

April 2024

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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Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

» HAPPENING
APRIL 9-10
NOON TO NOON

GivingChallenge.org

Save the Date

The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects about 700 nonprofit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties.

Since 2012, the Giving Challenge has acted as a catalyst for connection and provided more than \$75 million in unrestricted funding over eight challenges.

Being a part of the Giving Challenge can transform nonprofit organizations through meaningful relationships and partnerships, all while strengthening their potential reach.

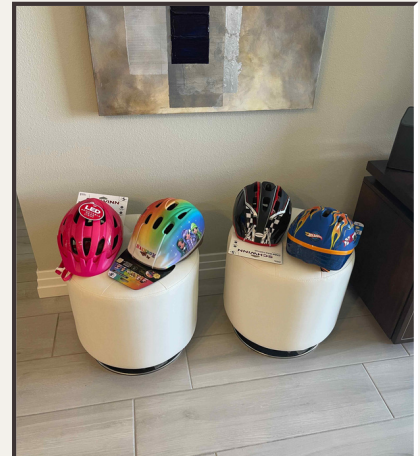
The Giving Challenge is hosted by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please choose Manatee Children's Services in the 2024 Giving Challenge to support our lifesaving programs dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse.





COMMUNITY NEWS

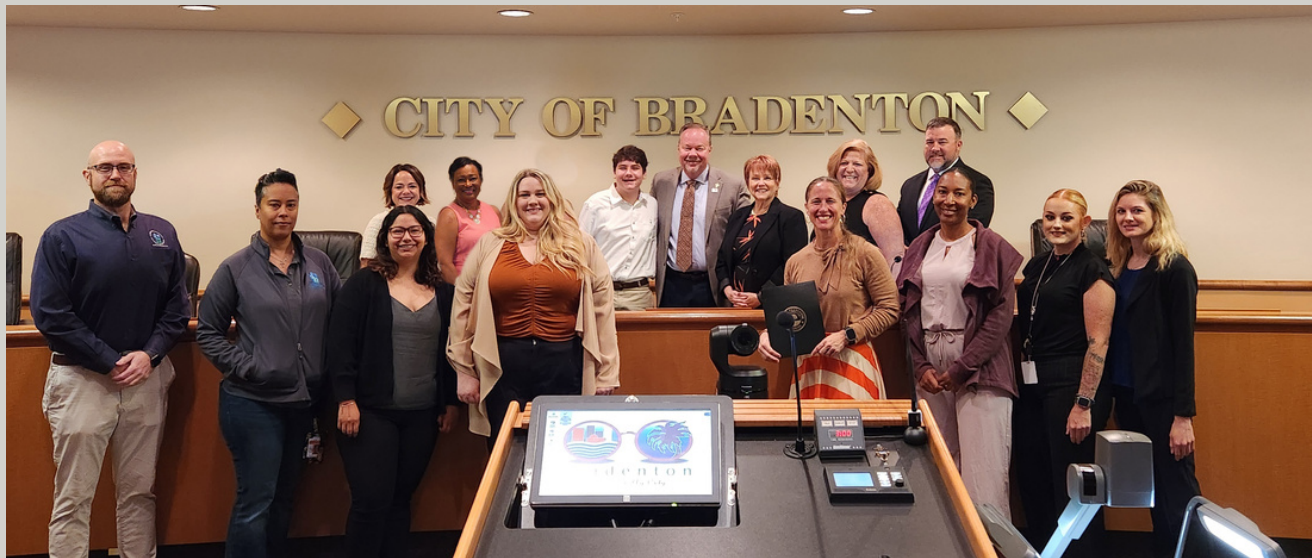


We had so many generous community members in March who helped us with essential items for our programs. Thank you so much for your compassion!

Pictured above: The Goddard School toiletry drive for families seeking intervention, and The Bower Foundation shoe drive.

Pictured right: Joanne Chada of Longboat Key donated Squishmallows, bike helmets, basketballs, and assorted toys to children in MCS prevention programs.





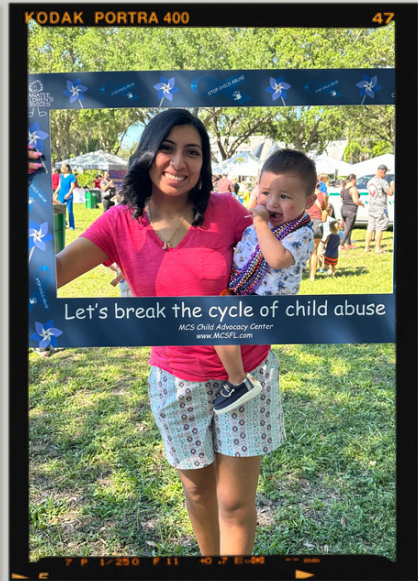
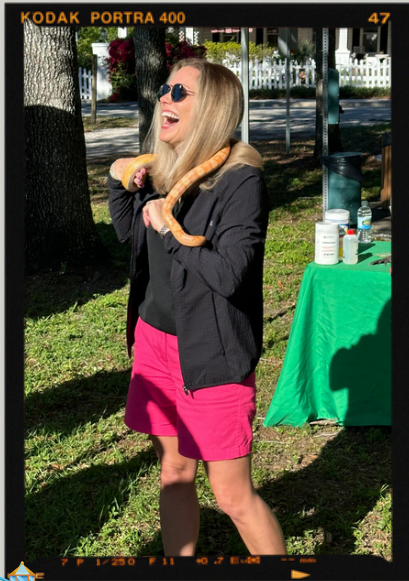
March was an exciting time for proclamations and celebrations with community partners!

Top left, top center, top right, and middle: Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamations at Manatee County Government, City of Holmes Beach, City of Palmetto, and City of Bradenton.

Bottom left, bottom right: Grant reception with the Lake Club Women's Giving Circle; MCS facility tour with Manatee Community Foundation, Bishop Parker, and the AMI Women's Giving Circle.

DESOTO

CHILDREN'S PARADE AND PARTY IN THE PARK





YOGA WITH JULIA

“Hearts and Hope” Child Abuse
Prevention Month Fundraiser

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH
9:00-10:00 A.M.
BRADENTON RIVERWALK**

**RSVP: (941) 962-5502
JULIAR@MCSFL.COM**

This special yoga event to raise awareness for April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month will take place at the Bradenton Riverwalk Main Lawn in front of River Dance Condos, between the Clock Tower and Green Bridge. Parking is available at the Downtown Bradenton day dock parking on 808 3rd Avenue West, or at City Centre Parking Facility on 3rd Avenue West between 10th and 12th St.



**ALL
LEVELS
WELCOME**

**\$20
SUGGESTED
DONATION**

**PROCEEDS TO
BENEFIT MCS
CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES**

The Bradenton
FRIENDLY CITY

GIRLFRIENDS GROUP

Established 2022



Donation Drive



Friday, April 19th
5:00-7:00 p.m.



Please join the Bradenton "Friendly City" Girlfriends Group for a donation drive fundraiser to benefit Manatee Children's Services while enjoying great food and drinks from local AMI restaurant, Slicker's Eatery.

No RSVP required; however, feel free to bring toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, personal hygiene products), monetary donations, and/or gift cards for MCS caregivers and foster children.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



VCN QUILTING & SEWING MINISTRY

The VCN Quilting & Sewing Ministry, led by Susy Sircy, began in January 2011. Their mission is “Spreading love, warmth, and friendship through the distribution of lap covers and other handmade items.”

After hearing MCS children and families were in need of covers, VCN delivered their first donation in June 2020.

“When we heard about things that were needed to help the quality of life of the clients at MCS, we decided that VCN would make a quarterly contribution to include handmade items such as covers and toys, along with hygiene items, arts and crafts, journals, clothing, gift bags, and more,” Susy said. “Plans are always in the works so that we know what their needs will be for the next quarter.”

Their handmade items have been a big hit with the children we serve. One particular mother, whose 10-year-old son is a huge baseball fan, reported that her son immediately wrapped his baseball themed quilt from VCN around himself with nothing but smiles and wouldn't take it off. She said the quilters' kindness made a huge difference to her son and her family.

The VCN quilters also serve individuals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, maternity wards, and independent homes throughout the community. They have even sent covers and knitted hats to disaster-stricken areas as far as Mississippi and Kentucky.

“We are so blessed to have such talented and dedicated ladies that make up the VCN Ministry,” Susy said.



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Since 1983, April has been recognized as a time to raise awareness in helping break the cycle of child abuse and recognizing essential community support systems dedicated to prevention. Community support is essential in helping us continue to provide education and respite to child victims of abuse and those at risk of becoming victimized.

Individuals and businesses use the blue pinwheel to decorate their lawns and show support for Child Abuse Prevention Month during April. The pinwheel is recognized as the national symbol for child abuse prevention and represents the happy, carefree childhood all children deserve.

FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH 2024, WE ARE ASKING FOR PLEDGES OF \$25 OR MORE TO THE 24-HOUR GIVING CHALLENGE WHERE YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED BY THE PATTERSON FOUNDATION.

Your donation to the 24-Hour Giving Challenge will make double the impact for the victims and families we serve and will significantly enhance our prevention efforts. Thank you in advance for supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Manatee Children's Services, Inc.
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Bradenton, FL 34205
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info@mcsfl.com

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

