

June 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.

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IT'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

As we await our beloved Holiday Project in December, the children we serve have crucial needs in the summertime. Please consider a midyear gift of \$50 or more to support our most vulnerable populations.

We also invite you to join our giving community by becoming part of our Pinwheel Pals monthly giving program and making a difference year-round.



\$50 or more supports:

- ✓ Birthdays
- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Experiences
- ✓ Sports
- ✓ Arts and Music
- ✓ Back-to-School

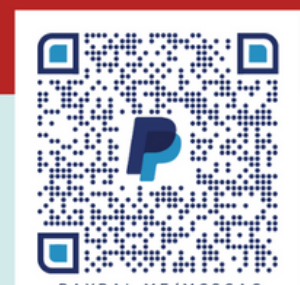
Giving Period:

July 1 through July 31, 2023

Payment via cash, check,
or PayPal



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MCS IN THE COMMUNITY



Board of Directors member LaVerne Routh and Development Coordinator Krista Post represented MCS at the Sisterhood for Good grant applicant expo. This event gave grant applicants a chance to showcase their nonprofits and discuss their grant initiatives. Thank you, Sisterhood For Good, for including us in the expo!



Thank you to the Church Women United for your wonderful donation and for inviting MCS to present our important programs and services to your group. Keep up the great work in our community!

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM CELEBRATIONS



We are so happy to celebrate the engagement and upcoming wedding of our residential staff members Hilary Tosch and Brandon Haynes. Congratulations, Hilary and Brandon, and we can't wait to see your love for one another continue to grow.



Residential Director Tiffanee McNair celebrated Mother's Day at her church with the foster children in our residential program. Thank you to these wonderful kiddos for making Tiffanee feel special this Mother's Day.





We are so happy to be selected for another year of support from the Service Club of Manatee with a \$10,000 grant to fund food and nutrition for the foster children in our residential program. We truly appreciate all you do for MCS.



Manatee Children's Services is the proud recipient of a grant award of \$3,585.00 from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Funding for this project will support the purchase of new donor management software, an important tool for nonprofit fundraising. We are so grateful for this opportunity and are excited to get started with our new software!



Thank you to the Manatee Community Foundation for your generous Hurricane Ian Grant Fund award. We are using these much needed funds to repair water damage to the ceiling of our conference room, as well as soffit and fascia repair to the front of our building. Stay tuned for before and after photos!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Manatee Children's Services is proud to recognize Dennis, Linda, and Ryan Frey, owners of Manatee Apparel, for their dedication to the children and families we serve. Dennis, a U.S. Marine veteran, and his wife Linda have been married for 37 years and have two grown children: Danielle and Ryan. Danielle is a teacher at Virgil Mills and Ryan joined the family business running the Screen-Printing Department after graduating from State College of Florida.



Started in 1987, Manatee Apparel offers screen-printing and embroidery. The shop has also recently branched out to become a one-stop shop for businesses, schools, and events with specialty services such as Direct To Garment Printing and Sublimation, advertising, web-store hosting and fulfillment, printing banners, yard signs, decals, stickers, and business cards. Manatee Apparel offers all these wonderful services in two showrooms: one for school uniforms and spirit wear opening July 5, 2023, and another for all other apparel and products.

In their spare time, the Freys love to scuba dive, snorkel with the manatees in Crystal River, fish, and go boating. They also love giving back to their community.

"We have a love for animals and children who have no voice of their own and we have a passion for helping break the cycle of animal and child abuse," Linda said.

Linda and Ryan first discovered MCS when they attended an open house years ago. They became inspired to help the children of our community and have sponsored children through the MCS Holiday Project for many years.

"We are so thankful for MCS and the dedicated staff," Linda said. "We realize how important you are to the children of our community."

MAY SUCCESS STORIES

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



When abuse is reported, our Child Protection Team intervenes by providing medical exams and non-leading interviews with children to determine the next steps. Naturally, these children face lots of fear and uncertainty, so our CPT Advocates work hard to make them feel comfortable, safe, and heard.

“The amount of gratitude I receive from families for just reaching out with a listening ear and encouragement in reaching their goals is overwhelming,” MCS Advocate Lucille Eisenhard said. “There can be a lot of chaos during this time in their lives. Some clients have told me they would have no idea where to start in helping their child if we hadn’t been there to make sense of it all with them.”

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

