

May 2025



# 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.

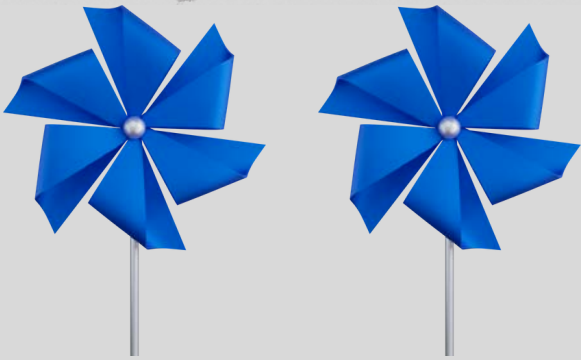
We provide a full spectrum of programs serving over 12,000 children and families annually. We offer programs in treatment, prevention, intervention, and residential services. Such programs include an emergency shelter, long-term group homes, mental health services, parenting education and training, forensic medical and specialized child victim interview services, support services for relative caregivers, teen pregnancy prevention, and children's personal safety. Visit our [website](https://www.mcsfl.com) to learn more.

## In this edition:

- New board member spotlight
- April events recap
- Development director announcement
- April awareness events
- Community spotlight
- Thank you

# Welcome to our team

**MCS Board of Directors  
Member**



*Nathalie Posthuma*

We're thrilled to introduce Nathalie Posthuma as our newest Board of Directors member!

Nathalie is an Audit Senior Manager at KPMG, where she provides financial statement audit services to both private and public companies, with a focus on the asset management industry. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from San Diego State University and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in both California and Florida.

Born in Brazil and raised in California, Nathalie brings both a global perspective and deep professional expertise to her role on the MCS Board of Directors. Her decision to join the board stems from a strong personal commitment to advocating for the safety and well-being of children. She is especially passionate about being a voice for those who may feel unheard.

As a board member, Nathalie looks forward to increasing awareness around child abuse prevention and supporting the agency's strategic initiatives. She currently lives in Bradenton with her husband and three children. In her free time, she enjoys staying active through health and wellness activities, reading, traveling, and scuba diving.



# April Events Recap



Our community showed up in powerful ways last month, raising nearly \$5,000 to support National Child Abuse Prevention Month! From shopping and sips at Kendra Scott UTC, to inspiring hope through dancing at our Zumba fundraiser, to high-impact action at the Bradentucky Bombers Charity Night, and finding Zen through our "Hearts and Hope" yoga fundraiser, every moment helped protect and uplift the children we serve.



**PROMOTED!**

*Congratulations  
to our new  
Development  
Director!*



*Krista Post*

We are proud to announce the promotion of Krista Post to the role of Development Director, marking a significant milestone in the agency's growth and long-term sustainability. As the organization's first-ever Development Director, Krista will lead MCS in building a robust and strategic fundraising program designed to expand resources, deepen community engagement, and further strengthen its mission to support and protect abused and at-risk children in Manatee County.

Establishing a dedicated Development Director reflects our commitment to a sustainable financial future and a professional fundraising infrastructure. This pivotal step allows MCS to expand beyond reliance on limited volunteer efforts and executive-level fundraising, and instead, invest in a long-term strategy.

As Development Director, Krista will oversee donor relations, grants, special events, and strategic communications while working with the Board of Directors and executive team to advance agency goals.

Krista has been a valued member of the MCS team since 2012. She began her career in the TRUTH program, where she educated teens on pregnancy prevention, healthy relationships, and social media safety. Her passion for helping at-risk youth continued to grow, leading her to the role of Crisis Intervention Specialist in the agency's residential program where she conducted risk assessments for new foster children entering the shelter and facilitated group therapy sessions designed to build resilience and healing.

In 2021, Krista transitioned into the agency's first Development Coordinator role, where she dedicated herself to mastering the fundamentals of nonprofit fundraising. Her commitment to this role was instrumental in launching the development department, laying the groundwork for a sustainable, mission-driven funding strategy. Her work has helped MCS cultivate new partnerships, grow donor support, and elevate community awareness around child abuse prevention.



# *Sexual Assault Awareness & Child Abuse Prevention Month*

April was a powerful month as we recognized Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. Our teams began by attending Centerstone's Sexual Assault Awareness Conference, followed by the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony, where we joined others in honoring survivors.

We were also proud to participate in Lauren's Kids Foundation's "Walk in My Shoes" 2025, a 4-mile trek from the Manatee County Tax Collector's Office to our campus, raising awareness about sexual assault.

We ended the month at Party in the Park, where children led the way in a heartwarming parade. Our prevention team shared resources and handed out Vermont teddy bears generously donated by the Sarasota Masonic Lodge.



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



This month, we're proud to spotlight one of our vital community partners: the Bradenton Police Department (BPD). As a dedicated force committed to protecting vulnerable populations, BPD plays a crucial role in child abuse prevention and intervention throughout Manatee County.

The Bradenton Police Department's Criminal Investigations Section investigates child abuse cases, often working in tandem with other units when cases involve missing youth or human trafficking. Detectives are seeing an alarming trend involving the rise of "self-generated" sexual content, where adults manipulate or coerce minors into sharing inappropriate images or videos. Offenders often use deception, grooming, or social engineering to gain access to victims' social media accounts. This disturbing trend highlights the ongoing need for education around online safety.

BPD emphasizes the importance of education to prevent child abuse. They actively encourage new parents to learn safe sleeping practices and drowning prevention while also urging parents of older children to recognize online dangers. BPD recognizes that as technology evolves, so do the tactics of predators, making ongoing awareness essential.

The collaboration between BPD and MCS has proven invaluable. Through shared resources and prevention programs, BPD enhances its efforts to educate families, promote child safety, and offer crucial reporting tools. They highlight the importance of MCS programs that educate both children and adults on identifying and reporting abuse.

BPD urges everyone to follow the mantra: "See something, say something." Reporting suspected abuse can save lives. They encourage using the Florida Child Abuse Hotline and emphasize the significance of Crime Stoppers for ongoing investigations.

We extend our gratitude to the Bradenton Police Department for their unwavering commitment to child safety and for working alongside us to build a safer community. Thank you for making a difference!



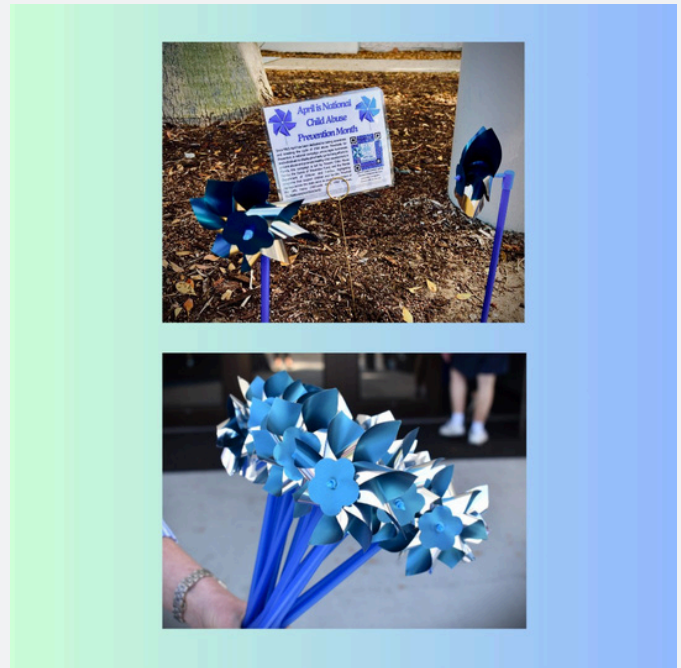


# THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY!



Since 1983, April has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month — a time to raise awareness, support families, and promote efforts that stop abuse before it starts. With over 5,000 reports of child abuse filed annually in Manatee County — higher than the state average — the need for prevention has never been more urgent. Most cases involve infants, toddlers, or children from marginalized communities, and tragically, nearly 2,000 children die from abuse each year nationwide.

We're especially thankful to our amazing community partners who displayed pinwheel gardens on their lawns throughout April — powerful symbols of the happy, safe childhoods all children deserve. Together, we're turning awareness into action. Thank you for standing with us.



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