

August 2023

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.

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Save

The

Date

SUPPORT MANATEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES AT



SEPTEMBER 1ST FROM 6:00 TO 9:00 PM

MCS is proud to represent September's featured charity at Lakewood Ranch Music on Main. Please join us for this exciting night as the streets of Downtown Lakewood Ranch offer live music, food trucks, vendors, and kids' activities for all to enjoy.

All adult beverage proceeds will benefit MCS. We'll also be hosting 50/50 raffles and raffle baskets at our vendor booth, along with personalized items for sale designed by some of our VIP child artists.

To donate prizes or items for the event, or to volunteer, please contact Krista Post at kristap@mcsfl.com. We can't wait to celebrate this fun evening with our community!

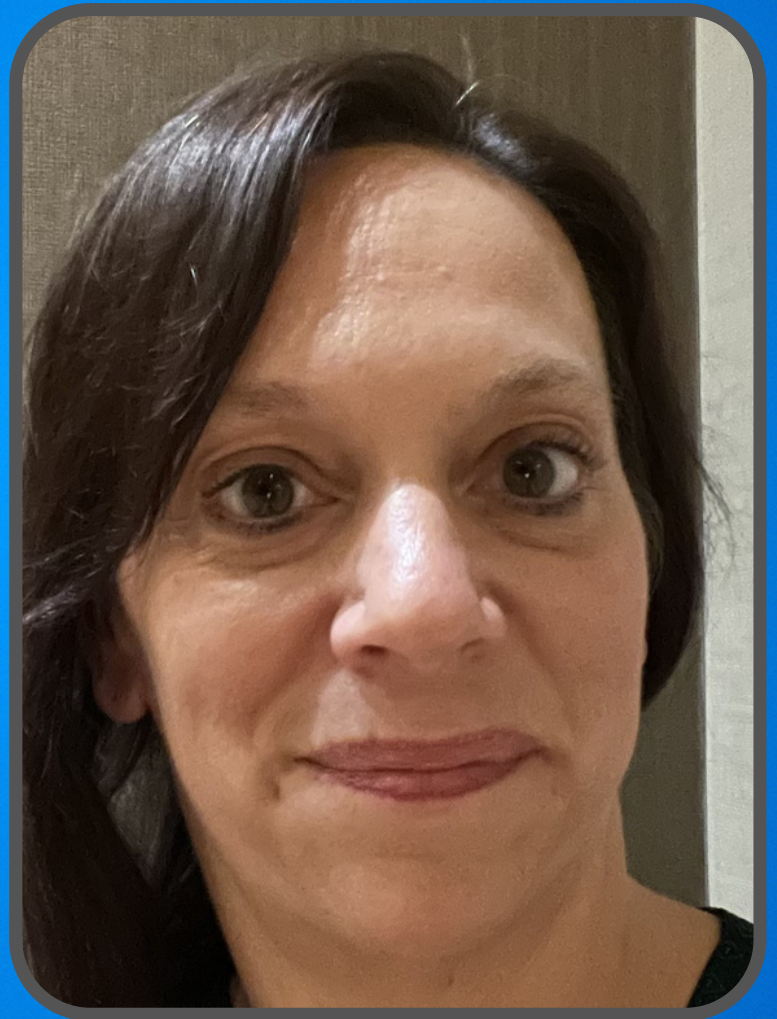
W E L C O M E

TO OUR TEAM

Jenn Dyer

Please welcome Jenn Dyer, MCS Family Preservation and Reunification Specialist, to our Sarasota-based team. With a 20-year history as a teacher, she has a deep understanding of the challenges families face and has a passion for supporting them.

“Families sometimes find themselves in tough situations, and I feel honored to be a part of a support system to help them through it,” Jenn said.



Jenn said the best part about the culture at MCS is the warm welcome she has received from her colleagues at MCS and the support they’ve given in helping her learn her new job roles.

“I look forward to bonding with my new team and working together to change the lives of the families we work with,” she said.

W E L C O M E

TO OUR TEAM

Britney Guerra



We are happy to welcome Britney Guerra, KIDS Personal Safety Coordinator, as the newest addition to our MCS family. With years of experience in daycares and schools, Britney said working with children has always been her calling. She also said she feels this position has given her the perfect opportunity to inform children about how to be safe and protect themselves from dangers in the world.

In addition to her hopes of gaining experience with educating children on personal safety in a school setting, Britney said the culture at MCS is welcoming and friendly.

“The staff is genuine, and they make me feel like I’m part of the family,” she said. “I’m excited to continue learning and happy to be brought into such an open and inviting environment.”

MCS IN THE COMMUNITY



Thank you to BNI Business Focus for organizing a chapter fundraiser to benefit Manatee Children's Services. Thanks to the proceeds from these fabulous raffles, we received about \$800 for our Christmas in July campaign. We truly appreciate our BNI partners!



MCS was proud to be a part of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Showcase at Keiser University, where we connected with over 170 attendees to share our mission and programs. Thank you to the Manatee Chamber, Keiser University, and our wonderful community members for your support.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: DAN WINKELMAN



Manatee Children's Services would like to recognize our Board of Directors member, Dan Winkelman, for his dedication to MCS and our community.

Dan holds a Masters of Business Administration and has worked in Information Technology since 1985. He worked with multiple consulting firms before establishing his own company, HCMS Partners, in 2000. Dan now has two companies where he serves as Managing Partner: Blind Squirrel Investing, LLC, and HCMS Partners.



Dan has been a Bradenton native since 2009 and has a blended family of seven children with his wife, Deljean: sons Stephen, Robert, Andrew, and Peter; and stepchildren Matthew, Frank and Shelby. Dan and Deljean also share five grandchildren, with a new addition due in September.

Dan said he was looking for a local charity to support after establishing Florida residency, so Deljean introduced him to MCS about 15 years ago at a fundraising event. He felt drawn to our mission and started supporting MCS both personally and professionally shortly thereafter.

Dan's charitable support focuses on organizations that support children and families in the community and said MCS was a natural fit. He also supports our community's children and families through organizations such as Feeding Empty Little Tummys (F.E.L.T.), Sun Coast Charities, The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, The City Mission (Cleveland) and The Jack and Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation.

In his spare time, Dan loves attending car shows. His car was voted "Best Superhero Car" by the children in our residential program at the MCS "Cruisin' for Charity" car show fundraiser.

"I fully support MCS' mission and enjoy working with the Board and the organization's committed team members," Dan said.



AUGUST PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Because of community supporters like you, our programs are able to continue breaking the cycle of child abuse for victims and families.

Clinicians at MCS change lives for children and families victimized by abuse by providing therapeutic treatment that addresses trauma and helps them recognize safety threats, report abuse, and establish healthy boundaries. Our clinical program has a 99% success rate in building strategies to help prevent future abuse; however, our best success stories come from personal testimonials.

Our clinical director recently received a call from a former client, "Samantha," to say thank you for making a difference in her life. Samantha began therapy with our clinical team after being placed at our group home for long-term foster care. Our therapists worked closely with her to address her anger issues, which were a result of trauma, and develop healthy coping strategies. With the combination of therapy and a supportive living environment at our group home, Samantha was placed with a foster parent and later reunified with her grandmother in a much healthier state of mind. She is now 23 years old, has three children, and reported to our team that she is doing very well. Samantha credited her life success to the MCS clinical program and all the great staff she encountered in our residential program.

Thank you to our hardworking clinical team for breaking the cycle of abuse every day!

Manatee Children's Services, Inc.
A Child Advocacy Center
1227 9th Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 345-1200
info@mcsfl.com

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