

December 2025



THE MCS INSIDER

Holiday edition



Our History and Mission

Preventing child abuse, restoring healing, and strengthening all children and their families through advocacy, treatment, and shelter.

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](#) to learn more.

In this edition:

- Thanksgiving gratitude
- Del Webb water volleyball fundraiser
- Agency updates
- Ways to support MCS through the holidays
- Groovin for Good gala
- MCS Holiday Project

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR HOLIDAY HEROES

We are incredibly grateful to the generous donors whose support made our Annual Grandparents as Parents Thanksgiving Celebration possible. Because of your contributions, the grandparents and caregivers who step in to raise children in our community were able to enjoy a warm, festive meal and a day of connection, gratitude, and celebration. Your generosity helped create meaningful memories and reminded these families that their dedication and love are deeply valued.



A HARVEST OF HOPE FROM TANNER'S TURKEYS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tanner's Turkeys for their generous donation of canned goods and gift cards, helping ensure our foster children and residential staff had a warm and nourishing Thanksgiving. Their support brought comfort, stability, and joy to our shelter and group homes during the holiday season, reminding our youth that their community stands beside them. We are deeply grateful for partners like Tanner's Turkeys who make the holidays brighter for the children we serve.



DEL WEBB SUPPORTS MCS GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS



We're thrilled the Del Webb Community Water Volleyball team raised \$3,000 for our Grandparents as Parents program this holiday season, helping provide meals, gifts, and support to caregiving grandparents. As a bonus, attendees enjoyed complimentary coffee from Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii, generously provided by the Kelly Naughton and Karen Nasello Realtor Team, who also hosted a Thanksgiving canned goods drive for GAP. Their generosity will make the holidays brighter for so many families in our community.

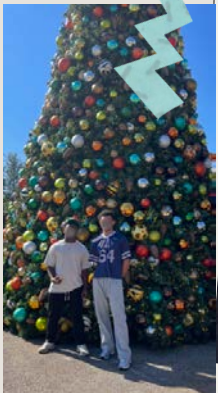


MCS in the Community

Last month, our parenting team had the privilege of joining Major Connie Shingledecker at the Department of Children and Families for an essential training with the newest Child Protection Investigator (CPI) trainees. The session focused on foundational skills every CPI needs when working with infants in crisis: safe diaper changing, bottle-feeding techniques, soothing a crying baby, and safe sleep practices. We're grateful to Connie for her expertise and to the CPI trainees for their dedication to learning the skills that make a lifesaving difference.

We are also proud to share that MCS has received a \$2,000 Sunshine Health Get to Know Us Grant, which supports new or renewed partnerships and opens the door for future collaboration. This funding will directly advance one of our highest priorities: providing stability and essential care for children who have faced malnourishment or food deprivation due to abuse and neglect. The project will ensure consistent, healthy meals while supporting shared menu planning between staff and children—a practice shown to improve literacy, build confidence, encourage lifelong healthy eating habits, and create the sense of togetherness many of our children are experiencing for the first time in our care.





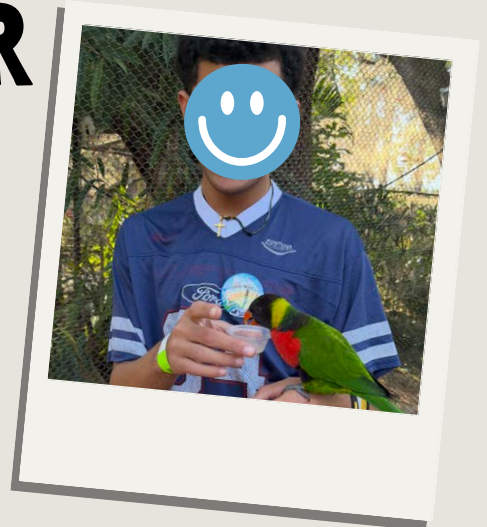
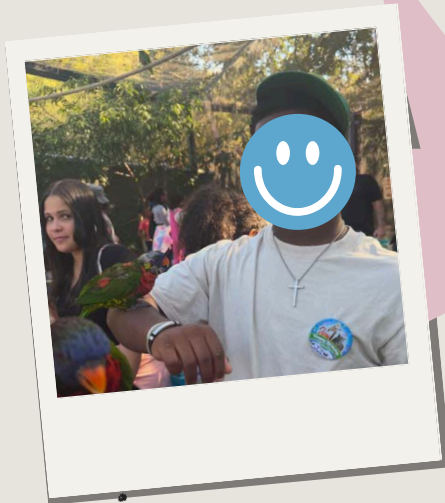
☆ Busch Gardens



Big Brother Match with
MCS Staff David Suares



NOVEMBER MEMORIES IN MCS RESIDENTIAL



Homecoming



Our talented artist



“Sip and Shop” to Support MCS

Join us for a special Sip & Shop event at Short Par 4, where 10% of all proceeds will benefit our programs. Short Par 4 offers a unique shopping experience featuring premium wines, spirits, and lifestyle products, perfect for holiday gifting—or treating yourself!

Sip your favorite beverages, shop for gifts, and know that every purchase helps support children and families in our community who are healing from abuse and trauma. It’s a fun, festive way to give back while enjoying the incredible selection at Short Par 4.



**MCS Child
Advocacy Center**

**USE OUR UNIQUE
FUNDRAISING
CODE AT CHECKOUT:**

**FUNDRAISING CODE:
MCS2025**



**MCS Child
Advocacy Center**

MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL WHILE YOU SHOP!

**FROM DEC. 1ST - DEC. 15TH, 2025, YOUR PURCHASES
CAN DIRECTLY SUPPORT MANATEE CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

We've partnered with 1764 Golf/ShortPar4 to offer high-quality
products that families love

SHORT PAR 4 1764

**+ 10% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED
BACK TO OUR ORGANIZATION.**

This event has come at the perfect time! Get some great golf
apparel for men and women, accessories, and junior apparel just
in time for the holiday season.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. SHOP AT: [WWW.1764GOLF.COM AND SHORTPAR4.COM]
2. ADD YOUR FAVORITE PRODUCTS TO YOUR CART
3. ENTER THE CODE: MCS2025
4. FEEL GREAT KNOWING 10% COMES RIGHT BACK SUPPORT OUR KIDS!

PLEASE VOTE FOR MCS IN TARGET CIRCLE!

We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign sponsored and funded by Target. And you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to us!

Now through December 31st, vote for MCS through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be divvied up. Find out more about Target Circle here: www.target.com/circle

We're asking our supporters to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity. Every vote counts to help us receive a portion of the available Target funds as we continue our mission to prevent child abuse, restore healing, and strengthen all children and their families through advocacy, treatment, and shelter.

Don't forget, as you earn more votes, you can keep voting multiple times during the campaign!

Thank you for your support, and we encourage you to share your support for us (and your thanks to Target) on social media throughout the voting!

We're a **Target Circle** participant
and here's how you can vote for us.



1 Choose
My Target



2 Tap
Cast votes



3 Find us &
vote





VOTE FOR MCS AT THE UTC FESTIVAL OF TREES!

THE UTC FESTIVAL OF TREES IS BACK DECEMBER 5-18, AND YOUR VOTE CAN HELP US SHINE! OUR TREE FEATURES HANDMADE ORNAMENTS CREATED BY FOSTER CHILDREN IN OUR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM, EACH ONE SHARING THEIR PERSONAL CHRISTMAS WISH FOR THE WORLD. VOTING AND BIDDING ARE OPEN ONLINE 24/7, AND EVERY VOTE DIRECTLY SUPPORTS OUR MISSION. SHOW OUR KIDS SOME LOVE AND HELP US TAKE HOME A TOP SPOT—CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE MCS TREE!



Save
The
Date

GROOVIN' FOR GOOD



MCS Child
Advocacy Center



A 70S GALA FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

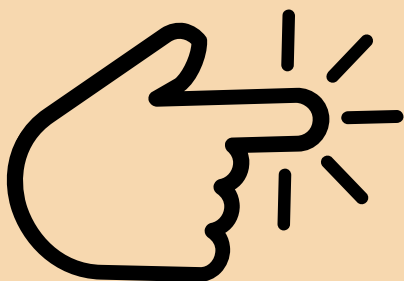
Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa

600 US-41, Palmetto, FL 34221

6:00 to 10:00 pm

VIP Cocktail Hour: 5:00 pm

\$150 per person



Premier event sponsor

Click here for sponsorships,
tickets, and more event details



MAKE HOLIDAY DREAMS COME TRUE FOR A CHILD



Last holiday season, we had the privilege of making the season brighter for “Emma,” a 9-year-old in our residential program who had experienced trauma and instability. Coming into the holidays, Emma was anxious and withdrawn, unsure if she would receive any gifts or feel the joy many children take for granted.

Thanks to the generosity of our community sponsors and donors, Emma received gifts that reflected her personality and passions: books, art supplies, and a cozy blanket she had mentioned wanting. Beyond the gifts, she got to participate in a festive holiday celebration with her peers, enjoying games, music, and a special meal prepared by staff and volunteers.

The impact was immediate: Emma’s eyes lit up as she unwrapped each present, and she began to engage more confidently with other children in the program. Her staff noted that the holiday experience helped her build trust, feel valued, and experience the joy of giving and receiving...lessons that extended far beyond the season.

This year, 48 children are still waiting to be sponsored. You can help make their holidays just as joyful as Emma’s. Sponsor a child today through the QR code below and bring hope, healing, and happiness to a child who needs it most. Every gift truly transforms lives.



Kobe Hills
Ashley Aguayo
Tierra White
Catessa Robinson



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

