

October 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:

- Agency news
- Fun in MCS residential
- "Groovin' for Good" gala
- Target Circle giving
- MCS Holiday Project
- Community spotlight
- Program testimonials

Community Highlights

This past month has been filled with incredible generosity and community support for Manatee Children's Services. We are honored to receive a \$15,000 grant from the Wilson-Wood Foundation to continue the Spanish-speaking Nonoffending Caregiver Group (NOC) for a third year, providing therapeutic education and support for caregivers of children who have been sexually abused.



Our thanks also go to J. McLaughlin for hosting a store fundraiser benefiting MCS, and to the Realtor Association of Sarasota-Manatee for their \$5,000 grant to fund new carpeting and furniture at our Emergency Shelter. Finally, we are grateful to BNI Business Focus for quickly organizing a snack collection drive for children attending therapy sessions before and after school. Together, these partnerships strengthen our mission to protect children, support families, and prevent abuse.

Special Moments in Residential



Another successful match with Big Brothers Big Sisters!



We are so proud of this kiddo's hard work in JROTC!



Looking sharp and ready for Homecoming



Sports offer foster children more than just time on the field: they provide healing and confidence.

Save
The
Date

GROOVIN' FOR GOOD



MCS Child
Advocacy Center



A 70S GALA FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

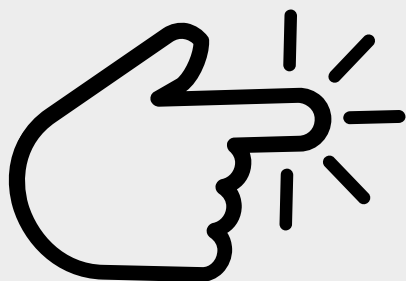
Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa

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

Manatee Children's
Services Annual Gala

Groovin' For Good

A 70s Gala for
Child Abuse Prevention

Table Sponsors

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Stayin' Alive</i> | \$12000 |
| <i>Boogie Wonderland</i> | \$7500 |
| <i>Disco Inferno</i> | \$5000 |
| <i>Saturday Night Fever</i> | \$2500 |
| <i>Peace Love & Disco</i> | \$1000 |
| <i>Disco Hero</i> | \$500 |
| <i>Boogie Backer</i> | \$250 |
| <i>Individual Tickets</i> | \$150 |

The "Groovin' for Good" gala is more than just a night of disco and fun: it's a powerful opportunity to support child abuse prevention and help children in our community thrive.

Spots are filling quickly! Please see our website for details on each sponsorship type and what your dollars will support. Whether you're a business or an individual, your sponsorship makes a lasting, lifechanging impact.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa

Bringman Roofing

Sandcastle Digital Design

Jennifer Hamey

Base Tax CPA

Luhrsen Goldberg, LLC

NextEra Energy (FPL)

NDC Construction

Goodwill Manasota

The Sidell Method

Horizon HR and Bookkeeping

Ace Electric Inc

Suli & Martinez Attorneys at Law

DryPro Inc

MCR Health

Groovin' For Good

A 70s Gala for
Child Abuse Protection

Brand Sponsors

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Happy Hour Hustle</i> | \$9,000 |
| <i>Disco Memories</i> | \$9,000 |
| <i>Boogie Nights</i> | \$7,500 |
| <i>Solid Gold Gavel</i> | \$6,000 |
| <i>Flower Power & Funk</i> | \$5,000 |
| <i>Sweet Soul</i> | \$4,000 |
| <i>Stationary Disco</i> | \$3,000 |
| <i>Strike-a-Pose</i> | \$3,000 |
| <i>Flashback Video</i> | \$3,000 |
| <i>Cruisin' in Style</i> | \$2,000 |
| <i>Live Java</i> | \$1,500 |
| <i>Ticket to Funky Town</i> | \$1,000 |
| <i>In-Kind / Custom</i> | \$7,000 |

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VIP Cocktail Hour: 5:00 pm

\$150 per person

Contact Krista P. or Hannah S. for sponsorships:
kristap@mcsfl.com • hannahs@mcsfl.com



**MCS Child
Advocacy Center**

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



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

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.

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. 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!

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 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/>

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



MARRIOTT RESORT
PALMETTO

This month, we're proud to shine our community spotlight on the Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa, a new cornerstone of hospitality and community spirit in our region. Opened in connection with the Bradenton Area Convention Center, the Marriott is designed as a stand-alone destination for meetings, events, and collaborations that will bring people together for years to come.

Director of Sales and Marketing, Scott Selvaggi, joined the Marriott in April 2023, drawn by the project's vision to serve as both a premier resort and a hub for community partnerships. Under Scott's leadership, the Marriott has already demonstrated a strong commitment to local nonprofits, with a special focus on children and animal charities.

As our premier sponsor for the upcoming "Groovin' for Good" gala, the Marriott has shown extraordinary generosity. "Assisting children's organizations and charities is very important to our organization," Scott shared, reflecting Marriott's dedication to giving back where it matters most.

The Marriott's commitment to community doesn't stop there. Through its outdoor venue, The Yard, the resort regularly hosts concerts and festivals such as the Palmetto Blues Festival, Taste and Toast, and its spring concert series: all benefiting local charities and enriching the cultural landscape of Palmetto.

When asked about the community's greatest need, Scott emphasized the importance of sustainable dialogue and collaboration: "Our community has embraced this vision, and our success will be the community's success."

We're grateful to Scott and the entire Palmetto Marriott team for their support, partnership, and dedication to building a brighter future for children and families in Manatee County.



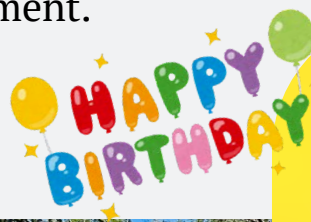
AGENCY SUCCESS STORIES



When “Michael” came into our care, he had already endured tremendous loss and uncertainty. His mother had passed away after a long struggle with addiction, and his father was not able to care for him until he turned 18. Moving between schools left him behind in credits, and the weight of his trauma showed in his struggles with boundaries and relationships.

With the support of our staff, Michael began therapy and was introduced to life skills that would shape his future. Together, our staff helped him earn his Florida ID and learner’s permit, and guided him through lessons in budgeting, coping skills, job readiness, and healthy relationships. He even learned milestones as personal as how to shave: small but defining steps in his journey to adulthood. Alongside academic support, he discovered enrichment through outings, group activities, and mentorship.

Despite the hardships, Michael’s determination never wavered. He graduated high school, reconnected with his father, and transitioned into a stable future. Today, Michael has entered military service, carrying with him the skills, encouragement, and hope he gained here. He continues to stay in touch, grateful for the guidance that helped him turn resilience into achievement.



Hannah Sarmiento
Danielle Pierre
Kasondra Simmons
Victoria Hernandez
Anita Wilson
Danielle Foster
Julia Robertson



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info@mcsfl.com

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

