

# MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 19, Issue 12 ~ December 2019

# Don't get Wrapped up in the Holiday Stress

JOIN THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKGROUP FOR ITS ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING CAMPAIGN

Friday, December 13 through Tuesday, December 24, 2019 available during holiday hours at the Paddock Mall Gift wrapping Booth will be located near Macy's

Bring any unwrapped gifts to the Mall and our volunteers will wrap them for you. We provide everything needed i.e wrapping paper, bows and gift tags. Boxes extra!

## ~ Volunteers Needed ~

Must be at least 18 years or older and have gift wrapping experience.

Pick the days and hours you want to volunteer. Groups welcome!

For information or a volunteer form, call (352) 438-5990 or email Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org

All proceeds benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence

## **Gift Wrap Volunteer Sign Up Form on Page 5**

# **MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

3482 N.W. 10th St. Ocala, FL 34475 Phone: (352) 438-5990 Fax: (352) 438-5994 www.mcchildrensalliance.org

### **Board of Directors**

**Dennis Baxley** Lori Boring **Bill Chambers** John Cooper Sheryll Goedert Greg Graham Michael Greiner Scott Hackmyer Mark Lander Pam Michell Jim McCune Scot Quintel Randy Reynolds Mary Sue Rich **Brad Rogers** Sharron Washington Sandra Wilson **Billy Woods** Carl Zalak

For all of Marion County's Children to have a safe, healthy and nurturing environment in which to grow.

**Our Vision** 

## **Our Mission**

"To improve the lives of Marion County Children"

## $\sim$ Partners in Excellence $\sim$

Barrett, Liner & Company; Brooklyn's Backyard; City of Ocala, Community Coalition Alliance; Cox Communication; Dept. of Children and Families; Dept. of Juvenile Justice; Drug Free Communities; Duke Energy; Florida Blue; Florida Dept. of Health in Marion County; Friends Recycling, LLC; Jenkins Auto Group; Kids Central, Inc.; Marion County Board of County Commissioners; Marion County Hospital District; Marion County Public Schools; Marion County Sheriff's Office; Ocala Police Department; Palmer Family Foundation; Quit Doc; Radiology Associates of Ocala; Renasant Bank; Signature Brands; Tri-Eagle Sales; United Way of Marion County; Wells Fargo Bank

Staff	E-mail: mcca@mcchildrensalliance.org
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Prevention Coordinator	Nancy Castillo Nancy@mcchildrensalliance.org
Family Violence Prevention Coordinator .	. Monica Bryant Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org
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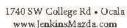
Notice: The Children's Alliance informs readers of current events in the nonprofit and social service fields. Opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the Marion County Children's Alliance. Inclusion or exclusion of any agency does not imply either endorsement or disapproval by the Alliance. MCCA reserves the right to edit **ALL** submissions. Information should be e-mailed to **Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org** by the **FIRST** Friday of each month for the following months publication.

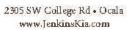


## Proud Supporter of the Marion County Children's Alliance



2025 SW College Rd • Ocala www.JenkinsAcura.com 1602 SW College Rd • Ocala www.OcalaHyundai.com







Pace Center for Girls of Marion County currently has *limited, immediate enrollment opportunities* available for qualifying 6th - 12th grade girls in the Ocala area! PACE is a free, year-round social and educational program designed to help girls become successful community members by offering small class sizes, credit recovery, on-site counseling, character development, and future educational and career planning. Interested? The first step is to contact Pace for an intake assessment and tour. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please contact **Carolynn White** at **(352)369-0571** or Carolynn.White@pacecenter.org

# ENCOURAGE YOUR CLIENTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO COME

The Marion County Children's Alliance will hold a vendor fair, in lieu of its regular monthly meeting, on Wednesday, December 4, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Marion County Sheriff's Office Multi-purpose Room, 3300 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475



The vendor fair is a wonderful opportunity for the public to learn about the variety of resources and services available in our community from various nonprofit and social service agencies.

The free event is open to the public and includes lunch.

For more information, call (352) 438-5990.

JOIN THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKGROUP FOR ITS ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING CAMPAIGN December 13 – December 24, 2019 during holiday hours at the Paddock Mall Gift Wrapping Booth will be located near Macy's **Volunteer Gift Wrapping Form** (Please Print Clearly) \* Required Information \*Name: Student: Yes or No \*Address: City: State: Zip: \*Phone: ( -or- Cell: ( \*E-mail:

## Volunteers Needed December 13 through December 24, 2019

Please list date and times you want to volunteer:

Date	_ Time	to
Date	_ Time	_to
Date	_ Time	_to
Date	_ Time	_to
Date	_Time	to
Date	_ Time	to

Your support is sincerely appreciated **BUT**, please remember we will be depending on on you to show up to wrap gifts on the days and hours **YOU** sign up for.

Fax completed forms to (352) 438-5994 or e-mail to Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org For more information, available times and dates, call (352) 438-5990.



2020 MARION COUNTY World's Greatest Baby Shower

THURSDAY JANUARY 23 3300 NW 10th Street, Ocala



Expecting a baby? Come to our community Baby Shower! Parents of infants up to one year old are also invited.

Find Us

EXHIBITS • GAMES • SCAVENGER HUNT PRIZES • FATHERS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN

> Early Learning Coalition

> > Center

PROUD SPONSORS:

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Marlon County

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No Cos

**FOBACCO FREE EVENT** 



HELP US GIVE THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS TO LOCAL FAMILIES!

FROM OCTOBER 24TH TO DECEMBER 6TH, WE WILL BE COLLECTING NEW, UNWRAPPED GIFTS FOR YOUTH AGES 0-18 AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

OCALA POLICE DEPARTMENT 402 South Pine Ave Ocala, FL 3447

MARLEY MAE 512 SW 3rd Ave Ocala, FL 34471

STORERIGHT SELF STORAGE 2401 SW 17th Road Ocala, FL 3447

THE TECH FIX 300 SE 8th Street Ocala, FL 34471

#### MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

3482 NW 10th Street Ocala, FL 34475

#### THE OCALA CHRISTMAS PARADE

Toys will be collected along the parade route on Saturday December 8th! Look for Santa's Elves and the Marion County Children's Alliance float!









# HELP US FILL OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Marion County encourages residents and businesses to help those in greater need for the eighth year by participating in the annual Bring the Harvest Home holiday food drive. The final collection will be held on Friday, December 6., from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Downtown Square in Ocala. Donated goods will help fill local food pantries.



The **most needed** items this holiday season include:

- Dry foods and complimentary goods (rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, crackers, peanut butter and jelly). Plastic containers preferred.
- Canned meats (corned beef, corned beef hash, ham and tuna
- Canned vegetables and fruit.
- Baby items (baby cereal, diapers and lotion).
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and toilet paper).

Donations may be dropped off at the Downtown Square on December 6 or other drop-off locations include: public libraries, city and county fire stations, Sheriff's office district offices, tax collector offices, Solid Waste recycling centers, Ocala Police Department, Supervisor of Elections, Ocala City Hall, Marion County Administration and the Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership.

For addresses and more information on the Bring the Harvest Home holiday food drive, visit **bringtheharvesthome.com** or **facebook.com/** MarionCountyFlorida.

# AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

# War Horse Harley Owners Group Ocala FL Chapter



5331 N. Hwy. 441 Ocala, FL 34476 Director: Guy Mongello



Phone: (352) 732-2488 Website: Ocalahogchapter.net Email: ocalahogchapter@cfl.rr.com

Mission: To socialize, ride motorcycles, have fun and help children in need.



The War Horse Harley Group partners with War Horse Harley-Davidson, serves motorcycle

## **REGISTER NOW BEFORE YOU MISS THE DEADLINE FOR HELP WITH CHRISTMAS**



"Do the good that presents itself to be done." - St. Vincent DePaul

#### 2019 Holiday Help Drives

Information for Applicants

Each year, Blessed Trinity and Brother's Keeper helps hundreds of families during the holiday season. Eligible families receive food for Thanksgiving and food & gifts for children under 12 at Christmas. This year we are partnering with Toys for Tots. It is only through the generosity of many others in our parish and community that we're able to provide this assistance each year.



Monday, October 7 through Friday, December 6*	T
Monday through Friday from 9am-11:30am and 1pm-3:30pm	PSA
*Cut-Off for Thanksgiving food applications is Wed. November 13	
THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS FOOD: Families with at least	
one child under the age of 12 residing in Marion County.	
CHRISTMAS TOYS: Families with at least one child under	1
the age of 12 living in one of the following zip codes	A
(34470, 34473, 34474, 34475, 34476, 34477, 34478, 34479).	3
Photo ID with Marion County address	.1
	1
	1
	OH HC
Proof of food stamps qualification	
	Monday through Friday from 9am-11:30am and 1pm-3:30pm * <i>Cut-Off for Thanksgiving food applications is Wed. November 13</i> THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS FOOD: Families with at least one child under the age of 12 residing in Marion County. CHRISTMAS TOYS: Families with at least one child under the age of 12 living in one of the following zip codes



\*\*Qualified applicants will be notified via email between Nov. 1 and Dec. 13

Pick-Up Dates/Times:	Thanksgiving: Christmas:	Tuesday, November 19 from 9:00am-4:0 Monday, December 18 from 9:00am-4:0 Tuesday, December 19 from 9:00am-4:0	Opm
Pick-Up Location:	Located at the r	mbus Hall   1510 SE 3rd Ave, Ocala, FL 344 worth end of the Blessed Trinity parking lot of the applicant when picking up	71
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE 320 NW 10 <sup>th</sup> St., Ocala (352) 622-3846	THRIFT ST 320 NW 10 <sup>th</sup> S (352) 732-1	L, Ocala 435 NW 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., Ocala 5 SE	AIL TO 17 <sup>th</sup> St., , FL 34471



You can register to join at: IntegrationAndHealingCenter.com or our Facebook page @IHCenter



You <u>MUST</u> register if you would like to attend **When**: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 6PM-7PM **Where**: 3620 NE 8th Place Suite 5 Ocala, FL 34470 **Who**: Colette Biondi, MEd, MH7893



# Holiday Meal Planning?

For many of our Pace Girls Winter Breaks mean Hungry Holidays

You can change that by sponsoring a holiday meal card. Meal cards are a \$50 donation and you can purchase more than one. With a donation of \$250, we can help feed 5 families

Help us reach our goal and turn hungry into happy this year by donating through December 1st!

Thank you!...

### FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF GIRLS!



Mail to: Pace Center for Girls, 328 NE 1st Avenue, Suite 500, Ocala, FL 34470 Also donate online @ www.pacecenter.org/locations/marion

## Dr. Mike Jordan Award of Excellence **Nomination Form**

This award will be awarded annually to a Marion County Organization that is doing outstanding work for and with the children of Marion County.

Nominator Name:
Nominator Email:
Nominator Phone #:
Organization to be nominated:
Organization Address:
Executive Director / CEO: Year Established: Organization Mission:

On a separate sheet of paper, please describe why this organization should receive the Dr. Mike Jordan Award of Excellence. Information must not exceed one page.

#### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS BY 5:00 P.M. FEBRUARY 10, 2020.

EMAIL TO: executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org RS

OR MAIL TO: Marion County Children's Alliance

**PO Box 3862** 

Ocala, FL 34478

#### OR DROP OFF AT: 3482 NW 10th St

# **Toy Safety Tips**

Toys and games are tons of fun for kids and adults. Whether your kids are working on a puzzle, playing with building blocks or even inventing their own games, here are a few things to think about to help them stay safer and have a blast.

#### Find the Perfect Toy for the Right Age

- Consider your child's age and development when purchasing a toy or game. Read the instructions and warning labels to make sure it's just right for your child.
- Before you've settled on the perfect toy, check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards.



#### Don't Forget a Helmet for Riding Toys

 If your children have their hearts set on a new bike, skateboard, scooter or other riding equipment, be sure to include a CPSC certified helmet to keep them safe while they're having fun.



• <u>Learn more</u> bike safety tips and watch our <u>helmet</u> <u>safety video</u>.

#### **Store Toys After Play**

 After play time is over, use a bin or container to store toys for next time. Make sure there are no holes or hinges that could catch little fingers.



#### Sign Up to Receive Product Recalls

- Safe Kids compiles product recalls specific to children and sends twice-monthly e-mail alerts for recent recalls. Sign-up for the <u>latest recall</u> information.
- Go to <u>www.recalls.gov</u> for additional information about product recalls related to kids.



In 2016, 174,100 children under the age of 15 years were seen in emergency rooms for toy-related injuries. That's 477 kids every day. Almost half of those children were younger than 5 years of age.

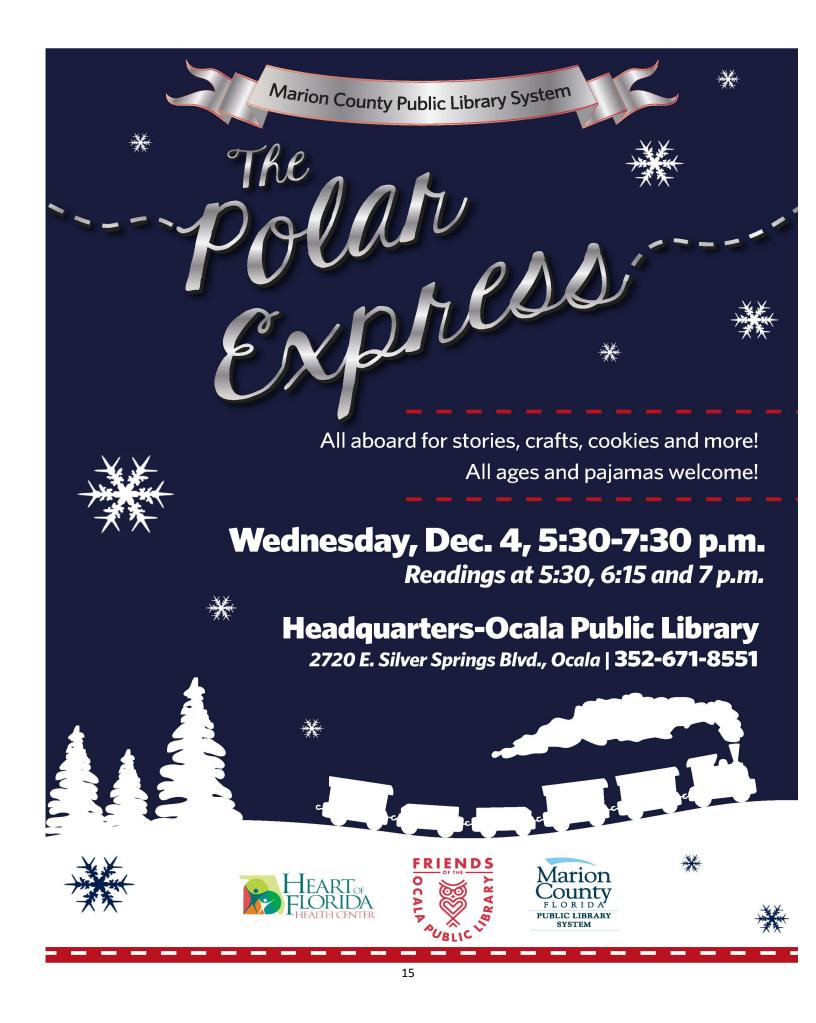


## Have a safe and Happy Holiday!





For more information visit safekids.org.  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  2018 Safe Kids Worldwide  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ 





# Mental Health Regional Training

Join us at the FPHA Mental Health Regional Training to learn more about how community based mental health and substance abuse treatment systems work. Hear from community leaders who provide mental health services at a local, regional, and state level.



Thursday December 5, 2019 8:30 AM-4:30PM

UF College of Public Health & Health Professions 1225 Center Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611

Visit www.fpha.org for more information



FPHA Florida Public Health Association

College of Public Health & Health Professions UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



## FREE CERTIFICATION

### December 9, 2019 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



Ocala Police Department Community Room 402 S. Pine Ave.; Ocala, FL 34471

Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack even if you have no clinical training — Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors \_ and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

Taught by two certified instructors, Mental Health First Aid (Adult) teaches about **recovery** and **resiliency** – the belief that individuals experiencing these challenges can and do get better and use their strengths to stay well.

#### What You Learn:

Signs of addictions and mental illnesses
Impact of mental and substance use disorders
5-step action plan to assess a situation and help
Local resources and where to turn for help

Learn how to apply the Mental Health First Aid action plan in a variety of situations, including when someone is experiencing panic attacks, suicidal behaviors, acute psychosis or reaction to trauma. The opportunity to practice – through role plays, scenarios, and activities – makes it easier to apply these skills in a real-life situation.

## **Registration Deadline: December 6, 2019**

#### Register online at Eventbrite:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/adult-mental-health-first-aid-tickets-80562321071

For more information, contact Nancy Castillo at 352-438-5992 at Marion County Children's Alliance 3482 NW 10<sup>th</sup> St.; Ocala, Fl. 34475; nancy@mcchildrensalliance.org; fax 352-438-5994. Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019 5-9PM held at GOLDEN OCALA GOLF & EQUESTRIAN CLUB

Save the Date

Striding Into The Future

A Charity Benefit for Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.



Believe in Santa Foundation, Inc. and Rockette.

#### Peer Sexual Assault Support Groups



Women's Peer Sexual Assault Support Group

#### Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

(NEW!) Men's Peer Sexual Assault Support Group

Thursdays 5:30 p.m., to 7 p.m.

Groups meet at the Ocala Sexual Assault Center, 2010 S. Pine Ave., Ocala FL 34471

Call (352) 620-8822 for more information

We are proud to announce our 7th annual Chosen Children's Christmas Party! Each year we host a gathering for those children who might not otherwise be able to celebrate.

Christmas Sarty

#### When: Saturday December 21

**Time:** 12pm - 3pm Registration is Required

Location will be given upon confirmation of registration

This party is FREE to attend, with a FREE gift & stocking, FREE lunch, FREE face painting, games and a visit with Santa.

#### Call 352-454-5296 to register your child.

We will need the name, age, and gender of each child attending so that Santa can get them a gift & stocking. Please make sure to include a contact number so that we can confirm your spot at the party.

Transportation is NOT provided.

Space is limited to 40 children.

Hosted with

Games & Prizes

assistance from :

e PAINTING



**JOIN TODAY!** 

## PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW





Shores Assembly of God is once again selling Cheese cakes and other desserts during the holiday season.

To download a menu, just send us an e-mail to **Shoresag@hotmail.com** with "Cheese Cake" on the subject line and we will know what to do.

You can also call **(352) 687-0190** to place your order or just reply to the e-mail we send you and we will be glad to make you a fresh cheese cake or other dessert.



SSVF-Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Assist qualifying veterans and their families with:

- Rapid re-housing, for the literally homeless
  - We assist veterans with case management, budget counseling, job searching, finding housing, security deposits, utility deposits, rent, and become stable in their new home
- Prevention services, for those at imminent risk of losing their housing
  - We assist with case management, budget counseling, job searching, rental and utility arrears, and returning to a stable home environment
- For more information contact:

Casey Boone| Program Specialist |352-260-1374| <u>cboone@voa-fla.org</u> Brenda Vazquez-Alvarez | Support Aide IV | 352-260-1226 | <u>bvazquez-alvarez@voa-fla.org</u> Vinson Marsh| Support Aide IV | 352-414-8174 | <u>vmarsh@voa-fla.org</u> Fax 352-390-8557

# BOOK DRIVE!

November 1st through December 24th



## Give the gift of adventure and literacy

# to our children this holiday season!

Visit our local Barnes and Noble store to purchase your favorite title to donate. All books will be distributed at community events and in the ELCMC Office. Visit ELC at www.elc-marion.org or on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/HMGMarion



### **RENTAL ASSISTANCE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING**

To apply for Rental Assistance you <u>must</u> complete the following steps:

Call **352-373-7667** between 8a - 9a\* Tuesday, December 3, 2019 *thru* Thursday, December 5, 2019 (A voicemail does not constitute an appointment/screening)

Complete Phone Screening to verify eligibility

Family Development Specialist will follow-up to schedule appointment and give list of all REQUIRED

\*A limited number of appointments will be available during this time period. Walk-ins are not accepted.

CONNECT WITH CFCAA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/cfcaa
@cfcaa

Helping People. Changing Lives community PARTNER Serving Alachua, Levy and Marion Counties **Central Florida Community Action Agency** ALACHUA COUNTY OFFICE 411 N Main Street, Suite 210 Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 373-7667 LEVY COUNTY OFFICE 215 SW 5th Street Chiefland, FL 32626 (352) 493-1734 MARION COUNTY OFFICE 2703 NE 14th Street Ocala, FL 34470

(352) 732-3008

www.cfcaa.org

## **REALIZING RECOVERY**



Are you actively in recovery for substance abuse and have successfully completed a substance abuse treatment center program?

Do you need aftercare counseling?

We are a DCF licensed program and offer outpatient counseling at **NO COST** to our clients. We help clients develop and use coping skills, deal with obstacles to ongoing recovery and assist clients in realizing their best potential.

Case management is available as needed.

For more information, contact Kevin Grinnell, ILC, 111 NE 12th Ave, Ocala, FL 34470. Office: (352) 277-1131.



# Youth Mental Health First Aid Join the movement.

Sometimes first aid isn't a bandage, or CPR or calling 911. Sometimes, first aid is YOU.

#### Youth Mental Health First Aid Class

**Date & Time** Friday, Dec. 20th, 2019 9:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m. **Location** Ocala Police Department 402 S. Pine Ave. Ocala, FL 34471

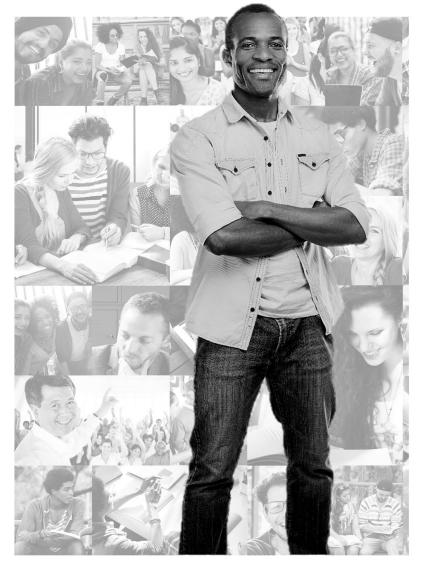
**Register on Eventbrite** www.eventbrite.com/e/youthmental-health-first-aid-tickets-74314164667



For more information contact: Nancy Castillo Prevention Coordinator (352) 438-5992 or nancy@mcchildrensalliance.org

A young person you know could be experiencing a mental health or substance use problem. Learn an action plan to help.

Anyone 18 or older can take Youth Mental Health First Aid, but it is recommended for those who regularly have contact with young people ages 12-18 - teachers, coaches, social workers, faith leaders and other caring citizens.



## Take a course. Save a life. Strengthen your community.

For more information, visit www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org



## Marion County Children's Alliance 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475 Ph: (352) 438-5990 Fax: (352) 438-5994 E-mail: mcca@mcchildrensalliance.org



#### **ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS**

December 9 No Meeting Family Violence Prevention 11 a.m. MCSO EOC

- December 11Safe KidsWednesday9 a.m. FDOH Auditorium
- December 16 CCASA Monday CCASA noon, Ocala Police Dept.
- **December 5** Heroin/Opioid Taskforce 3:30 p.m. OPD Community Rm.

All meetings are open to the public.

#### Connect With Us, log on to .....

**Mcca@mcchildrensalliance.org** to view the Calendar to see what's going on in our community; to sign up to receive a free copy of this newsletter or to join a workgroup.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Alliance

#### **UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES**



December 4 Wednesday Alliance Vendor Fair 11:30 a.m. Jail Interim Building



PLEASE NOTE: (Due to the 1st being New Years Day)January 8Alliance Monthly MeetingWednesday11:30 a.m. Jail Interim Building