

May 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.

In this edition:

- **KW Red Day: May 9th**
- **MCS community news**
- **Ringling College project at "Michelle's Cottage"**
- **Child Abuse Prevention Month thank you**
- **Community spotlight**
- **MCS success stories**



MCS Child Advocacy Center
www.MCSFL.com



DONATION & SUPPLY DRIVE

Please join us for this fun event with food trucks, music, complimentary massages, and networking to benefit child abuse victims of Manatee Children's Services.

May 9, 2024 | 11 am - 2 pm

Keller Williams Realty Select
8210 Lakewood Ranch Blvd
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

For more information, please contact:

Donna Gingras, KW Realty Select

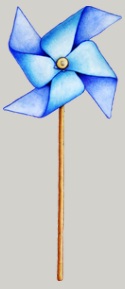
(617) 230-3579

Krista Post, Manatee Children's Services

(941) 812-9361

**CASH OR CARD
DONATIONS AND/OR
WISH LIST ITEMS
ARE ENCOURAGED:**





COMMUNITY NEWS

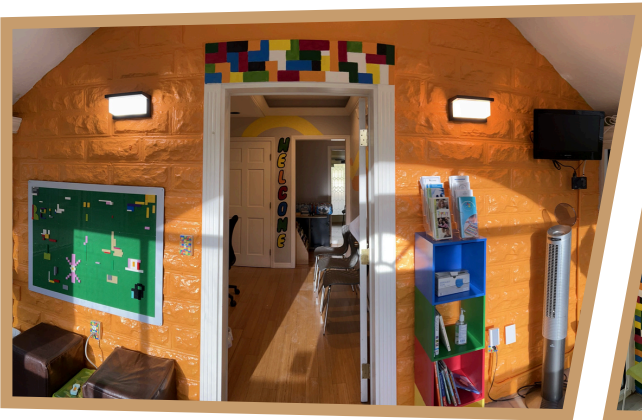


Staff from the MCS clinical team and parenting programs attended the 14th Annual Safe Children Coalition Conference, a two-day event to bring together hundreds of child welfare and youth mental health experts in the area. Our teams learned about a wide range of topics including the foster care transition into adulthood, behavioral impacts of autism, domestic violence awareness, engaging fathers in caregiving, links between human trafficking and substance abuse, trauma screening and assessment, the science behind self-care, social worker safety, trauma-informed care, and fostering safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth in child welfare. We are so grateful for this valuable education to better serve our clients.

Our clinical team was also proud to represent MCS at the "No Voice Unheard: Breaking the Cycle of Sexual Abuse" conference held at the 13th Avenue Dream Center. The family-friendly event was sponsored by Centerstone to raise awareness for sexual abuse and create a safe space for survivors. Thank you to our community partners for hosting a fantastic evening filled with food, raffles, guest speakers, art, and children's activities for this important cause.

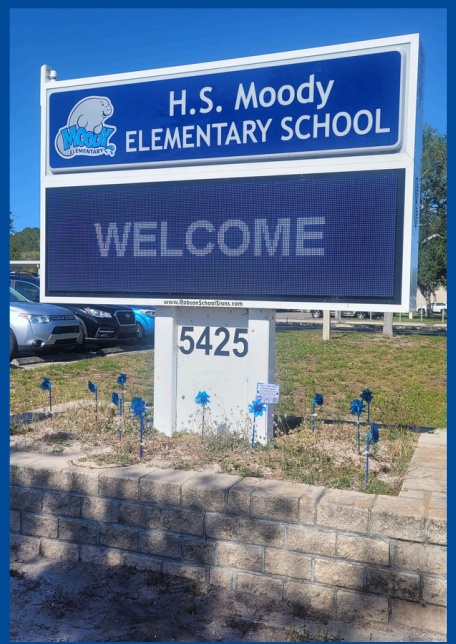
RINGLING PROJECT AT "MICHELLE'S COTTAGE"

STUDENTS FROM THE RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN WORKED VIGILANTLY THIS SPRING TO COMPLETE THE "LEGO ROOM" FOR OUR WAITING AREA IN MICHELLE'S COTTAGE THERAPY BUILDING AND THE "WELCOME ROOM" FOR ITS TRANSITION AREA. WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND ARE THOROUGHLY IMPRESSED WITH THE UPGRADES TO OUR DECOR. SPECIAL THANKS TO LIZ ARMSTRONG AT RINGLING FOR LEADING THIS SPECIAL PROJECT.



Thank You

FOR SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHILD
ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH 2024





Community Spotlight:

MANATEE WOMEN'S GIVING BACK CIRCLE



We are proud to feature the Manatee Women's Giving Circle, formed in 2013 as the Anna Maria Island Women's Giving Circle by a group of philanthropic women who were passionate about making life better for people in Manatee County. The Circle, administered through the Manatee Community Foundation, gathers donations and time and provides grants to nonprofits that are doing essential work in our community. Although their primary areas of focus include women, children, education, hunger, and homelessness, they are also able to respond quickly to immediate needs such as COVID relief.

The Manatee Women's Giving Circle recently chose to support the MCS "Welcome To Our House" capital project because of our ability to transform the lives of children and families in our community:

"MCS truly operates on the front lines, serving some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society: children," leader Sharon Linnane said. "In most cases, these children have no control over their circumstances and have been exposed to very difficult situations in their lives. We appreciate that MCS provides safety and solutions that truly can change the course of their lives, leading to positive outcomes. We also very much admire the hardworking and caring staff there that guide those young lives while under their care."

Thank you to the Manatee Women's Giving Circle for all you do to support MCS and our local nonprofits who are working tirelessly to effect change in our community.



MCS SUCCESS STORIES



Wraparound services in which our programs work together to provide a full spectrum of care for children and families are the backbone of what we provide as a Child Advocacy Center and are key in reducing abuse. Two of our programs that embody the concept of wraparound care are our BRIC parenting program and our GAP kinship caregiver program. After BRIC parenting coaches presented their program to GAP, five new GAP participants enrolled in parenting classes, one of whom was “Pamela.” Pamela stated she was feeling angry about having to return to the workforce to support and raise her grandchild after her daughter was incarcerated for crimes involving substance addiction. After Pamela’s coach shared reasonable expectations of a 4-year-old and nurturing parenting skills with her, she realized she was expecting too much from her grandchild, which was causing her to be impatient and frustrated in her parenting. Thanks to the education she has received, Pamela now feels she is a better and more compassionate caregiver to her grandchild.

Manatee Children's Services, Inc.
A Child Advocacy Center
1227 9th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 345-1200
info@mcsfl.com

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

