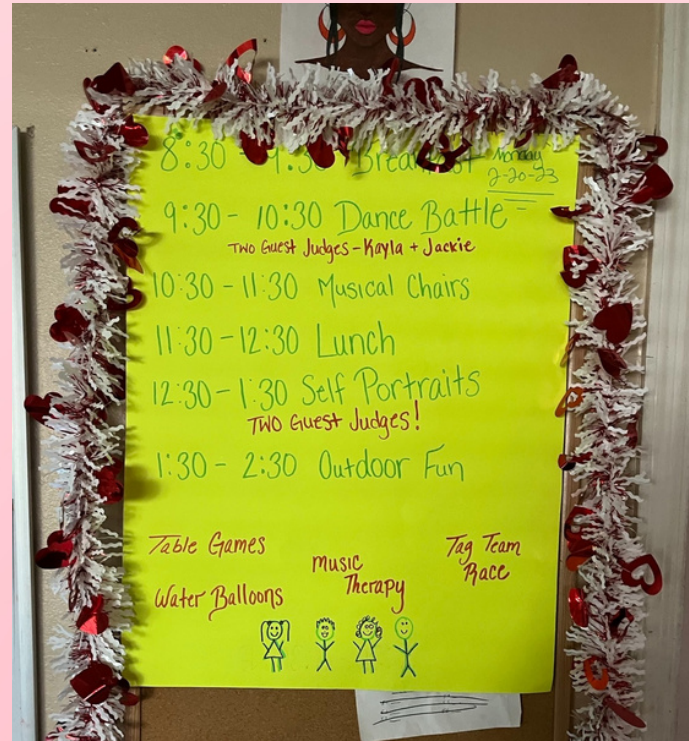
“My favorite jobs have been working with families and working as a college counselor because I really enjoy working with young adults,” Noelle said. “After meeting and interviewing with Gretchen Micheaux, I knew this team would be a perfect fit for me and was very hopeful I would be selected for the position. Luckily, it all worked out!”

Noelle is looking forward to gaining friendships on her team and seeing clients grow and learn in order to become better parents and advocate for themselves and their children.

# MCS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM: FUN FEBRUARY EVENTS



Thank you to our residential staff for always going above and beyond to make our foster children feel loved. Our male staff escorted these young ladies to the Daddy/Daughter dance, giving them an experience they'll never forget.



School holidays = fun filled activities for all. On President's Day, our staff planned a full day of events, allowing our "kids to be kids." As you can see, they had a great time on this long weekend!

# MCS IN THE COMMUNITY



Thank you to the The Parrish Foundation, Inc. for your grant award to support our Grandparents as Parents "Caregiving Through the Holidays." Your award will help us provide food to our kinship caregivers during the holidays, a time when finances are especially difficult. Our caregivers and our staff truly appreciate your support. (Pictured here: Krista Post, MCS Development Coordinator, with Mike Williamson, Board Chair of the Parrish Foundation Grant Fund.



Thank you to our generous community for donating snacks to our clinical team. The children receiving therapy in our "cottage" are often hungry as they come to appointments immediately before or after school. Your donations help them have healthy snacks so they can focus on healing.



MCS made the news with Suncoast FYI on SNN about what we do at Manatee Children's Services and our upcoming "Cruisin' for Charity" car show fundraiser. (Pictured here: Krista Post, MCS Development Coordinator, with Matt Billancia, President of Moving Warriors Media.

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



## *Adams Agency: Bob and Nicole Adams*

Meet Bob and Nicole Adams! Adams Agency got its start in 2018 when Farmers Insurance began doing business in Florida and Bob was one of the inaugural agents. Nicole helped him significantly along the way and became very familiar with Farmers and the business. As a result, Nicole acquired a different agency in March 2021. The two merged in November of 2022 and have been one big happy family ever since.

"One word I would use to describe our family is boisterous," Page said. "We have fun, we're loud, and a little nuts sometimes."

Bob and Nicole have been married for 27 years and have three children. Page, the oldest, works for the company and oversees day-to-day operations. Celia and her husband, Austin, share two beautiful daughters, Demi and Emma. Noah, the youngest, also worked for the company until November 2022 when he joined the U.S. Coast Guard.



"As a family-owned business, we believe that pouring into our community is the best way to give back," Page said. "We have many causes that are close to our hearts, but with young children in our family, we are passionate about the services that MCS provides and want to support their mission in whatever way we can. Investing is a good decision, investing in children is the best decision."

# MAKE GIVING SEASON LAST ALL YEAR WITH MONTHLY GIFTS

## MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES



## "PINWHEEL PALS" MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

### GIVING MONTHLY HELPS DAILY

EACH YEAR, WE GIVE SHELTER TO OVER 80 ABUSED CHILDREN. WE STRIVE TO MAINTAIN A SENSE OF NORMALCY FOR THEM DURING THIS MOST TRAUMATIC TIME BY CREATING POSITIVE MEMORIES DURING BIRTHDAYS, HOLIDAYS, AND SCHOOL BREAKS. FOR ONLY \$10 A MONTH, YOU CAN CHANGE THE LIFE OF ONE CHILD.

**\$10/  
MONTH**

A BIRTHDAY  
FOR A CHILD

**\$50/  
MONTH**

SUMMER CAMP  
FOR A CHILD

**\$100/  
MONTH**

ANNUAL MOVIE  
PASS FOR 5  
CHILDREN

**\$300/  
MONTH**

BIRTHDAYS FOR  
30 CHILDREN

FOR OTHER SPONSORSHIP LEVELS, CALL OR EMAIL US

**SIGN UP**



(941) 345-1200

info@mcsfl.com

<https://www.manateechildrengservices.com/donate/>

# JANUARY SUCCESS STORIES

We are so happy for our success stories last month. Because of support from our generous community, happy endings are a reality for the children and families we serve.



*Our therapists have been working hard to provide the best support to caregivers of abuse victims through our Non-Offending Caregiver (NOC) program, and it shows. "Tiffany" entered the NOC program as a single mother after her child was abused by her partner. Initially she did not believe or support her child after the abuse was disclosed, but after attending group sessions, Tiffany disclosed her own sexual abuse and lack of support. She realized this was a bad feeling and began to see the importance of supporting and protecting her child. Tiffany successfully completed all sessions in the program with a newfound mindset necessary to rebuild the relationship between her and her child.*



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