



MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 24, Issue 3 ~ March 2024

FREE LUNCH is Provided!

Workshop Location: Marion County Sheriff's Office Multi-Purpose Room
3300 NW 10th Street Ocala FL 34475
Questions? Email Hilary@mcchildrensalliance.org



MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

Join us for a training from Andy Duran, CEO from Linking Efforts Against Drugs, a Chicago-based anti-drug coalition. Andy Duran, a dedicated community leader and advocate for positive change, has been the Chief Executive of LEAD since May 2012. Under his tenure, he has transformed LEAD from a small local initiative into a nationally respected organization, extending its impact across the United States and Canada.

RAISING A DRUG-FREE TEEN: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

In the rapidly evolving landscape of adolescent challenges, the quest to raise drug-free teens requires a collaborative effort between parents and community leaders. This presentation aims to empower both groups with insights, strategies, and protective factors essential in steering teenagers towards a path of making healthy choices and avoiding the pitfalls of drugs and alcohol.

TO REGISTER, VISIT LINK OR SCAN QR CODE:

WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/MARCH18EDUWORKSHOP



HOSTED BY:



FUNDED BY:



MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

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

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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.



recycle.ocalaf1.gov | 352-351-6697

TIRE WASTE AMNESTY DAY

Saturday, March 9 | 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hampton Aquatic Center
255 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. & The SW corner of NE Eighth
Avenue and NE 14th Street



City of Ocala residents may bring up to 10 tires for free disposal. A driver's license listing a city address may be required. Tires generated by businesses will not be accepted.

NORTH MARION HIGH SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO THE 14TH ANNUAL

DRIVE 4 LIFE

Assembly

FOR ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE EMAIL
HILARY@MCCHILDRENSALLIANCE.ORG

March 6th

9:10 AM

NMHS Gymnasium

PLEASE NOTE: All visitors must first check in to the Front Office and be escorted to the gymnasium.

Sponsored By:



“Let's Talk”



**MAYOR
BEN
MARCIANO**



**Town
Hall
Meeting**

**MARY SUE RICH CENTER
AT REEDS PLACE
1821 N.W. 21ST AVE.
OCALA, FL. 34474**

**OPEN
TO ALL**

**Wednesday
March 6, 2024
6 P.M. – 7 P.M.**

**An opportunity to meet
your newly elected
Mayor, and hear him
share his vision for
Ocala's future.**

For More Information:

**Tara Woods, Community Liaison
352-369-7182**

SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

TALLAHASSEE COLLEGE TOUR

3 GREAT SCHOOLS | 2 FULL DAYS



MARCH 22-23 2024

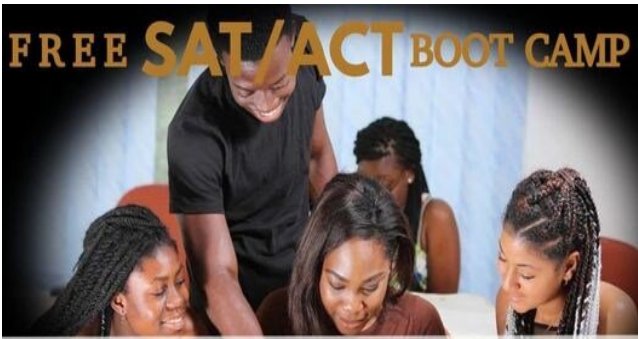
Calling all High School and Community College Students

Students will have an opportunity to interact one-on-one with college admission reps from TCC, FSU, and FAMU.

CASH APP: \$SWN2YOU

\$300 PER PERSON
Includes Transportation, Hotel stay, 2 Meals & Registration

GRAB YOUR SPOT TODAY



Sponsored by:
ΑΦΑ The Epsilon Pi Lambda Chapter of ΑΦΑ Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated

FEB 27TH, MARCH 5, 19, 26 AND APRIL 2ND

Location: New Zion M.B.C. 728 NW 6th Ave. 6:00P.M. - 7:30P.M.

- *High School Juniors and Seniors
- *Qualified Instructors
- *Dinner served after every session

RSVP by texting or emailing Antron Woods your Name, School, Grade Level and Telephone Number

For More Information contact:

Antron Woods 352-598-8610 (awoods687@gmail.com)
Adeniki Leahmon 352-615-3738 (adeniki.leahmon@gmail.com)



FEATURING DENNIS D'SATCHMO KEATING

MADE FOR TEACHERS, INC.

CHAT & CHEW SPRING EDITION

APRIL 27, 2024
1821 NW 21ST AVE, OCALA, FL 34475
1:00PM - 3:00PM
COST: FREE

THIS EVENT IS FOR MARION COUNTY TEACHERS K-12

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT WHERE YOU CAN CHAT, CHEW, AND CONNECT WHILE LEARNING ABOUT OUR MISSION AND ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS. ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL AND RECEIVE GIFTS OF APPRECIATION AS A TOKEN OF OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK, SHARE IDEAS, AND BE A PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT VALUES AND SUPPORTS YOU. RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

EVENTBRITE: MADE FOR TEACHERS CHAT & CHEW SPRING EDITION

Thank you so much for everything that You do!

NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

The Ocala Recreation and Parks Department will launch a new program this spring allowing college-bound students, ages 14 to 18, to tour colleges and universities. This immersive experience offers prospective students an opportunity to discover the educational institutions that call Florida home.

Teens will spend the day in each city visiting several colleges and universities while also experiencing the culture of each location. Cost is \$25 per person per trip and buses will leave from Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, 1821 NW 21st Ave. Participants will depart at 7 a.m. and return at approximately 8p.m.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- **April 15** - Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee, Fl.
- **April 17** - Jacksonville University and University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Fl.
- **April 19** - Bethune Cookman and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fl.
- **June 3** - University of Florida and Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Fl.
- **June 17** - Webber International University, Warner University and Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fl.
- **July 8** - University of Central Florida, Full Sail University and Rollins College, Orlando, Fl.
- **July 22** - University of South Florida and University of Tampa, Tampa, Fl.

For more information or questions, contact **(352) 401-6980** or **www.ocalafll.gov/recpark**.



COLLEGE of
CENTRAL
FLORIDA

PREVIEW

Tuesday, March 5, 5-7 p.m.
Ocala Campus, 3001 S.W. College Road

- **DISCOVER** 170+ exciting academic pathways.
- **PREPARE** for the upcoming semester with help from our admissions and financial aid teams.
- **CONNECT** with student services like tutoring, counseling, accessibility, veterans and more.
- **APPLY** for free. Complete a survey and get a CF T-shirt!

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES!

CF.edu/Preview | 352-873-5800



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.



SAFE STREETS PARTNERSHIP

Please join us for our monthly safe streets task force meeting

Your presence is urgently needed at our upcoming Safe Streets Task Force meeting. We are facing a pressing issue affecting the safety of our youth: the proliferation of guns in our community. This issue demands immediate attention and collaborative action from all stakeholders.

The Safe Streets Task Force provides a platform for open dialogue and strategic planning to address the root causes of gun-related incidents impacting our youth. Your insights, ideas, and commitment are invaluable in crafting effective solutions that prioritize the well-being of our community's youngest members.

**Wednesday March 6
10 am at
Mary Sue Rich Community Center
1821 NW 21st Ave.**



  @levittampocala

10 FREE CONCERTS

Fridays, March 15 - May 17

7 - 9 p.m. | Webb Field, 1510 NW Fourth St.

Rain location: E.D. Croskey Recreation Center

2024 LINE-UP

March 15 | Americana

Leon Timbo and the Family Band
with Theo Moon

April 19 | Cuban Jazz

Iliana Rose
with Sean T Music Global Group

March 22 | Folk Rock

Streetlight Cadence
with Nicole Equerme

April 26 | Country

Roberta Lea
with Noah Hunton

March 29 | Reggae

Jah Movement
with Ace Winn

May 3 | Soul/Gospel

The Sensational Barnes Brothers
with Mwiza

April 5 | Heavy Metal

Metalachi
with El Trio Rosal

May 10 | Root/R & B

Kyshona
with Jenna Clark

April 12 | Irish Punk

Clover's Revenge
with Irish Dance by Gainesville Dance Academy

May 19 | Funk

The Rumble feat. Chief Boudreaux Jr.
with Central Florida Community Arts

www.ocalafl.gov/levittamp | artinfo@ocalafl.gov





MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

- Employers.
- Police officers.
- Hospital staff.
- First responders.
- Caring individuals.

WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

On average,
130
people die by suicide every day.
Source: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2019,
841,000
people died from drug overdoses.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Nearly
1 IN 5
in the U.S. lives with a mental illness.
Source: National Institute of Mental Health

Sources:
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. (n.d.). Suicide statistics. <https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Drug overdose deaths. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). (n.d.). Mental illness. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>

REGISTER TODAY!

Delivery Format:
Zoom with self paced pre-coursework
ADULT Certification

Date and Time:
March 25, 2024 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Location:
Zoom - link to be sent after the completion of pre-coursework

Where to Register:
<https://forms.gle/cXMPHocDpcGmdqn89> or Scan Here:



The course will teach you how to apply the MHFA Action Plan (**ALGEE**):

- **A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- **L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- **G**ive reassurance and information.
- **E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- **E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

Course Facilitated by Community Council Against Substance Abuse and Marion County Children's Alliance.



Marion County Human Trafficking Taskforce Training

Training Information

Date: April 24th, 2024

Time: 5:30pm-7pm

Location: Ocala Police Department Community Room
402 S Pine Ave Ocala, Fl

Virtual Presenter: Louie Geek with Truckers Against Trafficking

- Intersections between Human Trafficking & transportation industry
- Resources & Awareness posters for the community to distribute

Secondary Presenter: Detective C. Blanton with the Ocala Police Department

- Sextortion: How it is Affecting our Children

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marion-county-human-trafficking-taskforce-training-tickets-830580959007>





Join Us!

for the

Alliance Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

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

at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center,
1812 N.W. 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475

Agency Spotlight:

Karen Smith

Program Director

Marion Technical Institute Work Study

Charles Davis

Narcotics Anonymous

Guest Speakers:

Shauana Hughes

Interim Director,

MCPS Professional Leadership and Learning

Dalanika Raymond

Program Specialist - Family Engagement

"Family Engagement in Action"

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 26, 2024.

Awards will be presented on Friday, May 10th , at the Children's First Gala at 6:00 p.m. at the Country Club of Ocala.

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., Ocala, FL 34475



Community Celebration

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF
UNITY, COMMUNITY, & FUN**

FREE

- Community Exhibitors
- FREE Health Screenings
- Music
- Food
- Giveaways
- Games
- Group Zumba Sessions
- First Responder Expo



**SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH
10 AM TIL 1 PM**

**HOWARD ACADEMY COMMUNITY CENTER
306 NW 7TH AVE OCALA, FL**



THE WELL OF OCALA

(formerly Kingdom Revival Church)

PRESENTS



SPRINGFEST

“EVERYTHING’S FREE”

FOOD ~ CLOTHING ~ HYGIENE ITEMS ~ MUSIC ~ AND MUCH MORE!

Saturday, March 9, 2024

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

3318 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

For more information, Call Rose at (352) 361-5044





VANGUARD HIGH
May 22 - 6 p.m.
@ Southeastern Livestock Pavilion



NORTH MARION HIGH
May 23 - 6 p.m.
@ Southeastern Livestock Pavilion



HILLCREST
May 24, 10 a.m.
@ Hillcrest School



DUNNELLO HIGH
May 24, 6 p.m.
@ World Equestrian Center



LAKE WEIR HIGH
May 24, 6 p.m.
@ Southeastern Livestock Pavilion

Congratulations
CLASS OF
2024



BELLEVUE HIGH
May 25, 8 a.m.
@ Bellevue High School



FOREST HIGH
May 25, 8 a.m.
@ World Equestrian Center



WEST PORT HIGH
May 28, 8 a.m.
@ World Equestrian Center



MARION TECHNICAL COLLEGE
June 13, 6 p.m.
@ Marion Technical Institute

Graduation





SAVE THE DATE

The Ocala Juneteenth
Celebration Commission

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 15, 2024
10am to 4pm

Webb Field
1501 W. Silver Springs Blvd. - Ocala, FL 34475

For more information, email
ocalajuneteenth2020@gmail.com

FOOD ★ VENDORS ★ ENTERTAINMENT
& MORE!

2nd Annual
CASINO
NIGHT



"GO ALL IN"

MARCH 22, 2024 7PM - 10PM

4875 SW 60TH AVE. BLDG 200
OCALA, FLORIDA

LIVE CASINO • DRINKS • FOOD
DESSERT • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

For VIP Info Call: (410) 253-9965
kutdifferentcasinonight.eventbrite.com

MT CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The friendly church by the side of the road welcomes the public



5000 SW College Road,
Ocala Fla 34474



Saturday, March 30
Noon to 6 p.m.

GOSPEL FEST 2024

FOOD

SOUTHERN FOOD RIBS, FISH, CHICKEN, BBQ, HOG ROAST

ENTERTAINMENT

COME SING WITH US, BRING YOUR GROUP, OR SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY
PLUS CHILDREN ARTS & CRAFTS

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

PRESENTED BY

PASTOR STANDLEY T. GILLINGS & LADY FAYE GILLINGS
AND MEMBERS OF MT. CALVARY

ALL CHURCHES/COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP UNDER THE BIG OAKS

BRING LAWN CHAIRS AND LAWN BLANKETS.

CHURCHES & GROUPS WELCOME.

BANDS CALL 352-875-0197

FREE



PRAISE

**\$10,000 IN
CASH
PRIZES!**

Calling all Marion County High School Students!

Are you an aspiring Entrepreneur?
Have a big idea or already started a business?
Then its time to enter your idea or business in the

10TH ANNUAL YOUTH BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

**APRIL 4, 2024
5:30PM**

RANEY'S INC. AUDITORIUM
3030 W SILVER SPRINGS BLVD OCALA FL

**1st Place - \$5,000
2nd Place - \$3,000
3rd Place - \$2,000**

Scan the QR code
for Application. For more
information contact
Heather@OcalaCEP.com



SPONSORED BY:



Save the Date

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT EVENT

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

Saturday, April 27, 2024

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FREE EVENT

*Apply Action Steps to Own a Home, Improve Credit Score,
Connect with Financial Institutions, Leave a Financial
Legacy, Develop Will & Trust*

Giveaways

Food

Prizes & (1) Grand Prize \$250 Value

Free And Open To The Public



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

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS' COUNCIL PRESENTS



Ticket
Cost:
\$65.00

Come Jazz with Me!

SPONSORED BY:
The African-American Administrators' Council

SATURDAY
MARCH 23rd
7PM-10PM

Mary Sue Rich
Community Center at
Reed Place
1812 N.W. 21st Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34475

Featuring
LIVE JAZZ BAND

The
Next Level
Production Band

Refreshments & Hors D'oeuvres Provided





AdventHealth
Ocala

OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

SPRING FESTIVAL MARKET

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 | 12:00 - 4:00 PM

OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET | CORNER OF SE 3RD ST. & 3RD AVE.

VENDORS **BOUNCE HOUSE**
ENTERTAINMENT **FOOD TRUCKS**

Holiday Market is Presented by:



****PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SCAMS
ADVERTISING VENDOR SPACE
AVAILABLE. THE CONTACT
INFORMATION BELOW IS THE ONLY
WAY TO REGISTER:
EMAIL: LYNN@OCALACEP.COM
OR
WWW.OCALADOWNTOWNMARKET.COM

Ocala Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Save The Date

May 4th, 2024 ~ 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Derby Divas


A Day at the  Delta Downs



An evening of elegance and excitement at our Derby Gala Fundraiser & Watch Party!

Join us for an unforgettable blend of food, fun, and festivities all in support of a great cause!


Klein Conference Center
Ocala, Florida




A Walk THROUGH TIME

Six historic homes within walking distance

Saturday, April 27
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Tickets \$25 pre-sale, \$30 day of tour
Available at To Your Hearts Desire in Ocala Shopping Center
For further information call Historic Ocala Preservation Society 352-484-0502
HistoricOcala.org/SpringTour




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.

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  KidCare

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



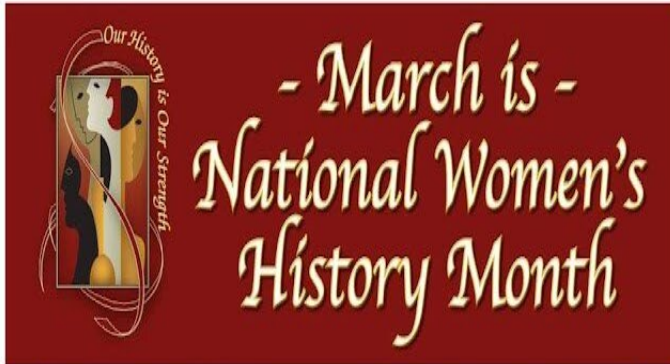
MCPS
MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
"Helping Every Student Succeed"
"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT"



Marion County Children's Alliance

3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475

Ph: (352) 438-5990 Fax: (352) 438-5994



ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- March 11**
Monday Family Violence Prevention
11 a.m.
Zoom
- March 13**
Wednesday Safe Kids Marion
9 a.m.
Florida Dept. of Health
- March 18**
Monday Community Council Against
Substance Abuse (CCASA)
Noon
Zoom
- March 26**
Tuesday Substance Exposed Newborns
9 a.m.
OPD Community Room
- April 3**
Wednesday Safe Streets of Marion County
10 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Center

UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES

- March 6 Alliance Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Ctr.

Agency Spotlight:

Karen Smith

Program Director

Marion Technical Institute Work Study

Charles Davis

Narcotics Anonymous

Guest Speakers:

Shauana Hughes

Interim Director,
MCPS Professional Leadership
and Learning

Dalanika Raymond

Program Specialist
Family Engagement

"Family Engagement in Action"

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