

November 2025



# THE MCS INSIDER

The official newsletter of  
Manatee Children's Services, Inc.



## *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](http://www.MCSFL.com) to learn more.

## In this edition:

- Give thanks by giving back
- Halloween fun at MCS
- "Groovin' for Good" gala events
- Target Circle giving
- MCS Holiday Project
- Program testimonials

# HELP US FEED MCS FAMILIES THIS THANKSGIVING

Your gift this Thanksgiving can be a source of hope. We have TWO ways you can help us provide MCS children and families with the food, warmth, and support they need during the holidays.

## 15th Annual Tanner's Turkeys



### Fundraiser

Come help us raise funds to feed 00+ families for Thanksgiving! Enjoy delicious appetizers, live music, a silent auction and fun with friends!

November 4, 2025

6 - 9 PM

Fin & Tonic

For more EVENT info

Go to [TannersTurkeys.com](http://TannersTurkeys.com)

 Tanners Turkeys

Founder/Organizer:



Scan for tickets

  
Michele Tanner  
The Tanner Group

We're partnering with Tanner's Turkeys to provide nonperishable food items for families in our Grandparents as Parents program. Please attend and/or donate here to support the cause.

To make a contribution directly to MCS for our annual Grandparents as Parents Thanksgiving celebration and/or perishable food items such as turkeys, please give through our Facebook fundraiser via the QR code below or at [www.mcsfl.com/donate](http://www.mcsfl.com/donate) (NOTE: Thanksgiving)







# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Staff and children at MCS had a spooktacular time dressing up in costumes and celebrating Halloween together! A heartfelt thank you to our generous BNI sponsors whose support made this celebration possible. Because of you, our children experienced a safe, festive, and memory-filled Halloween they'll never forget!



70s music &  
50/50 raffles



Social event for MCS "Groovin' for Good"  
gala to benefit child abuse prevention

# Let's "Flamingle" at Flamingo Bay!

Friday, November 21, 2025 | 6PM

Flamingo Bay Brewing

1910 14th St W, Bradenton, FL 34205



\$20 admission  
(includes light bites  
from San Remo's)

Save  
The  
Date

GROOVIN' FOR GOOD



MCS Child  
Advocacy Center



## A 70S GALA FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026**

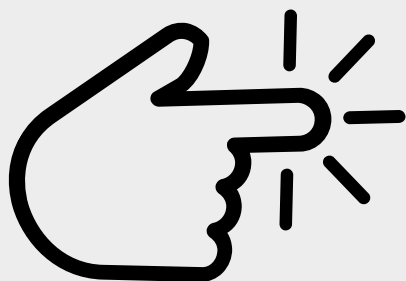
Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa

600 US-41, Palmetto, FL 34221

6:00 to 10:00 pm

VIP Cocktail Hour: 5:00 pm

\$150 per person



MARRIOTT RESORT  
PALMETTO

Premier event sponsor

Click here for sponsorships,  
tickets, and more event details

# 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](http://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





# HOLIDAY PROJECT



**Please see sponsorship form for gift options.**

**MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
1227 9th Ave W, Bradenton FL

## Amazon wish list





Manatee Children's Services  
1227 9th Avenue West  
Bradenton FL 34205  
Phone: (941) 345-1200  
Fax: (941) 345-1212  
HolidayProject@mcsfl.com  
[www.ManateeChildrensServices.com](http://www.ManateeChildrensServices.com)

Dear Friends,

Bring joy and hope to children at MCS this holiday season by sponsoring a child through our annual Holiday Project. Your sponsorship will support children who have endured or are at risk of abuse or neglect, giving them the warmth and happiness they deserve.

To sponsor a child, please fill out and return the form below. Sponsorships are **\$100** per child and may include monetary gifts, gift cards, new store-bought items per your sponsored child's wish list, or items on the MCS [Amazon wish list](#) found at [www.mcsfl.com](http://www.mcsfl.com).

We especially encourage gift cards for our families as they alleviate stress for caregivers by allowing them the flexibility to purchase a variety of gifts for children as needed. They are also a nice treat for children who may not get to go shopping for themselves very often. **NOTE: please ensure all gift cards are active and validated.**

**PLEASE TURN IN ALL GIFT CARDS AND WISH LIST ITEMS BETWEEN 12/3/25 AND 12/12/25.**

For more information, call (941) 345-1200 or email [HolidayProject@mcsfl.com](mailto:HolidayProject@mcsfl.com). Help us make a difference. Sponsor a child today and give the gift of hope. Thank you for making the holidays brighter for our children!

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I/we would like to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ child/ren in need this holiday season.

Name of individual or business: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$100 Sponsorship Payment Options (select):**

\_\_\_\_ We have enclosed a check/cash donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for MCS Holiday Project sponsorships.

\_\_\_\_ We have donated through [mcsfl.com](http://mcsfl.com) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for MCS Holiday Project sponsorships.

**(PLEASE INCLUDE MEMO: HOLIDAY PROJECT)**

**Additional Holiday Project sponsorship options:**

\_\_\_\_ I would like to provide a \$50 gift to support holiday meals for MCS children and families in need.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to provide a \$25 gift to sponsor a holiday stocking for a child.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to DOUBLE my impact to MCS children and families with a donation through Flanzer Philanthropic Trust (**NOTE:** Your personal donation of \$5-\$500 may be eligible for matching funds. Restrictions apply - please review the Trust's terms and conditions to see if your contribution qualifies.)

Donate through MCS website (memo: Holiday Project): <https://www.manateechildrensservices.com/donate/>

Make a year-end financial gift through Flanzer Philanthropic Trust (select Manatee Children's Services):

<https://donate.flanzertrust.org/charities/>





# AGENCY SUCCESS STORIES



Within our treatment services at Manatee Children's Services, our licensed clinicians provide trauma-focused care to help children and families heal after abuse. Our therapists work vigilantly to ensure every child receives the right services to support their emotional recovery and long-term stability, ultimately building safety skills and resilience to help reduce future instances of abuse.

Several months ago, one young girl came to MCS struggling to adjust after a difficult foster placement. Her caregivers were unsure how to help her heal from the trauma she had experienced. Our clinical team began providing trauma therapy to help her process her emotions and rebuild trust, and we strongly recommended Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for her next caregivers to strengthen their bond and communication.

Recently, we received a call from her case manager with incredible news that the child has been adopted! The new family completed PCIT and is thriving together. Her case manager shared, "She's like a whole new kid: much happier, with a healthy attachment and bond with her adoptive family." She also thanked MCS for "advocating for the services that the child really needed rather than just giving up on her."

Because of your support, this child found not just a home, but also the loving family and stability she truly deserves.



Lauren Andrews  
Eddie Duffy  
Quendi Baloney  
Juanita Canady  
Fidelina Alvarez  
Raymond Chavez



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**A Child Advocacy Center**  
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**Bradenton, FL 34205**  
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**info@mcsfl.com**

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

