

June 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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AGENCY NEWS



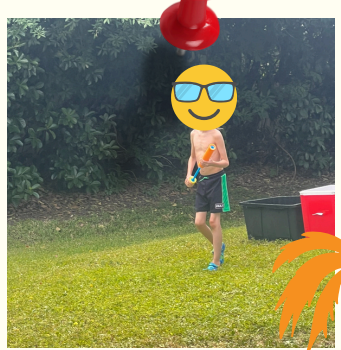
The first phase of the “Welcome To Our House” capital project is underway! Our staff worked hard clearing their office spaces in preparation for new flooring, as well as upcoming renovations that will make our three-story home ready to move our neighboring Child Protection Team in with us.

May was also an exciting month for grant awards! We received \$70,679 from the Bishop-Parker Foundation to support new roofing for our clinical and main office buildings and \$10,000 from the Service Club of Manatee County to fund the new medical room for “Welcome To Our House.” We are very honored for the ongoing support from both of these valued foundations.





Summer Vibes



Kids and staff in our residential program kicked off the summer break with a Slip N Slide and fun in the sun! We are looking forward to a season full of enrichment activities and memories that will last forever.





COMMUNITY NEWS



Thank you to our friends at KW Realty Select and KW Realty Suncoast for serving MCS on May 9th during their annual "Red Day" community service event. KW Realty Select hosted a fundraiser/donation drive with live music, food trucks and free massages to benefit the children and families of MCS. Thanks to their help, we raised nearly \$2,000 in donations, as well as essential items such as therapy supplies and toiletries. Meanwhile, KW Realty Suncoast completed a beautification day of landscaping and power washing at our agency campus. We are so grateful!



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

\$50 OFF A FOURSOME
NOW THROUGH JULY 31
WITH PROMO CODE:
EARLYBIRD



Community Spotlight

KW KELLERWILLIAMS.
REALTY SELECT



We are proud to recognize KW Realty Select as the Community Spotlight of the Month for all they do to support MCS and local charities. KW Realty Select, whose mission is based on “God, family, and business,” is a Lakewood Ranch based real estate firm with highly-seasoned professionals dedicated to providing exceptional, personalized service for all clients.

“We are more than a real estate company,” Realtor Lyndsey Ashley said. “We are a CULTURE and a BELIEF SYSTEM in action.”

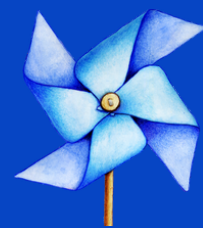
KW Realty Select’s Culture Committee recently organized a fundraiser and donation drive for their annual “Red Day” community service event for the benefit of our agency. Realtor Donna Gingras stated that the committee chose us because they ‘believed in the mission and unwavering dedication of Manatee Children’s Services and were moved by their commitment to help change the lives of children and families affected by child abuse.”

One key need Lyndsey Ashley identified in our community is summertime food relief: “There are children who don’t know when they will be getting their next meal, as they typically get fed breakfast and lunch at school,” she stated.

Thank you to all the hardworking professionals at KW Realty Select for your compassion and dedication to our community!



MCS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



We recognized the month of May as National Foster Care Month, a time to increase national awareness of foster care issues and recognize the important role that people from all parts of child welfare play in supporting children, youth, and families.

An integral component to foster care support is kinship care with relatives and close friends. Kinship care placements have increased from 14% in 2006 to 22% in 2021. These placements can increase stability, reduce trauma, and help children maintain cultural connections and a sense of belonging by keeping them out of foster care and with a trusted support system.

Our “Grandparents as Parents” Family Advocates understand the importance of kinship care as well as the challenges associated with parenting a second time around and offer advocacy, resources, and support to caregivers. Two particular caregivers in our program had been raising their grandchild after removal from the parents due to substance use and were ready for adoption. Our staff helped them set up a lawyer and gain a village of support from other kinship caregivers in the program. We are grateful for all the hardworking caregivers in our program who work tirelessly to raise the children in their care and keep their families together and the staff who empower them to do so.

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

