

September 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:

- **Save the Date: "Kendra Gives Back" event**
- **New employee spotlight**
- **Med G Classic Golf Tournament**
- **Community spotlight**
- **MCS program highlights**

Welcome to our team

MCS Child & Family Therapist



Bethany Magers

Please welcome our newest Child and Family Therapist, Bethany Magers, to our team! Bethany has a Bachelor of Psychology from Baylor University and a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Wake Forest University. She is currently working toward becoming a Licensed Mental Health Counselor.

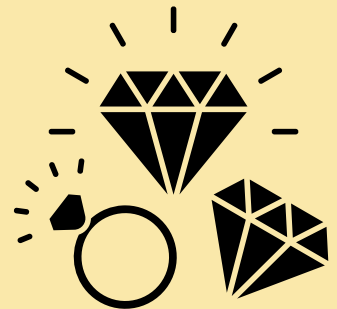
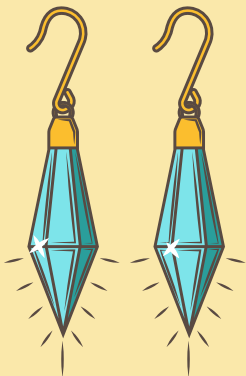
“Working with children and families has always been my goal,” Bethany said. “My passion is to advocate for and help those who lack basic necessities, have endured traumatic situations, and want to enhance their physical and mental well-being.”

Bethany stated she wanted to work for MCS because we offer children and families the opportunity to heal, while also ensuring their basic needs are met.

“I believe each child, with appropriate assistance and resources, has the ability to overcome abuse and live a successful life,” she said.

Save
the
Date

PLEASE SUPPORT MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES ON SEPTEMBER 26 BY SHOPPING AT KENDRA SCOTT IN THE UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER MALL FROM 2-4 PM. YOU CAN ALSO SHOP ONLINE AT WWW.KENDRASCOTT.COM USING THE CODE BELOW AT CHECKOUT.



Shine Bright, Do Good

JOIN US FOR A
KENDRA GIVES BACK EVENT

DATE & TIME

Thursday 9/26 @ 2:00-4:00pm

DETAILS

Join us for a Kendra Gives Back Party! Located at The Mall At University Town Center. 20% of sales will be donated to **Manatee Children's Services.**

Shop online using code **GIVEBACK-GYVNH** to participate from home.





COMMUNITY NEWS



Last month, our "Grandparents As Parents" Coordinator, Kathy Bartz, volunteered with the Tiny Hands Foundation to assemble 2,000 backpacks for Manatee County schoolchildren. Thanks to Tiny Hands, MCS secured 50 backpacks for children in the GAP program.

"I was so thrilled to be part of such a great event," Kathy said.

MCS was also the featured nonprofit during the Bradentucky Bombers' Charity Night. The Bradentucky Bombers, our local women's roller derby team, supports a different charity each month by highlighting their unique mission, donating a portion of ticket sales, and providing raffle prizes for the charity to generate funds. August was the last Bombers' bout of the season, but be sure to subscribe to their social media pages and support them when they're back in action next year!



AGENCY NEWS



Thank you to the Manatee Community Foundation and the Wilson-Wood Foundation for their generous grant awards in August.

The MCF Manatee Foster Care Initiative Fund awarded our agency \$5,100 for Hurricane Debby relief. Fortunately, our children, staff, and facilities remained safe and free from storm damage; however, the emergency staffing and supplies necessary for sheltering in place created a financial strain, which MCF's funds greatly helped to alleviate.

The Wilson-Wood Foundation also provided tremendous support with a \$20,000 grant for our clinical "Non-Offending Caregiver" (NOC) program. This funding will cover group therapy sessions for Spanish-speaking caregivers raising children who have experienced sexual abuse. We are so grateful for their second year of funding for NOC. Please see our program spotlight on the last page of our newsletter for more information about this important program.

PLEASE SUPPORT

Med & Classic GOLF TOURNAMENT

ENTER TO WIN THE "AMERICAN
PRIDE" GOLF CART!



Saturday, November 2, 2024

Serenoa Golf Club

Benefiting:

Manatee Children's
Services

Feeding Empty Little
Tummies (F.E.L.T.)

Suncoast Charities for
Children

*Booking
fast:
register
NOW!*

*Sponsors
needed!*

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

BISHOP-PARKER FOUNDATION



We'd like to honor a very special supporting organization, The Bishop-Parker Foundation, and their new CEO, Wendy Deming. Wendy brings more than 25 years' experience in the independent sector, including Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer at Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

"These roles allowed me to manage operations and governance during significant periods of growth" Wendy said. "I am thrilled to join the Foundation as its first full-time CEO and to collaborate with a dedicated Board of Trustees. This role offers me the unique opportunity to honor and advance the legacies of the Bishops and Mary Parker, driving impactful change for our community."

Bishop-Parker enhances Manatee County by providing strategic financial support to nonprofits. Their mission focuses on uplifting individuals and animals, with funding priorities in health, human services, education, the arts, the environment, and animal welfare. The Foundation's origins trace back to John Huntington, an English immigrant whose business success and philanthropy laid the groundwork for their legacy. Huntington, in partnership with John D. Rockefeller, played a key role in revolutionizing the oil industry and contributed to the creation of the Cleveland Museum of Art. His descendants, including Lillian (Patty) H. Huntington and her husband Edward E. (Ned) Bishop, carried on this tradition of giving. The Bishops, who settled in Bradenton in 1914, became significant benefactors in the region and founded the Edward E. and Lillian H. Bishop Foundation in 1953, while their close friend, Mary Parker, established her own charitable foundation in 1986. Parker's legacy of generosity continued until her passing in 2020, leaving a lasting impact.

Bishop-Parker's support for MCS is inspired by Parker's legacy as a dedicated advocate for children's well-being. Wendy stated their Board is committed to continuing her vision, ensuring every child grows up in a safe, nurturing environment.



MCS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Caregiver support is crucial for a child's recovery from sexual abuse. However, Spanish-speaking families often face barriers in accessing critical education and resources. To address this, the MCS clinical team offers Spanish-Speaking Non-Offending Caregiver (NOC) support groups. These groups, held 3-4 times annually for 8 weeks each, provide a safe space to learn coping skills and share experiences, helping caregivers support their children heal.



“I now don’t feel guilty about what happened to our children because no one knows who we are surrounded by,” NOC participant Jennifer* said. “We don’t know what will happen tomorrow, but we now know what to look for to keep this from happening again to my children.”

“I don’t feel alone anymore because there are people living the same situation as me and we were able to express ourselves with confidentiality,” NOC participant Amy* said.

*Real names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

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