

MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 25, Issue 4 ~ April 2025



CHILDREN FIRST

Dream Big Benefit



RSVP BY MAY 1

Tickets



FRIDAY MAY 9
6:00PM - 9:00PM



County Club of Ocala
6823 SE 12th Circle



Business Attire

Your support helps our kids dream BIG!
**Featuring the annual Dr. Mike Jordan
Excellence and Vision Awards.**

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

Title Sponsor:



Presenting Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsors:



See Page 13 for a Nomination Form

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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Angie Peters

Randy Reynolds

Brad Rogers

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.



APRIL 26, 2025

7 AM REGISTRATION & PACKET PICK UP
8 AM RACE & WALK STARTS

Kimberly's Center
13th ANNUAL
5K
RACE AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

RACE STARTS AT INA A. COLEN ACADEMY
5080 SW 66TH CT. RD. OCALA, FL 34474

\$30 PER ADULT | \$10 PER CHILD (UNDER 10)
\$40 REGISTRATION DAY OF RACE

SHIRTS GUARANTEED TO THE FIRST 250
REGISTERED ENTRANTS.

RUN/WALK YOUR
WAY THROUGH



CALESA
TOWNSHIP

PROUD RACE SPONSOR



REGISTER NOW!
KCRACE.COM

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT WISH TO MAKE A DONATION,
PLEASE VISIT [KIMBERLYSCENTER.ORG](https://www.kimberlyscenter.org)

14544 - 08/24

VENDORS WANTED



OCALA SPRING CRAFT & VENDOR MARKET

PADDOCK MALL

APRIL 12-13, 2025

SATURDAY: 10AM-9PM

SUNDAY: 12PM-6PM

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES
AND COMMUNITY VENDORS

3100 SW COLLEGE ROAD
OCALA, FL 34474

THE EVENT IS INDOORS

REGISTER TODAY: [HOMETOWNVENDORMARKET.COM](https://hometownvendormarket.com)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
NORTHSIDE COLTS
BBQ "SLAB" RIBS
FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY
APRIL 19, 2025

Pickup Time
12pm-2pm

151 W HWY 329 CITRA FL 32113

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
NORTH MARION HIGH FOOTBALL PROGRAM**

Scan to purchase



PRE-ORDER no later
than Wed 04/16/25



\$nspqbclub24



FOR ADDITIONAL INFO PLEASE

CALL 352-598-0078 or 352-817-

9616



FREE
event for
families!

Family Fun Health Fair *Celebrates* **Minority Health Month**

10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 2025
Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475

Bring the whole family as the Florida Department of Health in Marion County hosts this **free** event to promote health and wellness.

This event will feature many activities and information presented by our community partners that can improve your health and well-being, including:

- Music
- Games and facepainting
- Health screenings
- On-site ultrasound (if suggested following health screen)
- Community resources
- Health education
- Plenty more!

For more information, contact Monica Dasilva at **352-644-2679** or **Monica.Dasilva@FLHealth.gov**.



IMPACTING LIVES TOGETHER

Run for Hope

to prevent youth
homelessness

SCAN
ME



5K

STARTS AND ENDS AT
CITIZEN'S CIRCLE



Run/Walk & FREE Family Fun

SATURDAY | APRIL 5, 2025 |

5K CHECK IN/SAME DAY

REGISTRATION STARTS @ 7AM

5K RACE BEGINS @ 8:30 AM

FAMILY FUN 8AM-12PM

REGISTRATION: \$30 / 15 YRS & UP

\$20 / AGES 6-14 FREE 5 & UNDER

EVERY PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE

A T-SHIRT, SWAG BAG, & WATER BOTTLE

FAMILY EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: BOUNCE HOUSES, FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, AND MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.REFUGEOFHOPEIL.ORG/EVENTS-1

THE MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE NEEDS **NEW** OR **GENTLY USED** CLOTHING FOR OUR BACK TO SCHOOL TEEN BOUTIQUE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS!

📍 Donations can be dropped off at MCCA, 3482 NW 10th street, Ocala 34475 or call (352) 438-5990 to arrange for pickup.



**ALL
SIZES**

What We Need:

- 👕 **Teen Clothing** – shirts, jeans, hoodies, jackets, dresses, skirts, socks and underwear
- 👟 **Shoes** – sneakers, sandals, boots and more
- 🧴 **Hygiene Items** – deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine products, (**MUST** be new and unopened).



Inaugural
HEART OF FLORIDA
 HEALTH CENTER

BBQ BASH

www.MyHFHC.org/BBQ

Officially Sanctioned Event
 FLORIDA BBQ ASSOCIATION

April 5th, 2025
Southeastern Livestock Pavilion

Free Clothing GiveAway



Pastor Rev. Martin Smith

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church Community Outreach Clothing Ministry

April 5th 2025 10am To 2pm

Please Come And Share This Event With Us
Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church 8792 NW 38th Ave Rd Ocala FL

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

Presents
2025 FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT EVENT

MLK Community Room
 615 NW MLK Jr. Blvd, Ocala, FL 34475

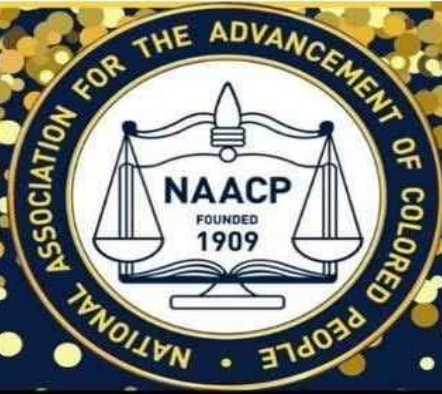
Saturday, April 12, 2025
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Action Steps To Own A Home, Connect With Financial Institutions, Leaving A Financial Legacy, Understanding Wills & Trusts, Protecting Your Assets With Insurance

Giveaways • Food • Grand Prize \$250 Value
Free And Open To The Public

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



NAACP MARION COUNTY
PRESENTS 43RD ANNUAL

FREEDOM FUND AWARDS & BANQUET

2025

FRIDAY | 25 | APRIL

6:00 pm

MARY SUE RICH COMMUNITY CENTER
AT REED PLACE
1821 NW 21ST AVE, OCALA

\$60 SINGLE/\$110 COUPLE – \$EARLY BIRD\$ THRU MARCH 15

\$75 SINGLE/\$140 COUPLE – AFTER MARCH 15

FOR TICKET INFORMATION: CONTACT 352-351-4560
OR PURCHASE VIA

ZELLE: MARIONCOUNTYFLNAACP@GMAIL.COM

CASH APP: \$NAACPMARIONCOUNTYFL



THE SIRCLE INC
Invite Everyone for...

JUNETEENTH

A Freedom Celebration

JUNE 20, 2025

MARY SUE RICH CENTER AT REED PLACE
1821 NW 21ST AVE, OCALA, FL 34475

FROM 6:00 PM - 11:00PM

TICKETS \$50 PER PERSON

*Come & join us to
celebrate the day of freedom.*

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
MUSIC & DANCE
FOOD & DRINKS**

For more information
Thesircleinc04@gmail.com



Join Us!

for the

Alliance Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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

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

Agenda

Agency Spotlight and Program

Dawn Westgate, Executive Director,
Kimberly's Center for Child Protection

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

Panel Discussion

(Kimberly's Center, Marion County Sheriff's Office
and the Ocala Police Department)

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 25, 2025.

Awards will be presented on Friday, May 9th , 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

IRIE JAMAICA RESTAURANT PRESENTS



Mother's BRUNCH

SAT MAY 10 2025

INCLUDES BOTTOMLESS MIMOSA
ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET

MUSIC BY: **CHARLIE B** TICKETS \$25
TIME: 12PM-9PM

IRIE JAMAICAN RESTAURANT
9319 SE MARICAMP ROAD OCALA FL 34472



BOW IN THE CLOUD
COMMUNITY SERVICES

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST ANNUAL GALA

Eden's Embrace

Saturday April 12, 2025
7:00p.m-10:00p.m
53 Laurel Pass, Ocala, FL 34480

INTERACTIVE BIBLE BASED ACTIVITIES,
CATERED FOOD, MOCKTAILS, MUSIC, &
SILENT AUCTION. ALL PROCEEDS WILL
SUPPORT YOUTH ACROSS MARION COUNTY

Tickets: \$50 Table Sponsors:\$500

RSVP:
[Www.bowinthecloud.org](http://www.bowinthecloud.org)
tel: 352-496-0036



Ocala Steel Orchestra Inc. presents

INTERNATIONAL Jazz
Art & Poetry Festival Ocala

SAT APRIL 26



Scan for tickets & more info
or visit
www.ocalasteelorchestra/events

Tribute to Roy Haynes



6:00PM
APPLETON MUSEUM of ART
4333 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala,
FL 34470

to benefit
Ocala Steel Orchestra
Non-Profit

POETRY ART JAZZ MERCH
VIBES FOOD

MAXIMIZING MEDICAID-FUNDED SERVICES & NAVIGATING CHILDREN'S MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACROSS STATE AGENCIES TRAININGS

Monday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to noon (Event Number 4881)

June 12, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Event Number 4882)

To register, go to <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-and-family-well-being/my-fl-learn>.
(Login in or Create a free account)

Children's mental and behavioral health are cited as top reasons for youth entering care, and one of the biggest challenges for placement stability. Access to care and establishing concrete service connections are critical in children welfare prevention and permanency. There is a concrete process for navigating children's complex needs that can help reduce stress on the child welfare system.

Training materials have been updated to include the February 2025 Medicaid SMMC 3.0!



Objectives

Participants will:

- Learn about the data corresponding to service connection challenges & its impacts on children entering foster care.
- Learn how to improve multi-system collaborations/ connections
- Learn about Medicaid, overview of EPSDT, and how to connect with the child's health insurance plan to maximize the use of Medicaid-Funded services
- Engage in dialogue that promotes reflection on their experiences with navigating services & interagency collaboration.
- Identify practices that can be implemented to enhance their workforces ability to work within multiple systems.



NAMI Marion County classes and support groups

NAMI Connection Support Groups meet bi-weekly on Tuesday's. There is an in- person group that meet from 1:30- 3:00 pm at Central Christian Church on the first and third Tuesday's of the month. There is also a group that meets online via Zoom from 7:00- 8:30 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday's of the month. This is a free recovery support group for any adult who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition. Groups are led by NAMI trained facilitators who have faced a mental health challenge. (Groups are ongoing- registration is required).

NAMI Family Support Groups meet the first and third Tuesday of each month via Zoom from 7:00- 8:30 pm. This is a free support group for family members, partners and parents of someone living with a mental health condition. Support groups are led by others who have a loved one with a mental health condition. (Groups are ongoing- registration required).

NAMI Peer to Peer class is a free, 8 week session educational program for adults with mental health conditions who are looking to better understand themselves and their recovery. Taught by trained leaders with lived experience, this program includes activities, discussions and informational videos. **Classes will meet on Wednesday's from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm and will meet March 19th through May 7th.** (Registration is required)

NAMI Family to Family class is a free 8 week educational program, designed to both help family members understand support their adult loved one living with a mental health condition and maintain their own well being. Program instructors are specifically trained individuals who have their own personal experience in supporting someone living with a mental health condition. **Classes will meet on Thursday nights from 7:00- 8:30 am via Zoom and will meet March 20th through May 8th.** (Registration is required)

Please contact Steven Leilich at NAMI Marion County for registration information:
steven@namimarioncountyfl.org



**Early Learning
Coalition** of Marion
County



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2ND ANNUAL

EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM

Help us celebrate our 25th year while we highlight the importance of early childhood education in Marion County

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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

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



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DEREK CLARK

Derek's journey is a testament to resilience and redemption. He is a survivor of child abuse, abandonment, and emotional turmoil. With the support of compassionate foster parents and a dedicated social worker, Derek defied the odds. Today, he is an international speaker, author of seven books, guest on global television programs, and viral sensation known for his "Rapping Dad" videos.

All are welcome to this free luncheon.

Seating is limited. Scan here to reserve your free ticket today.

For more information visit, ELC-Marion.org/Events, email CommunityRelations@ELC-Marion.org or call 352-369-2315 x202.



HOOPS & BADGES



OPD vs. Ocala Dynasty

Join us for an exciting basketball showdown at our annual Hoops and Badges tournament! Ocala PD will go head-to-head against the Ocala Dynasty! The game is FREE to watch!

Friday, June 14 @ Noon

THE REUNION CHOIR

presented by:



Open rehearsals start

April 05 2025

Join The Reunion



CALLING FORMER MEMBERS OF

CYIA -Northern District Congress Choir - NMHS Gospel Choir

Come be apart of something special!!

For More Information

Eugene Graham Jr.
(352) 209-2359

Stacie Newmones
(352) 615-9595

HARDROCK
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
DUNNELLON HIGH

Join us for the

Ultimate CLASS REUNION

A Golden Legacy: Celebrating Our Story

Memorial Day
Weekend 2025
Dunnellon, Florida

Calling all Alumni's from the graduating classes of all three high schools! It's time to reminisce, reconnect, and revel in the nostalgia of our school days

Event Highlights:

Meet and Greet
Black Tie/Picnic/Worship
Live Entertainment and More...

SAVE THE DATE

For more information:

More Information
Coming Soon

EMAIL:
TRIO3REUNION@GMAIL.COM



CHAT & CHEW

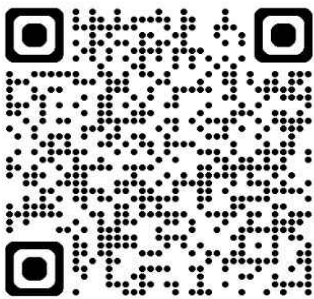
Ocala, Florida

MENTAL WELLNESS & MOCKTAILS

COME SIP, LEARN AND UNWIND

\$35

GET YOUR TICKET



**DATE: MAY 10TH
TIME: 1-3PM**

**1821 NW 21ST AVE,
OCALA, FL 34475**

***Bottomless
Mocktails***

***A Toast to
Your Well-Being!***

MADEFORTEACHERSINC.ORG



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PRINCIPAL STATUS - \$250

- PREMIUM TABLE PLACEMENT
- LOGO FEATURED ON EVENT FLYER & SOCIAL MEDIA
- RECOGNITION DURING THE EVENT
- OPPORTUNITY TO INCLUDE PROMO ITEMS IN TEACHER APPRECIATION BAGS

HONOR ROLL SPONSOR - \$150

- TABLE AT THE EVENT
- BUSINESS NAME LISTED ON EVENT FLYER & SOCIAL MEDIA
- VERBAL MENTION DURING THE EVENT

TEACHER'S PET \$75

- TABLE AT THE EVENT
- BUSINESS NAME LISTED ON EVENT MATERIALS

CLASSROOM HERO \$50

- YOUR BUSINESS NAME FEATURED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA AS A SUPPORTER OF TEACHER WELLNESS

**ZELLE: MADEFORTEACHERSS@GMAIL.COM
CASH APP: \$MADEFORTEACHERS
PAYPAL: MADEFORTEACHERS**

MADEFORTEACHERSINC.ORG

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT YOLANDA THOMAS AT (352) 615-3901 OR MADEFORTEACHERSS@GMAIL.COM BY APRIL 25, 2025



Freedom Recovery Festival



Presented by

Celebration Church
Bellevue, FL
352-470-1619



Saturday May 17th, 2025

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Celebration Church

12404 Se 112th Ave. Road Bellevue, 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 maintaining 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.

Fourth Annual
Freedom

Recovery

Festival

Presented by



Celebration Church
Belleview, FL
352-470-1619

Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, May 17th, 2025, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Please refrain from sales of any kind – This is a free event!

Business/Agency: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please describe your organization or service for brochure

description: _____

Vendors are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Space is limited to 120 vendors. Vendors are responsible for bringing tables, chairs, a tent, and any materials needed. Power outlets are not available.

The form and \$30 Registration Fee must be submitted at the same time. Freedom Recovery partner forms are also available. If partnering with Freedom Recovery Festival, a Vendor form does not need to be filled out.



You may make your payment online by texting 1-855-575-7888 and typing 278582 in the message, you will then be taken to the payment site. Your payment can also be made with the QR code above. Checks are made out to Celebrate Recovery & mailed to – 28 Sequoia Drive Trce Ocklawaha, FL 32179 Questions or information – contact Kim Lunday at 352-553-5412 or

celebraterecoveryatcelebration@gmail.com

Vendor confirmations will be sent via email when Vendor space is confirmed.



FUTURE LEADERS ACADEMY

Calling City of Ocala residents ages 16-19!

Applications are open to join the City's summer youth employment program. Receive on-the-job training and attend seminars focused on personal and professional growth, financial literacy, and technical job skills.



Important Details

- Applications due 5 p.m., April 11
- Program runs June 9 - Aug. 1
- 20-25 hours per week
- Hourly rate: \$16.06



APPLY NOW



www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofocala



For more information call 352-629-8359.



SAVE THE DATE

The Ocala Juneteenth
Celebration Commission
presents

Stage Play: "Keep on Pressin"

Written by: Brian A. Houston

Saturday, June 21, 2025
7:00pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)

Mary Sue Rich Center
1821 N.W. 21st Avenue - Ocala, FL 34475

Tickets:
\$10 (in advance)
\$15 (at the door)

For more information:
Email:

Ocalajuneteenth2020@gmail.com





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



ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- April 8** Safe Streets of Marion County
Wednesday 10 a.m.
This is a Zoom meeting for active Safe Streets Partnership members who are directly involved in planning the Teen Summit. *General Community Meetings will resume August 2025.
- April 9** Safe Kids Marion
Wednesday 9 a.m.
Florida Dept. of Health
- April 14** Family Violence Prevention
Monday 11 a.m.
Via Zoom
Call (352) 438-5990 for link
- April 21** Community Council Against
Tuesday Substance Abuse (CCASA)
Noon
Via Zoom

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

- April 2 Alliance Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place

Please join us!

Agenda

Agency Spotlight & Program

Dawn Westgate,
Executive Director,
Kimberly's Center for
Child Protection

Internet Crimes Against Children

Panel Discussion

Kimberly's Center,
Marion County Sheriff's Office,
and the Ocala Police Department