



# MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: [Mcchildrensalliance.org](http://Mcchildrensalliance.org)

Volume 24, Issue 6 ~ June 2024

**21ST ANNUAL**

# BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

**FREE BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

## SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

**DRIVE THRU ONLY EVENT**  
**10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Friends Recycling Center**  
**2350 N.W. 27th Ave., Ocala**

**For more information, to donate supplies or sponsorship opportunities, call (352) 438-5990 or (352) 509-9279**

<b>Children <b>MUST BE</b> in the car to receive Backpack</b> <b>No Exceptions!</b>	<b>Registration NOT Required!</b>
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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 and the City of Ocala, in partnership with the County-wide Back to School Community Giveback.

# MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

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

## **Board of Directors**

Mike Balken  
Lori Boring  
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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](mailto:mcca@mcchildrensalliance.org)**

Executive Director ..... Beth McCall ..... [executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org](mailto:executivedirector@mcchildrensalliance.org)  
Family Violence Prevention Coordinator ..... Monica Bryant ..... [Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org](mailto:Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org)  
Prevention Coordinator ..... Hilary Jackson ..... [Hilary@mcchildrensalliance.org](mailto:Hilary@mcchildrensalliance.org)  
Supporting Kids, Involving Parents Coordinator (S.K.I.P) .. Kelley Windham .. [Kelley@mcchildrensalliance.org](mailto:Kelley@mcchildrensalliance.org)  
Outreach Specialist ..... Tanya Ousley ..... [Tanya@mcchildrensalliance.org](mailto: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](mailto:Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org) by the **FIRST** Friday of each month for the following months publication.





**MONSTA FAMILY PRESENTS 2ND**

**FATHER'S DAY RIDEOUT**


**EVERYONE IS INVITED**

**June 15 2024**

**8390 SW 150TH ST DUNNELLON FLORIDA 34432**

**12PM**

**D. WARM ON THE GRILL**

# 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.

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.

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

3/24-02





# 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](mailto:ocalajuneteenth2020@gmail.com)

FOOD ★ VENDORS ★ ENTERTAINMENT  
& MORE!



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

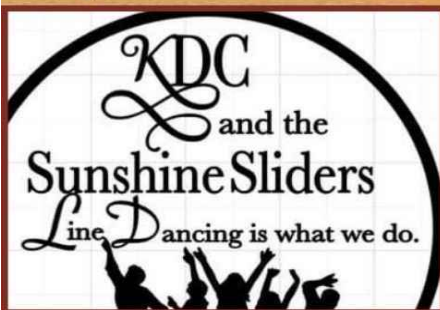
3-\$1,000 Scholarship Awarded

**Mary Sue Rich Community**

**Center at Reeds Place**

**1821 NW 21st Ave. Ocala FL 34475**

**6pm - 11pm**



**Friday June 14, 2024**

Tickets and Sponsorships Available at  
<https://checkout.square.site/buy/ERQRW3HURNLQW0EZABBW2C66>





# Join Us!

for the

## Alliance Monthly Meeting

*Sponsored by Jenkins Auto Group*

**Wednesday, June 5, 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:**

**Amiracle Watson**

Founder, D.I.A.M.O.N.D GIRLS

### **Guest Speakers:**

**Diane Schofield**, Founder of Hands of Mercy Everywhere

**Mike Carroll**, COO of Lutheran Services

**Lisa Mayrose**, VP of Lutheran Services

The background of the flyer is light blue with a vertical gradient. It is decorated with several blue balloons of varying sizes, some with white ribbons. There are also gold and white streamers scattered throughout. At the bottom, there are more blue balloons and two silver party horns pointing upwards.

**ESTELLA BYRD WHITMAN  
COMMUNITY HEALTH  
CENTER**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**JUNE 29, 2024  
11AM-1PM  
819 NW 7TH STREET  
OCALA, FL 34475**

**COME TOUR OUR FACILITY & MEET OUR  
TEAM!**

**MUSIC, FACE PAINTING AND MORE!  
REFRESHMENTS WHILE THEY LAST!**

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!**



# 2024 Children First Gala

## Colorful Futures

Thank you to our Sponsors:

*Title Sponsor:*



*Presenting Sponsors:*



*Supporting Sponsors:*





# CHILDREN FIRST GALA AWARD WINNERS



**Dr. Mike Jordan Award of Excellence  
The Rock Program**



**Dr. Mike Jordan Award of Excellence  
Ocala/Marion Fire Rescue  
Mentorship Program**



**Dr. Mike Jordan Vision Award  
Marion County Early Childhood Court**



**Youth of the Year Award  
for Mentoring  
Jasman Thomas**



**Youth of the Year  
Award for Tutoring  
Takyrn Hayes**





Florida  
HEALTH  
Marion County



# Hands-Only CPR Class

**1-3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5**  
**Florida Department of Health in Marion County**  
**1801 SE 32nd Ave., Ocala, FL 34471**

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County invites the public to learn hands-only CPR. The class is **free** and open to all Marion County residents. Ocala Fire Rescue will provide the instruction. No registration is required.

For more information, contact Community Health Director Christy Jergens at **[Christy.Jergens@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Christy.Jergens@FLHealth.gov)** or at **352-644-2677**.



# OPD PRESENTS: HOOPS AND BADGES



## OPD vs. Ocala Dynasty

**FREE!**

**Friday, June 14 @ 12:00 p.m.  
Mary Sue Rich Community Center  
at Reed Place**

**FOR MORE INFO.  
CONTACT TARA WOODS  
@ 352-369-7182**



# 21st Annual Back 2 School Sponsorship Form

Sponsored by the Marion County Children's Alliance,  
Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc., and the City of Ocala

The 21st Annual "Drive Through" Back 2 School Bash will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2024 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 the supplies 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)	<b>X</b>				
2. Printed Brochures/Materials in All Backpacks	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			
3. Printed Material in Swag Bags Distributed to Parents/Guardians (300 max)			<b>X</b>		
4. Immediate Acknowledgment on Social Media	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
5. Company Listed on Signage at Event	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	

*\*To guarantee maximum sponsor benefits 1-2, please submit sponsorship payment as soon as possible or no later than May 31, 2024.*

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  
Scan QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/B2SBASH2024> to pay online.



**For more information, contact Valerie Mitchell at (352) 438-5990 or Lena Hopkins at (352) 509-9279.**



The Marion County Children's Alliance, City of Ocala and Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc., is asking for your support in collecting school supplies to benefit the:

**21st Annual Back to School Bash**  
**Saturday, July 27, 2024**



Below is our **2024** Suggested School Supply List, however, **ALL** donations are accepted and appreciated.

Glue sticks

Glue (8 ounce bottle)

Crayons (box of 24)

Highlighters

Colored pencils (set of 12)

Pencils (no. 2)

Duo Tang Folders **with** pockets

Large Pink Erasers

Pens (Blue and Black)

Composition Books and Notebook Paper

(wide-ruled for elementary and college-ruled for middle and high)

We accept supplies all throughout the year to support our students and teachers in the classroom.

Thank you for Supporting our Students!

To donate supplies or for more information,

call **(352) 438-5993** or **(352) 509-9279**



**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](http://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**



# Painting, Planting, Sowing Seeds



**Taught by: DeNaya Wilkerson**  
**AIHOM Artist Practitioner**

## WHAT IS PAINTING, PLANTING SOWING SEEDS?

Participants will explore and discuss different ways of planting seeds. Flower seeds and seeds of good deeds throughout life. This is a three-part class.

**WHEN?** Tuesdays, June 4, 11, & 18 from 4:00-5:30PM

**WHERE?** Howard Academy Community Center, 306 NW 7th Ave Building 3, Ocala, FL 34475 **Workshop in Room 10**

**WHO?** Young people 10 - 16 years old

**COST? FREE** ~ All materials provided

**REGISTRATION:** Email [Shayna@mchdt.org](mailto:Shayna@mchdt.org) or call 352-671-4186 | **Limited to 20 participants**





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!**

**PURCHASE TICKET AT ACT BLUE**

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

**PLEASE BRING A COMFORTABLE CHAIR**

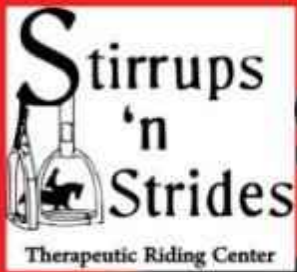
**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT [DWCMCPRES2016@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DWCMCPRES2016@GMAIL.COM)**

**GREAT FOOD AND  
GOOD TIMES!**

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







# SUMMER

# CAMP PEGASUS



**FUN & CREATIVE OUTDOOR  
ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS &  
GIRLS 7-11 & 12-16 YEARS  
OLD.  
HORSE SHOW ON FRIDAY  
TO SHOW OFF THEIR  
SKILLS!**

**17-21/24-28  
JUNE  
AGES 7-11**

**15-19/22-26  
JULY  
AGES 12-16**



Admission

**\$400**

**Stirrups 'n Strides**

4246 W. HWY 318  
Citra, FL 32113

### Activities 9Am-2PM

- ✓ Riding Lessons and games
- ✓ Horse decorating/painting
- ✓ Learning about Horses
- ✓ Water days with horses
- ✓ Crafts and more!

Students with disabilities  
may join us but must be able  
to care for themselves.

### More Information

Brandi 352-286-2519  
Programassistant@stirrupsnstrides.com



# June & July COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY Tours

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



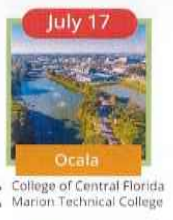
- University of Florida
- Santa Fe College



- Florida Southern College
- Warner University



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



- College of Central Florida
- Marion Technical College



- 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](http://OcalaFL.gov/RecPark)  
More information call: 352.401.6980



# Summer Nights Lecture Series



David Schlenker  
Writer & Journalist

*The Way It Was:*  
Stories that Shaped our Community

**Thursday | July 18**  
**6 - 8 PM | FREE**

Join us for an enthralling lecture by Dave Schlenker on the local book 'The Way It Was' by David Cook. Experience a nostalgic journey through Central Florida's past and immerse yourself in the rich history and captivating stories that have shaped our community. Don't miss this opportunity to uncover the treasures of our heritage.

Fort King National Historic Landmark  
3925 E Fort King St. | [FortKingOcala.com](http://FortKingOcala.com) | 352.368.5533



# Work Out with the Mayor & Christina Hoefft Zone Health & Fitness



Join recreation and parks staff along with City Mayor Ben Marciano for a family friendly workout designed for all ages and abilities.

Jervey Gantt Recreation Complex | 2200 SE 36th Ave.  
**Saturday, June 1 | 9 - 10 AM**

Community Resource  
Spotlight:



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



352.401.6980 | [OcalaFL.gov/RecPark](http://OcalaFL.gov/RecPark)



# Arts and Crafts at AIHOM

Every Friday from 10-11:30AM

## Free Program!

All Supplies Included & All  
Ages Welcome

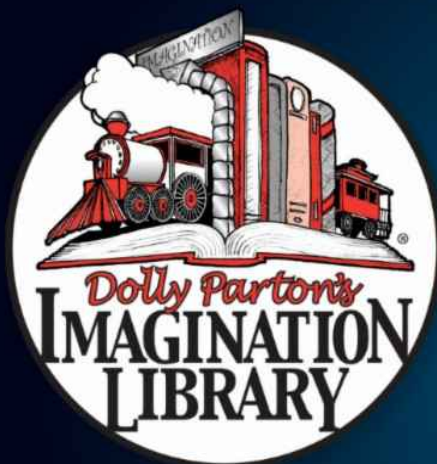
## Register with us Now!

[info@aihocala.org](mailto:info@aihocala.org) or  
call (352) 723-5444

📍 507 NE 8th Ave, Ocala,  
Florida 34470







“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](http://www.ELC-Marion.org) | (352) 369-2315

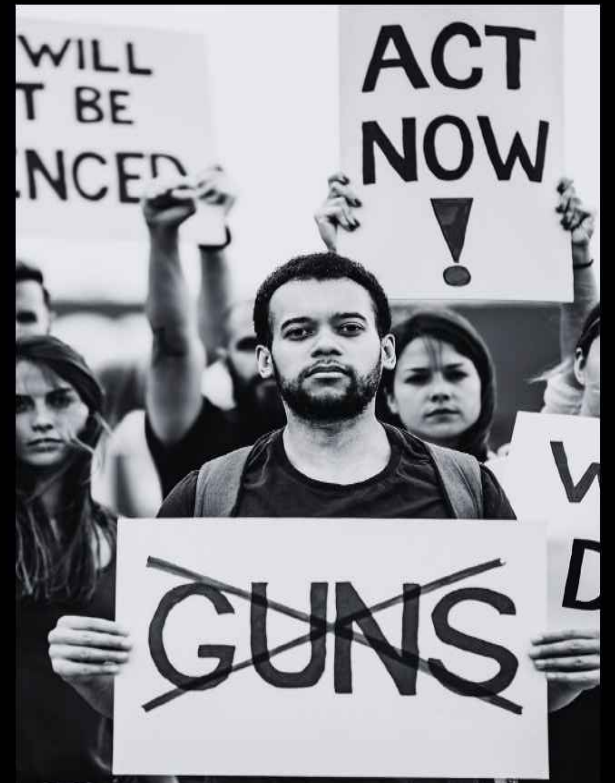
**SCAN HERE**  
to enroll

# 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







**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](http://www.mcchildrensalliance.org)**

**RSVP – Room for 40 Teams!**

**For entries please contact  
Leslie Caswell at  
[Leslie.caswell@bbrown.com](mailto: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**



# PARENTING THE GENERATION OF TODAY

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

*Free Webinar*

**TIME**

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**DATE**

June 14, 2024

- Communication
- Parenting How To's
- Boundaries
- Mutual Respect
- Parenting Roles



REGISTER @



**HOSTED BY...**

**Consuella Shaw, LMHC**

LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELOR

[www.assuagecc.com](http://www.assuagecc.com)

# *Sunday* Gospel BRUNCH

Sunday, June 16, 2024  
11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per person  
Customers will order directly  
from the new Brunch menu

Event Includes:

Music by Michelle Lamb Raffles and Mimosas Available

Sponsored by R.A.M.A.L. Educational and Social Services, Inc. [www.ramalservices.org](http://www.ramalservices.org)  
and hosted by JROCKS, 2606 S.W. 19th Ave. Rd., Suite 103, Ocala, FL 34471.



## 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](mailto:Hilary@mcchildrensalliance.org)

**MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024**  
**11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM**

### **TRUST BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION (TBRI) TRAINING**

**Presented By:**



**Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), developed by Drs. Karyn Purvis and David Cross, is a trauma-informed approach designed to help children who have experienced trauma feel safe and valued. TBRI reduces negative behaviors and enhances self-worth. While originally created for vulnerable children, TBRI has applications in various settings. Community workers will find this training invaluable for effectively supporting and transforming the lives of the children and families they serve.**

**Joy and Stephen Zedler are the co-founders of The Pearl Project, a nonprofit dedicated to helping vulnerable children heal and recognize their value through trauma-responsive education for families and professionals. Joy, the Executive Director, holds a Masters in Human Relations, is pursuing a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy, and is a TBRI Practitioner and Circle of Security facilitator. Stephen, the Director of Development, has over 20 years of educational experience, a Masters in Teaching Arts, and is also a TBRI Practitioner. As foster-turned-adoptive parents, they bring both professional expertise and personal experience to their work.**

**TO REGISTER, VISIT LINK OR SCAN QR CODE:**

**[www.surveymonkey.com/r/June17CCASA](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/June17CCASA)**



**HOSTED  
BY:**



**FUNDED  
BY:**





# Marion County Children's Alliance

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

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



## ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- June 5**  
Wednesday  
Safe Streets of Marion County  
10 a.m.  
Mary Sue Rich Community Center  
at Reed Place
- June 10**  
Monday  
Family Violence Prevention  
11 a.m.  
Zoom
- June 12**  
Wednesday  
Safe Kids Marion  
9 a.m.  
Florida Dept. of Health
- June 17**  
Monday  
Community Council Against  
Substance Abuse (CCASA)  
Lunch-n-Learn  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Marion County Sheriff's Office  
3300 N.W. 10th St.  
**See page 23 to register**

**There will not be a meeting in July!  
Have a safe and happy Summer.**

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

**<https://mcchildrensalliance.org>**

## UPCOMING ALLIANCE DATES

- June 5  
Wednesday  
Alliance Monthly Meeting  
11:30 a.m.  
Mary Sue Rich Community  
Center at Reed Place



## **Agency Spotlight:**

### **Amiracle Watson**

Founder, D.I.A.M.O.N.D GIRLS

## **Guest Speakers:**

**Diane Schofield**, Founder,  
Hands of Mercy Everywhere

**Mike Carroll**, Chief Operating  
Officer, Lutheran Services

**Lisa Mayrose**, Vice President,  
Lutheran Services