

August 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:

- Christmas in July recap
- New board member and employee spotlights
- Upcoming events
- Community spotlight
- MCS program highlights

Christmas in July at MCS



Thank you to all who supported our annual Christmas in July campaign through the Chick-Fil-A Community Cares event, “Zumbathon” fundraiser, and financial gifts. You ALL have helped us carry out our mission to prevent child abuse!



Thank You



Welcome to our team

Child Protection Team APRN



Courtney

Please give a warm welcome to Courtney, our newest Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (ARNP) to join our Child Protection Team. Courtney holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and previously worked in the NICU for five years as a registered nurse.

Courtney stated that receiving resources as a child similar to those MCS provides was a “saving grace” for her family and inspired her to provide care to children in similar shoes.

“Advocating is one of my greatest strengths as a provider, and here I am able to advocate for the safety and well-being of every child I see,” Courtney said. “My goal is to make every child feel safe and heard during the time I spend with them.”

SAVE THE DATE



**CHARITY
NIGHT**



Bradentucky Bombers vs. Big Easy Roller Derby

Saturday, August 24th, 5:00-8:00 pm

Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex

5309 29th Street East Ellenton, FL 34222

RAFFLE PRIZES

**\$10 ADMISSION:
SCAN FOR TICKETS:**

**ENTER CODE:
CAJUN2024**



**\$5 OF EACH TICKET SALE PURCHASED THROUGH
CODE "CAJUN 2024" WILL BENEFIT MCS CHILD
ABUSE VICTIMS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

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Ticket sales open on August 11, 2024

Welcome to our team

MCS Board Member



Dave Todd

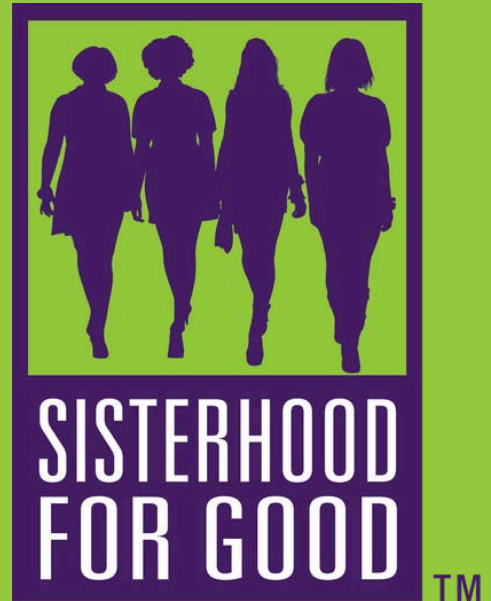
We are honored to welcome our newest member, Dave Todd, to the MCS Board of Directors! Dave graduated from the University of Missouri in 1988, where he earned a degree in interdisciplinary studies. He works with people who have chronic health care challenges, including children who are impacted by these conditions.

Outside of his life-changing medical career, Dave has also volunteered at summer camps and educational events to support the communities he serves for over 25 years.

Dave was inspired to join the MCS Board of Directors so he could support the agency through fundraising and facility volunteering.

We are so excited for Dave to help us carry out our mission in the community!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



MCS would like to recognize a very special community organization, Sisterhood for Good (SFG). Established in 2011, SFG is an all-volunteer, all-female philanthropic organization that assists community nonprofits through an annual grants program funded by SFG annual dues and fundraising proceeds.

“After nearly a decade of being involved in several local nonprofit Boards, I was told about a trend in women’s giving circles,” Angela Massaro-Fain, SFG Founder/President, said. “After some research, I felt our community could benefit from women joining together to help enhance it.”

Angela held a small gathering for several friends at her home; the group agreed they could collectively provide an advantage to those in need throughout the Sarasota-Manatee community, and SFG was born.

All members vote to select individual grant recipients each year. We at MCS are proud to have received two years of support to feed foster children in our residential program.

SFG positively enhanced the lives of 27,714 local recipients in 2024 alone and are seeking charitable women to continue expanding their impact in 2025. Potential women interested in membership are welcome to attend any SFG Happy Hour and/or meeting. Please visit www.SisterhoodForGood.org for more information.

Med G Classic Charity Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024

SERENOA GOLF CLUB

Benefiting:

Manatee Children's Services

Feeding Empty Little Tum mies (F.E.L.T.)

Suncoast Charities for Children

PLEASE VISIT
WWW.MEDGCLASSIC.COM
TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM
OR BECOME A SPONSOR





MCS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Back-to-School can be stressful for kids AND parents. Our BRIC program is here to help with FREE parenting classes for Manatee County families.

Our parenting classes have helped participants like “Michelle,” who was left to raise her children after her husband left. He had always taken the dominant role in the marriage, so when they separated, she lacked the self-confidence and skills to care for her children. Michelle began working with our parenting coaches and applied herself vigilantly to be the best version of herself as an individual and as a parent.

According to Michelle’s coaches, her hard work to come out of her shell and take charge of her life was apparent. She successfully completed the program and is now thriving with her children.

For inquiries about our parenting classes or to enroll, contact Nadine Knapp, Parenting Services Coordinator, at (813) 400-3307 or nadinek@mcsfl.com.



Scan our QR code for program information:

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

