

MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 24, Issue 5 ~ May 2024



CHILDREN FIRST GALA: *Colorful Futures*



MAY 10
6:00PM - 9:00PM



County Club of Ocala
6823 SE 12th Circle

Tickets 

A Unique Experience featuring Live Art, Student Gallery, and the presentation of the Dr. Mike Jordan Excellence and Vision awards to two organizations impacting our youth.

Call 352.438.5990 or email ExecutiveDirector@mcchildrensalliance.org for more info.



Title Sponsor:



Presenting Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsors:



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

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Matt Clay
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Robert Haight
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Jim McCune
Pamela Michell
Kevin McDonald
John Paglia III
Randy Reynolds
Brad Rogers
Pete Lee
Matthew Seese
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; 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
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.



Congratulations
CLASS OF 2024


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

 **HILLCREST**
May 23, 11 a.m.
@ Hillcrest School

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

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

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

 **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



Work out with the Mayor

& Clint Hart
Healthy Harts Fitness



Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave.

Saturday, May 4 | 9 - 10 AM
Mayor's Birthday Celebration at 9:50 AM

Activities include:

- Fit Workout with Clint Hart
- Meet the Machines
- Smoothie Bike
- Youth Fitness Activities
- Walking Track

Community Resource Spotlight:



**Join us for a family
friendly workout!**
Commit to get fit, together!





Mental Health FIRST AID
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

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:

Monday, May 6, 2024 9:30AM to 4:30PM

Location:

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

Where to Register:

<https://forms.gle/7sZdfunKJZ8Jzewc8>

Or Scan Here:



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

- **Assess** for risk of suicide or harm.
- **Listen** nonjudgmentally.
 - **Give** reassurance and information.
- **Encourage** appropriate professional help.
- **Encourage** self-help and other support strategies.

**Funding for this course has been generously provided by a grant from
Marion County Hospital District**



Join Us!

for the

Alliance Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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

Mary Sue Rich Community Center

at Reed Place,

1812 N.W. 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475

Agency Spotlight:

Robert Tyler

Executive Director

Breaking Barriers

Guest Speaker:

Pebbles Vance

Director of Strong Families

United way of Marion County



**BROWN & BROWN
INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
2024 BOWLING EVENT**



Marion County Children's Alliance



**Enjoy 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental,
& appetizers.**

**For more information about Marion County
Children's Alliance
Visit: www.mcchildrensalliance.org**

RSVP – Room for 40 Teams!

**For entries please contact
Leslie Caswell at
Leslie.caswell@bbrown.com
Or 352-387-4227**

September 19, 2024

5:30 – 7:30 PM

**Bowlero East Ocala
3225 SE Maricamp Road,
Ocala, FL 34471**

\$400 per team

6 Bowlers per team

3 Team Max

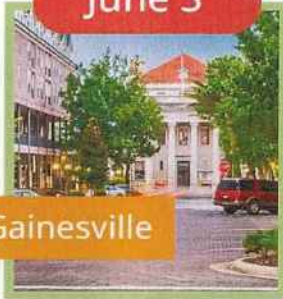
**Can't Make the Event?
Sponsor the Raffle - \$200
or Donate a Gift**



June & July COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY Tours

This immersive experience offers prospective students an unparalleled opportunity to discover the exceptional institutions that call Florida home.

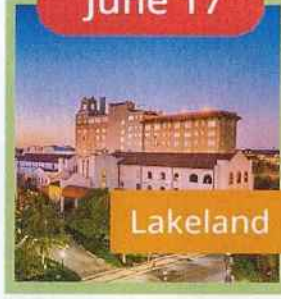
June 3



Gainesville

- University of Florida
- Santa Fe College

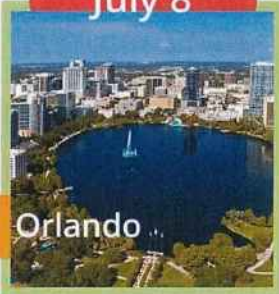
June 17



Lakeland

- Florida Southern College
- Warner University

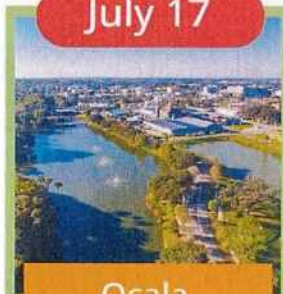
July 8



Orlando

- University of Central Florida
- Full Sail University
- Rollins College

July 17



Ocala

- College of Central Florida
- Marion Technical College

July 22



Tampa

- University of South Florida
- University of Tampa
- Webber International University

7 AM - 8 PM | Ages 13 - 17

\$25 per person per trip plus the cost of lunch.

Snacks will be provided on the bus for free.

Registration required: OcalaFL.gov/RecPark
More information call: 352.401.6980



Work out with the Mayor

& Clint Hart
Healthy Harts Fitness 



Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave.

Saturday, May 4 | 9 - 10 AM
Mayor's Birthday Celebration at 9:50 AM

Activities include:

- Fit Workout with Clint Hart
- Meet the Machines
- Smoothie Bike
- Youth Fitness Activities
- Walking Track

Community
Resource
Spotlight:



**Join us for a family
friendly workout!**
Commit to get fit, together!



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**



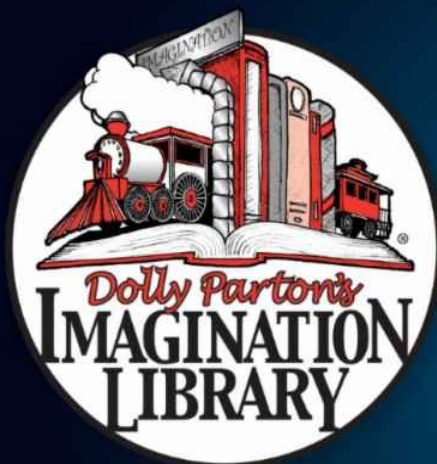
**Delta
Downs**



**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**



“YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH
BOOKS
INTO THE HANDS
OF ENOUGH
CHILDREN”
Dolly



INSPIRE A LOVE OF READING

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a **FREE BOOK** every month until their 5th birthday.

“ Our daughter **LOVES READING** and being read to, and the **VARIETY** she receives from the Imagination Library is a **SIGNIFICANT** part of this ”

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland.



ELCMC

Early Learning
Coalition
of Marion County, Inc.

www.ELC-Marion.org | (352) 369-2315



SCAN HERE
to enroll



Join us for a

Friends and Family Fish Fry and Gathering

SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND, 11AM -2PM

**W.H. WILLOUGHBY PARK
14005 SE 100TH AVE, SUMMERFIELD, FL 34491**

\$20 PER PERSON

**MEAL, CANDIDATES SPEECHES, SUMMER FUN!
DONATIONS COME FROM OUR PERSISTER CLUBS IN OUR REGION 6!
PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR GRASS ROOTS GOTV!**

PURCHASE TICKET AT ACT BLUE

[HTTPS://SECURE.ACTBLUE.COM/DONATE/2024FISHFRY](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2024fishfry)

PLEASE BRING A COMFORTABLE CHAIR

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT DWCMCPRES2016@GMAIL.COM

**GREAT FOOD AND
GOOD TIMES!**

**HOSTED BY: DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF MARION
COUNTY**



CONSIDER SPONSORING US TO HELP WITH EXPENSES

MEMORIAL DAY MURPH

START AT 0800
AT THE PARK

MORE INFORMATION
WWW.MARIONVETPARK.COM



SATURDAY
MAY 25, 2024

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

- 4 STAR - \$250 (only 2 of these available) - name in largest print on top of shirt, on banner, mentioned during event
- 3 STAR - \$150 (only 3 of these) - name one position down on shirt, name mentioned during event
- 2 STAR - \$75 (only 4 of these available) - name two positions down on shirt
- 1 STAR - \$50 - (UNLIMITED) - name in small print below the 2 star names



**FLORIDA
GUARDIAN
AD LITEM
OFFICE**

**Help the next generation
by mentoring youth aging
out of foster care.**

JOIN TODAY

This initiative assists Florida foster youth transitioning out of foster care to adulthood. Youth are partnered with a mentor through the Florida Guardian ad Litem Office who will serve as a committed, caring adult as the youth transitions to adulthood. The mentor provides a lifeline to the youth for questions and advice related to living independently.

www.guardianadlitem.org
(850) 922-7213

MENTORSHIP

**can make a lasting impact and change
the trajectory of a foster child's life.**

It is easy to become a Mentor

- Attend an online orientation and training session.
- Submit an application and sign a confidentiality form.
- After your application is approved, complete an interview and a Level II background check.
- Attorneys in good standing with The Florida Bar are statutorily exempt from the background check process.



**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

COLLABORATE & CONNECT

ROUND TABLE EVENT

Phoenix House Florida invites all Ocala providers to come together for an impactful Round Table Event.

Join us as we share insights, showcase facilities, and discuss collaboration opportunities aimed at saving lives in Marion County.

Let's collaborate for Education, Prevention, and Awareness in our community!

FRIDAY • MAY 3RD
11AM TO 1PM

15681 US-301, Citra,
FL 32113

RSVP via email
ibeck@phoenixfl.org



JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 1, 2024

6:00pm-10:00pm

Juneteenth Celebration Dinner & Dance Fundraiser

Mary Sue Rich Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave, Ocala, FL 34475

TICKETS \$65 EACH

Attire: African or Business

Speaker Dr. Rik Stevenson, Live
Entertainment, Dinner, Dancing, Raffles, Silent
Auction, Vendors and more...

Contact: Barbara J. Brooks, Ph.D., President
R.A.M.A.L. Education and Social Services, Inc.
(352) 875-4237
www.ramalservices.org

Sponsorships Available!





A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization for Public Charities

Present!

Juneteenth: Grown Folks A Night of Elegance

FEATURED SPEAKER:

REV. DR. JOY L. GALLMON



American Sunday Plate Catering

Ex Chef Mario Mctier

Kim's Unique DECOR * MORE

Dances by:

Be Heard Through Movement, Orlando, Fla

Special Guest

Ticket admission \$50

Sponsorship packages available

Entertainment By: DJ Tony, Dothan, AL

FREE GIVEAWAYS

3-\$1,000 Scholarship Awarded

Mary Sue Rich Community

Center at Reeds Place

1821 NW 21st Ave. Ocala Fl 34475

6pm - 11pm



Michelle Lamb

Friday June 14, 2024



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!



Annual

Freedom Recovery

Festival



Presented by

Celebration Church
Bellevue, FL
352-470-1619



Saturday May 11th, 2024

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Celebration Church

12404 Se 112th Ave. Road Belleview, FL 34420

352-553-5412

{SAVE THE DATE}

Join us in acknowledging Recovery & raising awareness of Recovery & those who struggle with hurts, habits, and hang-ups including anger, and mental & substance use. We will also welcome those who are seeking answers to recovery. We remember those who have been lost to life-altering circumstances. Various organizations, vendors, health care, local police, assistance programs, and many more resources from the beginning to maintain recovery.

The Freedom Recovery Festival is FREE to everyone!

Live Music, Free Food, local testimonies, bounce houses for the kids and much more. Bring a friend and enter a drawing!

If you are interested in partnering with this festival, please contact Kim Lunday at 352-553-5412.

AGES 16-24
WELCOME



MARION COUNTY YOUTH JOB FAIR

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE CAREER

Take your first step into the world of work at the Marion County Youth Job Fair. Job seekers aged 16 to 24 have the chance to explore local entry-level job opportunities. Whether you're searching for your first job, part-time work, or a full-time position, this event is for you!

Connect with local businesses ready to hire those with little-to-no experience. Don't miss out!

This event is free and open to the public.

May 7 | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Southeastern
Livestock Pavilion**
(2232 NE Jacksonville Road,
Ocala, FL)



bit.ly/FIRSTJOBMARION



CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids/services are available upon request to persons with disabilities and in Spanish. Phone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via Florida Relay at 711. For accommodations, call 800-434-5627, ext. 7878. Programs funded by CareerSource CLM as grantee of the U.S. Department of Labor as part of awards totaling \$6.9 million, revised annually, with no funds from non-governmental sources. A proud partner of the American Job Center network and member of CareerSource Florida.

STOP THE VIOLENCE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

JUNE 29TH

Berkeley Pointe
2833 NE 7th St Ocala, FL 34470



Saturday **1-4PM**

FOOD
AWARENESS
ACTIVITIES

GUEST SPEAKERS
FUN FOR EVERYONE!

FREE ADMISSION



Director of St. Paul's UMC Preschool in Ocala



Preschool Director

We are searching for an experienced educational leader to be the Director of the St. Paul's Christian School with a passion for growing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The person in this vital position will lead the way and help to fulfill St. Paul's longstanding vision. Additionally, the individual in this position will not only maintain the reputation

of our highly respected preschool, but also will actively seek and experiment with imaginative methods to continue to offer this amazing service to the Ocala community with an eye towards growing our school.

Please email info@spocala.org to submit resume and cover letter.


@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

May 3 | Soul/Gospel
The Sensational Barnes Brothers
 with Mwiza

May 10 | Root/R & B
Kyshona
 with Jenna Clark

May 19 | Funk
The Rumble feat. Chief Boudreaux Jr.
 with Central Florida Community Arts

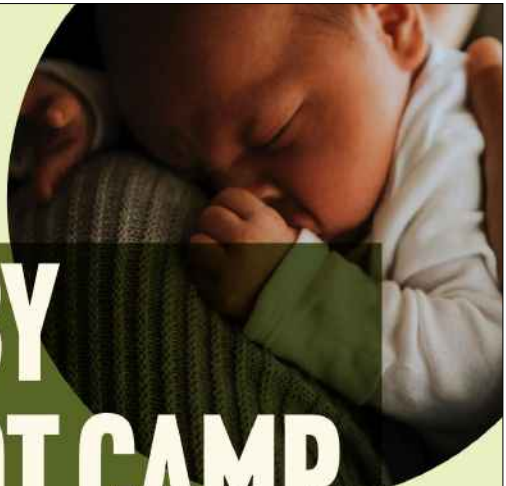
www.ocalafl.gov/levittamp | artinfo@ocalafl.gov











BABY BOOT CAMP


Attention new or soon-to-be-parents: be sure to enlist in DOH-Marion's "Baby Boot Camp." Our **free** class will provide you advice on how to keep your family's newest addition safe and secure during the earliest part of life.

April 9	September 10
May 14	October 8
June 4	November 12
July 9	December 3
August 13	

In 2024, the class meets 10-11 a.m. on the following dates:

Class location: 1801 SE 32nd Ave.

For more info or help, call Healthy Start at 352-629-0137, ext. 2717.






Arts and Crafts at AIHOM

Every Friday from 10-11:30AM

Free Program!

All Supplies Included & All
Ages Welcome

Register with us Now!

info@aihocala.org or
call (352) 723-5444

📍 507 NE 8th Ave, Ocala,
Florida 34470





Marion County Children's Alliance

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

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



ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- May 1**
Wednesday
Safe Streets of Marion County
10 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Center
at Reed Place
- May 8**
Wednesday
Safe Kids Marion
9 a.m.
Florida Dept. of Health
- May 13**
Monday
Family Violence Prevention
11 a.m.
Zoom
- May 20**
Monday
Community Council Against
Substance Abuse (CCASA)
Noon
Zoom
- June 5**
Wednesday
Marion County Children's Alliance
Monthly Meeting
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Center
at Reed Place

UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES

- May 1
Wednesday
Alliance Monthly Meeting
11:30 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community
Center at Reed Place



Agency Spotlight:

Robert Tyler
Executive Director
Breaking Barriers

Guest Speaker:

Pebbles Vance
Director of Strong Families
United way of Marion County

For more information regarding the
Marion County Children's Alliance,
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram
or visit our website at:

<https://mcchildrensalliance.org>