



MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 23, Issue 12 ~ December 2023

Join us at the

Ocala
Christmas
Parade

Dec 9th



Cans for Candy

Food Drive



Bring a canned or boxed food item to the parade and when the Interfaith truck rolls by, exchange it for a piece of candy! Help us stock our food pantry for the holidays!



Spread the Joy!



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
Mark Lander
Adam Lombardo
Rep. Stan McClain
Kevin McDonald
Jim McCune
Pamela Michell
Randy Reynolds
Brad Rogers
Charles Scherer
Vickie Sullivan
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.; 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; Radiology Associates of Ocala; Renasant Bank; Signature Brands; Tri-Eagle Sales;

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
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.



Concert for Good

It's always the season for giving.

Friday, December 29, 2023
7:30 PM

4337 E Silver Springs Blvd



**OCALA
CIVIC
THEATRE**



Sponsors, tickets and info: concertforgood.com



A benefit concert for:





Join Us!

Invite your family and friends to attend!

Please Join Us
at the

ANNUAL VENDOR FAIR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

11:00A TO 1:00P

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Discover resources and network
with over 40 community partners

FREE lunch while supplies last



FAMILY FOCUS VIRTUAL LEARNING SESSIONS

Each month, MCPS will connect, collaborate, and partner with families in learning through a virtual setting. Families can participate in our live online session at 5:30 PM or visit the recorded sessions on our YouTube channel.

December 13, 2023

Bonding Through Traditions: Let's cook together

January 17, 2024

Preparing Your Child for Secondary Plans

February 21, 2024

For the Love of Literacy

March 13, 2024

Preparing Your Child to Thrive Digitally: Cool Kid's Code

April 10, 2024

MCPS Summer Learning Opportunities

Register Here!



Fl  rida KidCare

For more information, email:
EngageMCPS@marion.k12.fl.us



MCPS
MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Helping Every Student Succeed"

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT"



KUT DIFFERENT PRESENTS

4TH ANNUAL

COMMUNITY FUN DAY



MAIN EVENT

KICKBALL

BOUNCE HOUSES | 3-POINT CONTEST / SKILLS CHALLENGE
FACE PAINTING | RAFFLES | VENDORS | FOOD TRUCKS
FREE FOOD



TONS OF OTHER
FUN ACTIVITIES



DECEMBER
2ND, 2023
11AM - 5PM



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3010 NE 14TH ST, OCALA, FL 34470

THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE A KID SMILE

Gift of Christmas Toy Drive

All donations benefit the Family Violence Prevention Workgroup's annual Gift of Christmas Toy Drive



Sponsored by:



**TOY
DRIVE**

Thank You for helping make Christmas special for families in our community!
We Appreciate Your Support

ALL AGES

BUT WE ALWAYS HAVE A HUGE NEED FOR ITEMS FOR OUR TEENS

EXAMPLES ARE:

- CD PLAYERS
- CAMERAS
- MP3 PLAYERS
- TABLETS
- MAKE UP SETS
- PURSES
- PERFUME SETS
- WALLETS
- WATCHES
- (Boys and Girls)
- FOOTBALLS
- BASKETBALLS
- BOARD GAMES

Deadline for donations is Friday, December 8, 2023

For more information or to donate toys, contact Valerie at (352) 438-5990 or email Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org

Gift cards or monetary donations can be mailed to MCCA, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475



10th Annual
HOLIDAY
EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023

9:00AM - 2:00PM

TONS OF GREAT VENDORS

ARTS & CRAFTS
FOOD TRUCKS
FREE GAMES & YOUTH
MAKE TAKE CRAFTS



photos with
SANTA
Mrs. Claus,
Elves, Frosty & Mr. Grinch

MUSIC & SURPRISES

COMMUNITY EVENT * SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



MARION OAKS COMMUNITY CENTER COMPLEX
294 MARION OAKS LANE, OCALA 34473 352-438-2830

LIGHT UP
Marion Oaks

Food Trucks,
Music & More
5 - 8 p.m.

Christmas

CELEBRATION

Santa & Mrs. Claus
will be turning on the lights!

December 1 * 7 P.M.

Marion Oaks Community Center
294 Marion Oaks Lane
Ocala, FL 34473





Festival at Fort King

Saturday & Sunday
December 2 & 3
10 AM - 3 PM



NET PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA FOUNDATION AND LOCAL CHARITIES

THE GREATER NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER OF
JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC.

PRESENTS

Bowties and Pearls
Sneaker Ball



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023

7:00 PM TO 11:00 PM

HILTON OCALA

Ticket Price: \$75



A NIGHT OF ELEGANCE: FORMAL ATTIRE

Please join Kingdom Revival Church for a **FREE**

Drive Thru Community Christmas Lunch

with all the trimmings!

Saturday, December 16, 2023, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

3318 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470



For information, please call Rose at (352)361-5044

Don't get **Wrapped** up in the Holiday **Stress**

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

Friday, December 8 through Sunday, December 24, 2023

available during holiday hours at the Paddock Mall
Gift wrapping Booth will be located near Star-Bucks

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 Valerie at **(352) 438-5990** or email
Valerie@mcchildrensalliance.org

All proceeds benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence

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



December 8 – December 24, 2023
during holiday hours at the Paddock Mall

100% of the proceeds provide resources and services
to victims and survivors of Domestic Violence.

* All Volunteers **MUST** have experience wrapping
gifts **AND** be at least 18 years old to participate.

Volunteer Gift Wrapping Form

(Please Print Clearly)

* Required Information

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Phone: () _____ -or- Cell: () _____

*E-mail: _____

Volunteers Needed December 8 through December 24, 2023

Please list dates 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 are depending
on you to show up on the days and hours **YOU** sign up to wrap gifts.

Fax completed forms to **(352) 438-5994**, or to **monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org**.
For more information, available times and dates, call Valerie at **(352) 438-5990**.



Ocala Steel Orchestra presents

HOLIDAY MUSIC Brunch Gala

Sunday,
DEC 17

Mary Sue Rich Community Center
at Reed Place, 1821 NW 21st Ave,
Ocala, FL 34475
Doors open at: 11:30am
Serving starts at: 12:00pm

early bird

Dec 11th

\$35 \$45

per person / table of 9
including welcome drink

- Sheba The Mississippi Queen
- Speaker - Ruth Ford Reed
- Special guest - Mary Sue Rich
- Turkey giveaways - Bravo Supermarket
- Plus more



STIRRUPS 'N' STRIDES THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER PRESENTS



BOOTLEGGERS

JACKPOTS



December 2 2023

Saturday 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Reserved Table Sponsorships Available

Tickets \$100 suggested donation

Call 352-427-3569

SPEAKEASY LOCATION:
MARY SUE RICH
COMMUNITY CENTER
1821 NW 21ST AVE,
OCALA, FL 34475

NO PASSWORD NO PARTY!

DON'T TELL NOBODY!!!



Stirrups'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization. Tax ID#20-5935626. Donations tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.

1ST MEGA

HELP US HELP THEM THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

A dogs journey to a new home

ADOPTION EVENT

December 2nd, 2023

Animal Adoptions | Food Trucks | Dog Dock Diving | Vendors | Etc.

11am - 2pm
Ocala Dog Ranch
440 SW 110th Ave, Ocala, FL 34481

Estella Byrd Whitman COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

INVITES YOU TO A **Community Town Hall Meeting!**

Saturday, December 9th • 12-2pm

Mary Sue Rich Community Center
1821 NW 21st St, Ocala, FL 34475

**We would like to begin an open discussion
of your needs from a Health Center
in your Community.**

**Please join us as we want to hear your
ideas, needs, and voice.**

Light Refreshments and Gift Card Drawing

WE ALREADY HAVE EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE!
The Center is now open Monday-Friday with telehealth appointments available!

819 NW 7th Street Ocala, FL 34475 | 352-875-2226 | www.EstellaWellness.com



WAR CRY
4
Peace

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SERVE AS A
SPONSOR OF THE WAR CRY 4 PEACE

1st Annual

HOLIDAY BANQUET TO CELEBRATE

THE LIVES OF VICTIMS TAKEN BY GUN VIOLENCE

GIFTS

FOOD

FUN

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17th
5 PM

KLEIN CENTER
3001 SW COLLEGE ROAD OCALA, FL 34474

Tickets Still Available and Sponsors needed.
Go to <https://form.jotform.com/232623402012135>

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

At Marion Oaks



7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Monday - Friday
Ages 6 - 18
December 20th - 29th
***Closed December 25th**
Space is Limited
Scholarships Available

Join us for Winter Break
At the Marion Oaks
Community Center

www.bgcofmarion.org

Enroll onsite November 30th
10am - 12:00 and 5pm - 7pm
or call for more information

352-690-7440

1ST ANNUAL GALA

Red Carpet Recovery

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

MINGLE & JINGLE BEGINS AT 5:00 PM

DINNER: AUCTION, MUSIC, RAFFLES, SPEAKERS, & FUN
CIRCLE SQUARE CULTURAL CENTER
8395 SW 80TH STREET, OCA, FL 34481

Save the Date

WWW.ZEROHOURLIFECENTER.ORG
(352)765-4943



Ora Lee Jackson Alumni Game

December 1, 2023

GIRLS & BOYS
All NMH Alumni Welcome

\$20 Entry Fee
(Insurance)

(352) 671-6010

Coach Brown Ext. 59170 or Coach Yarn Ext. 59108

DM via Facebook





Save the Date
OPEN HOUSE



COLLEGE of
CENTRAL
FLORIDA

REGISTER AT [CF.EDU/OPENHOUSE](https://cf.edu/openhouse)

ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

11 A.M.-4 P.M. | OCALA CAMPUS
Ewers Century Center
3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala

ONLINE

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

1-2:30 P.M.
via Zoom

- ✓ **Take a tour.**
- ✓ **Apply for free.**
- ✓ **Meet admissions staff.**
- ✓ **Complete residency.**
- ✓ **Learn about financial aid.**
- ✓ **Enter to win a free class!**

College of Central Florida does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, pregnancy, age, marital status, national origin, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or disability status in its programs, activities and employment. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact Dr. Mary Ann Begley, Title IX Coordinator, Ocala Campus, Building 3, Room 116, 3001 S.W. College Road, 352-291-4410, or Equity@cf.edu.



Recreation and Parks

Presents:

After Dark
IN THE *Park*
MOVIE SERIES



Home Alone

Friday, Dec. 15 | 7:00 PM

Tuscawilla Park
800 NE Sanchez Ave.

HOME ALONE



PG

IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CALL!

IF YOU ARE IN NEED
— CALL THE —

**FLORIDA
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
HOTLINE**

1-800-500-1119

(Hotline Open 24/7)



Marion County
**SEXUAL ASSAULT
SERVICES**

FREE SERVICES AT A GLANCE

- Individual Counseling & Therapy
- 24/7 Crisis Intervention & Helpline
- Assistance with Injunctions for Protection
- Resources and Referrals
- SANE Program

24/7 HOTLINE :
352-633-5563

**VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFORMATION.**

www.havenlakesumter.org

**WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT - DV
SUPPORT GROUP**

At the DCF office
1100 S.W. 38th Ave., Ocala FL

Tuesdays @ 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
If you have any questions, please call

(352) 538-4845

Santa on the Square

Dec.
5th
12th
14th

6-8 PM



Downtown Square | 1 SE Broadway St.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE, GRAB ONE AND COME

Mount Olive A.M.E. Church Anthony, FL
The House of Hope Sanctuary, Inc. Apopka, FL
Faith, Inspiration, and Praise Ministry Ocala, FL



White Christmas Sneaker Ball

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023
AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

**St. Mark's United Methodist
Church Reception Hall**

1839 N.E. 8th Road Ocala, FL 34470

Ticket \$20.00 per person
Cash App \$ChristmasSneakerBall
Dinner & Entertainment
Attire: semi-formal & sneakers

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET TICKETS TO ATTEND

**NAACP 5114 MARION COUNTY
BRANCH PRESENTS**

Taste OF SOUL MARION

December 3, 2023 2pm-4pm

**One Health Center
SW 17th Ave, Ocala, FL 34471**

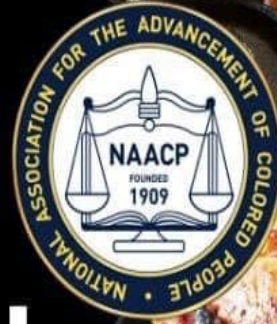
Early Bird Tickets \$40

Ends November 24, 2023

**e Register on
Eventbrite**

Paper Tickets : 352-351-4560

\$50.00 by Ticket or in person at the door



Local Cuisine

Wine Tasting

Mobile Vendors



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



***Please Note Date Change:**
NEXT ALLIANCE
MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2024

ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- December** Family Violence Prevention
Monday 11 a.m.
No Meeting this Month
- December** Safe Kids Marion
Wednesday 9 a.m.
Florida Dept. of Health
No Meeting this Month
- December** Community Council Against
Monday Substance Abuse (CCASA)
Noon
No Meeting this Month
- December 18** Teen Gun Violence Prevention
Monday 6 p.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Center

UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES

- December 6 Annual Vendor Fair
Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
MCSO Multi-purpose Room

Help Raise Money for a Great Cause
Volunteer at our Gift Wrapping
Booth during the holidays.



See Page 12 and 13 to Sign Up
or for more information.

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