



MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Volume 22, Issue 4 ~ April 2022

*Mark
Your
Calendars:*

*Marion County Children's Alliance
Evening of Excellence Gala*

Thursday, April 28, 2022

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Country Club of Ocala

6825 S.E. 12th Circle

Ocala, FL 34480

*Corporate Tables Available
Individual Tickets ~ \$80*

*For information, email Beth McCall
executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org
or call her at (352) 438-5991*



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

Mike Balken
Lori Boring
John Cooper
Craig Curry
Pastor John Delcamp
Michael Greiner
Dr. Diane Gullett
Scott Hackmyer
Mark Lander
Adam Lombardo
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Kevin McDonald
Jim McCune
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Scot Quintel
Randy Reynolds
Brad Rogers
Vickie Sullivan
Charles Scherer
Sandra Wilson
Billy Woods

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

"To improve the lives of Marion County Children"

~ Partners in Excellence ~

Barrett, Liner & Company; 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 Department of Health in Marion County; Friends Recycling, LLC; Jenkins Auto Group; Kids Central, Inc.; Macy's; Marion County Board of County Commissioners; Marion County Hospital District; Marion County Public Schools; Marion County Sheriff's Office; Ocala Police Department; Paddock Mall; Palmer Family Foundation; Radiology Associates of Ocala; Renasant Bank; Signature Brands; Tri-Eagle Sales; United Way of Marion County

Staff

E-mail: mcca@mcchildrensalliance.org

Executive Director	Beth McCall	executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org
Family Violence Prevention Coordinator	Monica Bryant	Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org
Prevention Coordinator	Hilary Jackson	Hilary@mcchildrensalliance.org
Supporting Kids, Involving Parents Coordinator (S.K.I.P) ..	Kelley Windham ..	Kelley@mcchildrensalliance.org
Supporting Kids, Involving Parents Project Specialist (S.K.I.P)	Dominic McDonald	Dominic@mcchildrensalliance.org
Peer Recovery Specialist	Kassie Leonard	Kassie@mcchildrensalliance.org
Outreach Specialist	Tanya Ousley	Tanya@mcchildrensalliance.org

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.



Marion County Early Childhood Court works with families with children from birth to five who have been removed from the home and are in the care of the child welfare system.

For more information, contact Martha Firkins, Program Coordinator at
(352) 502-2228, or email **mfirkins@circuit5.org**.

LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE YOUR ORGANIZATION!

Dr. Mike Jordan Award of Excellence & Vision Award 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. April 1, 2022

EMAIL TO: executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org

OR MAIL TO: Marion County Children's Alliance

PO Box 3862

Ocala, FL 34478

OR DROP OFF AT: 3482 NW 10th St

*SAVE THE DATE – Thursday, April 28, 2022 – Country Club of Ocala
Evening of Excellence Gala
Award Presentation*

MARCH ALLIANCE MEETING IS IN PERSON



Join Us!

for the

Alliance Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at the MCSO Multi-purpose Room
3300 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475

Agency Spotlight: Jessica Gilbert

Director of Community Affairs, Kids Central, Inc
"Child Abuse Prevention Month"

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Gavin

Marion County Coordinator,
Big Brothers Big Sisters Marion County

To learn more about the Children's Alliance
visit our website at www.mcchildrensalliance.org

19th
Annual

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Free Backpack and School Supplies

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022

DRIVE THRU ONLY EVENT

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Friends Recycling Center
2350 N.W. 27th Ave., Ocala**



Children must be in the car to
receive Backpack - **No Exceptions!**

For more information, to donate supplies or sponsorship
opportunities, call (352) 438-5993 or (352) 509-9279

Free Meal for Adults and Children SWAG Bags with
Community Resources for Adults While Supplies Last!

Sponsored by Marion County Children's Alliance, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc., City of Ocala in partnership with Marion County Public Schools

19th Annual Back 2 School Sponsorship Form

Sponsored by the Marion County Children's Alliance, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc., the City of Ocala in partnership with Marion County Public Schools.

The 19th Annual "Drive Through" Back 2 School Bash will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2022, from 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Friends Recycling Center, 2350 N.W. 27th Ave., Ocala, FL 34475. This **FREE** event provides hundreds of students with backpacks filled with basic school supplies.

Your support makes it possible for us to make sure as many students as possible have what they need and to be prepared and ready to learn on the first day of school.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Sponsorship Levels	BACKPACK SPONSOR \$1,500	GOLD SPONSOR \$1,000	SILVER SPONSOR \$750	BRONZE SPONSOR \$500	COMMUNITY SUPPORTER \$250
1. Logo on B2School Flyer/Website Display Banner at Event (supplied by Company)	X	X			
2. Printed Brochures/Materials in All Backpacks	X	X			
3. Printed Material in Swag Bags Distributed to Parents/Guardians (300 max)			X	X	
4. Immediate Acknowledgment on Social Media	X	X	X	X	X
5. Company Listed on Signage at Event	X	X	X	X	

**To guarantee maximum sponsor benefits 1-2, please submit sponsorship payment by April 4, 2022.*

Choose Your Sponsorship Level: Backpack (\$1,500) Gold (\$1,000)
 Silver (\$750) Bronze (\$500) Community (\$250)

Other Ways You Can Help: (\$10 sponsors a backpack filled with school supplies for one Student)

- Unable to be a Sponsor, but would like to make a donation of \$_____ to sponsor _____ Backpacks
- I would like to donate school supplies valued at \$_____ to support the event.

Sponsor Information:

Business or Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to **MCCA** (put **B2School** in Memo area of check) and mail to Children's Alliance, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475 or pay online at <https://2022b2sbash.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, contact Monica Bryant at (352) 438-5993 or Lena Hopkins at (352) 509-9279.

Marion County Public Schools Spring 2022 Career Fair

Marion County Public Schools will be holding a family-friendly Career Fair on Saturday, April 9 from 9am-12pm at the World Equestrian Center, Expo Center 2. The Career Fair will include multiple career opportunities with various departments ranging in minimum qualifications. A shuttle bus will run throughout the event to take candidates to free horse shows, shopping opportunities, and dining venues. We will also have literacy activities for families who attend. For more information, please visit <https://www.marionschools.net/>



Skyward Family Access App

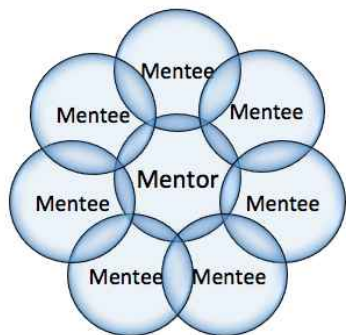
MCPS Parents and Students have the ability to view grades and attendance information in Skyward using the Skyward Mobile Access App. Learn more about downloading this app at <https://www.marionschools.net/Page/52544>.

Donations Being Accepted for Attendance Campaign at Emerald Shores Elementary

Emerald Shores Elementary is putting together an attendance incentive campaign to encourage students to come to school on time and ready to learn. As part of this campaign, we are looking for donations that can be used as prizes.

Wednesday Wrap-Up with Dr. Gullett

This week we launched the first video of a new weekly series where Superintendent Dr. Diane Gullett will share highlights from across the district. You can view this week's video at <https://youtu.be/BQCg6tRUwsQ>. If you are not already liking and following MCPS on Facebook, you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/MarionCountyK12/>.



Mentors Needed for Take Stock in Children

See flyer on page 9 for more information.





Take Stock in Children Of Marion County

Take Stock in Children is a nonprofit mentoring, college & career readiness and scholarship program. Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty for low-income, underrepresented, academically qualified students by providing opportunities for degree attainment through postsecondary education. We provide wraparound services to students through an innovative, multi-year model from high school through postsecondary completion. You can change the life of a local student in Marion County by becoming a mentor!

What is a Take Stock Mentor?

A Take Stock in Children Mentor is a caring, compassionate adult who chooses to devote their time to a young person. Mentors offer support, guidance, and encouragement. A Take Stock school-based mentor can change a life by helping a child build confidence, a solid foundation of values, establish goals, and improve their academic skills.

Want to learn more about becoming a mentor?

Scan or visit www.takestockinchildren.org:



Take Stock in Children of Marion County is a program of the Public Education Foundation of Marion County

www.pefmc.org



10th ANNUAL

5K RACE
AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

Save
THE
Date

APRIL 9, 2022

CALESA TOWNSHIP

8075 SW 63rd St Rd, Ocala, FL 34481

7 AM Registration & Packet Pick-Up

8 AM Run/Walk Starts



CREATE A GROUP OR COMPANY TEAM FOR 5K RACE.

An award will be given to the group with the largest participation.



\$25 per adult • \$10 for kids (under 10)

REGISTER ON KCRACE.COM

Shirts are guaranteed to the first 250 people registered.

If you are unable to attend but wish to make a donation please visit kimberlycenter.org.

5k design and printing courtesy of NeptuneAdvertising.com

~ AGENCY SPOTLIGHT ~

TOBACCO FREE PARTNERSHIP OF MARION COUNTY

Ocala, Florida

CEO/Executive Director: Dano Moreno

Phone: (352) 209-9628

Website: www.civcom.com

Email: tammy@civcom.com and Hilary@civcom.com

Mission: We work to understand complex problems by listening to people impacted by them; find solutions that are evidence-based and community-supported; and implement policies that improve health and wellbeing for generations to come.

Clients Served: Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Clubs meet monthly and is open to all students ages 11 - 17.

Collaborative Partners: Since 2009, CivCom has collaborated with more than 50 public health organizations throughout the United States. Our focus is in Florida where we are working to end nicotine addiction and improve health equity in partnership with 24 tobacco-free coalitions.



SKIP

Supporting Kids Involving Parents



EASTER

Egg Hunt

SUNDAY APRIL 17, 2022 AT 3PM
ED CROSKEY PAVILLION
1510 NW 4TH ST, OCALA, FL 34475



For questions or donations contact Dominic (352-274-1260)

PINWHEELS

for prevention

FAMILY FUN DRIVE-THRU,
PARK & PLAY



ELCMC

Early Learning
Coalition
of Marion County, Inc.

United Way



Marion County

Help Me Grow[®]
Florida

SAT. APRIL 30, 2022
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA (EWERS CENTURY CENTER)
3001 SW COLLEGE RD., OCALA, 34474

FREE:

- Kids Activity Area
- Face Painting
- Children's Books
- Balls & Blocks*
- Resources for Parents
- *Balls & Blocks for children birth-8 w/ free developmental screening

For more information, call (352) 369-2315
Visit www.ELC-MARION.org



-an equal opportunity college-



DIVISION OF
Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.



R.A.M.AL. Educational and Social Services, Inc.

Presents

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT EVENT

Howard Academy Community Center
306 NW 7th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34475

Saturday, April 30, 2022
10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Action Steps To Own A Home In 2020, Improve
Credit Scores, Get More From Financial
Institutions, Leaving A Financial Legacy,
Investing Like A Pro, Talking To Your Children
About Saving*

Vendors

Food

Prizes

One Grand Prize \$250

Free Event



Contact: Barbara J. Brooks, Ph.D.
(352) 875-4237 • www.ramalservices.org

SPONSORSHIP/VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE

MAN IN THE MIRROR

Conversation for men, by men

Workshop for Adults and Teens

At our interactive workshop, male parents, guardians, mentors, and youth will learn how to navigate and assist with various male struggles that young men may face using growth, personal development and self discovery.



Guest Speaker
Jamie Gilmore

Free event for
Adults & Youth
11yrs and up

5:30–8 P.M., Tuesday, April 26

College of Central Florida Webber Center
3001 SW College Rd., Ocala, FL 34474

Event is free and includes dinner and giveaways!
Preregistration recommended but not required.
For more information call 352-644-2687



HURRY ~ LAST CHANCE TO AUDITION



OPEN REHEARSALS

AN EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES



Open Rehearsals provide the unique opportunity for students to experience a professional Orchestra during one of the most crucial parts of any performance - the final rehearsal! Guests will have a front-row seat as the conductor and orchestra bring a piece to life.

Open rehearsals are free and include pizza!

2022 OPEN REHEARSALS

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022: 21ST CENTURY ANTHOLOGY

Visit ocala-symphony.com to learn more about the concert programs and the OSO!



REILLY ARTS CENTER

6:30 PM: DOORS OPEN AND PIZZA

7 PM: OPEN REHEARSAL BEGINS

8:30 PM: OPEN REHEARSAL ENDS

All rehearsals take place at the Reilly Arts Center located at 500 NE 9th St. Ocala, FL 34470. Let us know you're coming! RSVP to info@reillyartscenter.com.

OMEGA PSI PHI • PSI CHI CHAPTER



TALENT HUNT

High School
Talent
Competition

Howard Academy Community Center

4.23.22 • 5-8PM

INSTRUMENTAL

CALLING all talented
10th and 11th graders.

First, second and third
place prizes will be awarded.

The winner will move onto
the State Talent Hunt
Competition in September
to be held in Miami.

All expenses will be paid
for trip.

DANCE

VOCAL

DRAMA

VISUAL

CONTACT INFO: RONALD JONES, JR. • 352-895-1429

Applications available on their website at www.psichiques.com

DANGEROUS THINGS TEENS DO IN CARS: 7 RISKY BEHAVIORS AND 7 TIPS TO STAY SAFE

Sometimes we all do risky things in cars
These 7 are specially dangerous – and cause too many deaths



DO YOU DO ANY OF THESE THINGS?

1 SKIPPING SEAT BELTS



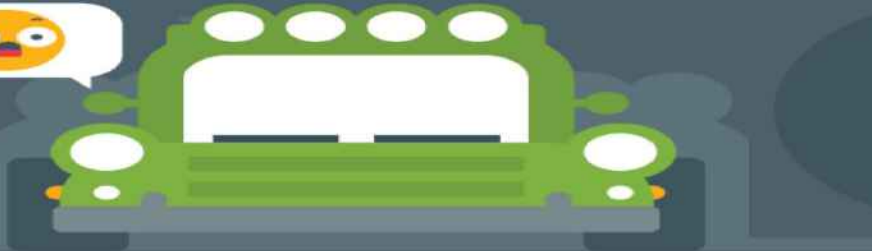
2 TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

On average, texting while driving takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds.



3 AFRAID, AND NOT SPEAKING UP

One third of teens feel unsafe riding with a parent.



Half of teen passengers report feeling unsafe riding with a driver who isn't alert.

4 DRINKING AND DRIVING

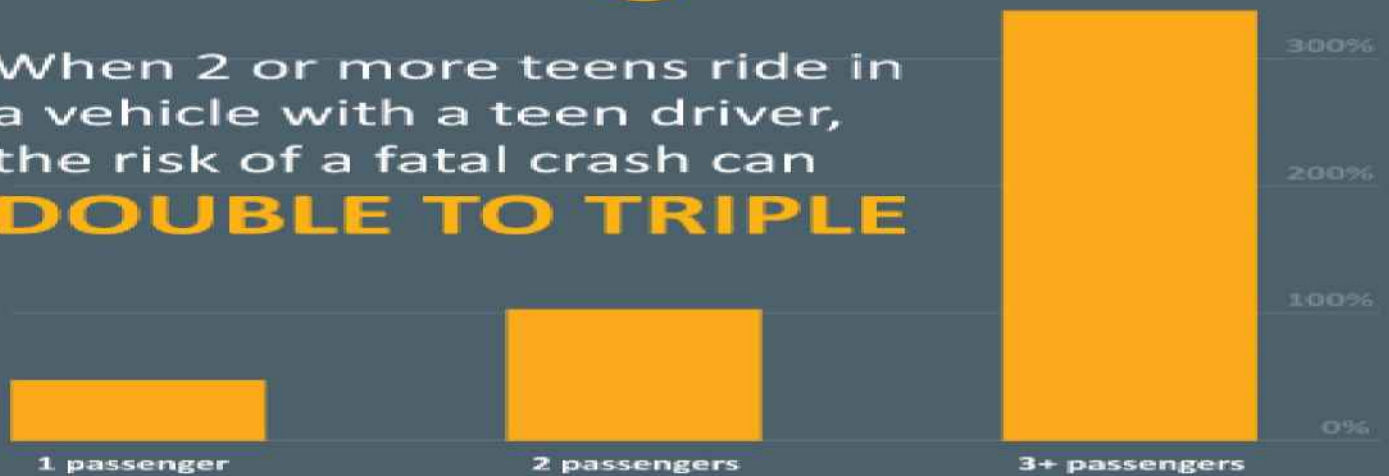


15% of drivers between 15 – 19 who were killed in crashes had a Blood Alcohol Content of .08% or higher.

5 TOO MANY PASSENGERS

When 2 or more teens ride in a vehicle with a teen driver, the risk of a fatal crash can

DOUBLE TO TRIPLE



6 DRIVING WHEN IT'S DARK

The risk of a fatal crash at night can be more than 3 times higher for teens than adults

7 SPEEDING

More than 1/3 of teens killed in crashes were speeding

More than 2,500 teens die in car crashes every year

DON'T BE ONE OF THEM

7 Ways to Stay Safe

1. Buckle up: every person, every time
2. Don't text and drive
3. Speak up when any driver is driving unsafely
4. Limit the number of passengers in a car
5. Don't drink and drive
6. Only drive when it's dark after extra practice
7. Follow the speed limit

Florida
HEALTH
Marion County

SAFE
KIDS
MARION COUNTY



LSF HEALTH SYSTEMS
9428 Baymeadows Rd., Suite 320
Jacksonville, FL 32256
904-337-4054
<http://samh.lsfnet.org>



COMMUNITY COALITION ALLIANCE, INC.
11250 Old St. Augustine Road, Suite 15 – 314
Jacksonville, FL 32257
904-337-4054
www.ccafl.org

Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training

Community Coalition Alliance, Inc., LSF Health Systems, Florida National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Outreach (DDRO), and Department of Children and Families, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) has collaborated to offer the Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) to prevention providers and prevention coalition partners in Florida.

The training includes two components: A self-paced course entitled “*Introduction to Substance Abuse Prevention: Understanding the Basics*” and an in-person training. Registrants are expected to participate in both components (***must attend all 4 days of the in-person training***).

Please note: *The maximum number of participants is 30.*

INTRODUCTION TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION: UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS (Self-paced):

Due Date: Prior to attending in person training session, you register for.

- Visit the Health Knowledge website to complete the online component:
<https://healthknowledge.org/course/search.php?search=INTRODUCTION+TO+SUBSTANCE+ABUSE+PREVENTION%3A+UNDERSTANDING+THE+BASICS+>
- If you are a new user to HealtheKnowledge, you will have to create a new account (it is free)
- Once your account is created, click on the “Register Now and Begin Course” button.
 - You may need to go back to the previous link to locate the course
- Upon completion of the course, you will be issued a certificate of completion and directed to a training evaluation (GPRA) form.

This foundational course offers practitioners new to the field of prevention, or working in related fields, an introduction to the history of prevention, key concepts and definitions, specific drug effects, and an exciting glimpse into the effects of substance use and addiction on the brain.

Participants will learn about:

- Basic terminology and facts
- History of substance use and prevention in the U.S.
- Addiction and the brain
- Effects and health risks of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs



IN-PERSON SAPST TRAINING OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS:

OPTIONS:

- May 10 - 13, 2022, St. Johns County - TBD
- June 14-17, 2022, Marion County, Marion County Sheriff's Office Jail/Visitation Building, 3300 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475

This 4-day training addresses the following topics:

- Behavioral Health
- Institute of Medicine's Continuum of Care
- Public Health Approach
- Risk and Protective Factors
- Developmental Perspective
- Application of SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework: Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation and Evaluation
- Cultural Competence and Sustainability

To register, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZW5Z5P>

For questions, please contact Nancy Castillo, CCA Program Mgr. via email at manager@ccaf1.org or call (863) 450-7969

AVAILABILITY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

Participants will receive two certificates for training hours –upon completion of the online course and one for 26 hours (upon completion of the in-person training). These certificates can be submitted to your respective credentialing authority responsible for providing certification or approving continuing education credit.



Estella Byrd Whitman Wellness & Community Resources Center



Community Weight Loss Challenge

Exercising our choice to reduce our COVID-19 risks

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THOSE WITH NO INSURANCE IS APPRECIATED

Purpose: To promote and encourage healthy weight loss. People who are overweight or obese are at a much higher risk of experiencing severe disease and even death from Covid-19. Studies suggest that losing weight can reduce our risk of being severely ill, hospitalized, or needing to be treated in ICU.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2022

Challenge Dates: May 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022

What Should You Do: Enter a team from your workplace, religious organization, family/friends, etc.

Team Size: Each team can consist of 3-5 people

Winners: We are all winners for making the conscious decision to make healthy choices, but EBWW will also provide monetary awards to the 3 challenge teams that lose the most weight at the end (June 30, 2022) of the challenge and the team that maintains the most weight loss in January 2023.

First Place	\$250.00
Second Place	\$150.00
Third Place	\$100.00
Long-term	\$250.00

Benefits: The Estella Byrd Whitman Wellness & Community Resources Center (EBWW) will host a challenge team meeting every other week during the challenge. The meetings will include discussions related to healthy choices and various exercises led by experts in various areas to include, but not limited to conducting exercises properly, improving body movement, using exercise as a means to relieve stress, and how to maintain a healthy exercise plan.

You can contact the EBWW staff at (954) 562-2617 to enroll your team or inquire about the challenge.

EBWW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency, your support and contributions serve those who cannot afford to pay for healthcare services.



Scholarships for CF Early Childhood Education Minority Students

College of Central Florida minority students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education program are eligible to receive the Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program scholarship. The award amount is \$2,000 per semester for fall and spring.



COLLEGE of
CENTRAL
FLORIDA

Office of Financial Aid
CF.edu | 352-873-5801

Scholarship Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Have less than 18 hours of upper-division courses in education at the time of application.
- Be one of the following: African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaskan native.
- Be enrolled full time in the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education program at CF.
- Have a cumulative 2.5 grade point average.

Visit the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers at » www.ffmt.org for application deadlines.

For additional rules and requirements, download the PDF at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/factsheets/MTES.pdf



Marion County Children's Alliance
3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475
Ph: (352) 438-5990 Fax: (352) 438-5994

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities.



ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- April 11** Family Violence Prevention
Monday 11 a.m.
(Zoom Meeting)
- April 13** Safe Kids Marion
Wednesday 9 a.m.
(Zoom Meeting)
- April 18** CCASA
Monday 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(Zoom Meeting)
- April 26** Substance Exposed Newborns
Tuesday 9 a.m.
OPD Community Room
- April 7** MC Opioid & Addiction Taskforce
Thursday 3:30 p.m.
OPD Community Room

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

UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES

- April 6 Alliance Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
MCSO Multi-purpose Room



Agency Spotlight: Jessica Gilbert

Director of Community Affairs,
Kids Central Inc.
"Child Abuse Prevention Month"

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Gavin

Marion County Coordinator,
Big Brothers Big Sisters Marion County