



MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 25, Issue 6 ~ June 2025

OCALA POLICE DEPARTMENT & TIM SADA TRAINING PRESENTS



FREE

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH @ 10 A.M.
MARY SUE RICH COMMUNITY CENTER AT REED PLACE
1821 NW 21ST AVE., OCALA

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT OPD COMMUNITY LIAISON
TARA WOODS | TWOODS@OCALAPD.GOV



FEATURING MARION HEAT

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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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.

WAITLIST OPENING

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (SECTION 8)



Ocala
Housing Authority

INCOME LIMITS

- 1 Person - \$27,000**
- 2 Persons - \$30,850**
- 3 Persons - \$34,700**
- 4 Persons - \$38,550**
- 5 Persons - \$41,650**
- 6 Persons - \$44,750**
- 7 Persons - \$47,850**
- 8 Persons - \$50,900**

APPLY ONLINE ONLY

<https://ocalahousing.housingmanager.com>

- To apply online, applicants will need the following for all households members; income, social security numbers, and dates of birth.
- Any individual who is income qualified is eligible to be placed on the waiting list. Other eligibility criteria will be required when name is selected from waiting list.
- OHA has bilingual staff available for translation assistance.
- ***If you need special accommodations, please call Ms. Jacalyn Brown at 352-620-3350.***

**Tuesday, June 24 @
9:00 AM through
Tuesday, July 8 @
9:00 AM**

(or until 2,000 applications have been received)

Computer Availability Sites:

***Interfaith Emergency Services
421 NW 1st St.***

***Career Source
2703 NE 14th St.***

***Early Learning Coalition
2300 SW 17th Rd.***

***Mary Sue Rich - Sankofa Library
1821 NW 21st Ave.***

***Shepherd's Lighthouse
5930 SE Robinson Rd.***

***Wear Gloves
98 NE 9th St.***

More sites may be available on our website



Ocala TTY: 352-368-2969
Ocala Video Phone: 352-414-1833
TDD: 1-800-545-1833 x507

For questions:

Email: contactus@ocalahousing.org
Phone: Jenna Brown - 352-732-1233
or visit our website: ocalahousing.org

Marion County Community Services

The Community Services department offers several direct assistance programs that may benefit you or someone you know! Check out more details below. For more information, contact the Community Services Department at (352) 671-8770 or CommunityServices@marionfl.org.

Homeowner Rehabilitation

This program is designed to help homeowners make essential repairs or address health, safety, and code compliance issues in their homes. It does not cover cosmetic improvements. Assistance is provided as a zero-interest, deferred payment loan that is forgivable after 15 years.

Program Criteria:

- Homeowner(s) can only apply for assistance for their primary residence
- Home must be owner-occupied, taxes current, and homesteaded for a minimum of 12 months
- Home must be located within Marion County but outside of Ocala City Limits
- Eligible homes include:
 - site built
 - manufactured or mobile homes built from June of 1994 or newer
- Property must be clear of liens, foreclosure, judgments, etc.
- Mortgage must be current for a minimum of 6 months
- Assistance is provided in the form of a zero-interest, deferred payment loan, forgivable after 15 years



Community Services staff members work with lenders, contractors, and realtors to help you buy an affordable home of your own. All applications are funded on a first-qualified, first-served basis as long as funding is available and will be reviewed by staff for eligibility. Funding is not guaranteed and is contingent upon final approval.

Program Criteria:

- Applicants cannot currently own a home or be under contract to purchase a home
- The home being purchased must be intended as the applicant's primary residence
- The home being purchase must be located within Marion County but outside of Ocala City Limits
- The homebuyer must successfully complete an approved homebuyer education class prior to program approval
- The applicants must be a Florida resident for a minimum of 2 years
- The applicants must have a minimum credit score of 620
- Assistance is provided in the form of a zero-interest, deferred payment loan, forgivable after 15 years

Homebuyer Purchase Assistance





**WORLD ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS DAY**

Building Strong Support for Elders



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY EVENT

**SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 19TH, 2025 AT 1:00PM**

**Please join us at One Health located at 1714 SW 17th
St Ocala, FL.**

The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults. This event will feature speakers from the State Attorney's office, law enforcement, Seniors vs. Crime and SHINE/SMP.

**HOSTED BY: MARION SENIOR SERVICES IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH ELDER OPTIONS**

ELDER OPTIONS



SENIORS DESERVE OUR RESPECT AND ATTENTION.



Join Us!

for the

Alliance Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 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

Renee and Evan Brandies
Harlow's Helping Hands

Guest Speaker

Laura Burgess, Executive Director
Hilary Cabezudo, Social Services Manager
Pace Center for Girls

MCCA IS COLLECTING **GENTLY USED** OR **NEW** CLOTHING FOR **MIDDLE AND HIGH** SCHOOLERS! HELP STOCK OUR **FREE** BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOUTIQUE



**ALL
SIZES**

✓ We Need:

Teen Clothing -- hoodies, jeans, tees, sneakers, etc.

Hygiene Items -- deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes & feminine products, **(Must be New!)**

✗ Please No:

Adult/senior clothing, business wear or worn-out items.
Clothing Should be Appropriate for Teens Only!

📍 Drop Off:

MCCA – 3482 NW 10th St, Ocala, FL 34475

☎ Call (352) 438-5990 to arrange a pickup!



FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

RAIN OR SHINE

KIDS FUN FEST

HULA HOOP CONTEST • KNOCKERBALL
KIDS KARAOKE • FACE PAINTING

OVER 60 KID-FRIENDLY VENDORS

JULY 20, 2025
12PM - 4PM

LOCATED AT

OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

403 SE OSCEOLA AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

Want to become a vendor? Text Ryan at (352) 897-0193



**JUNE IS PTSD
AWARENESS MONTH**

PTSD AWARENESS DAY

TOGETHER WE FIGHT * TOGETHER WE CONQUER

**JOIN US FOR A 2.2 MILE WALK
IN RECOGNITION OF PTSD
AWARENESS MONTH.**



**Veteran's Memorial Park
2601 E. Fort King St., Ocala, FL 34470**



**June 27, 2025
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY WEARING TEAL ON JUNE 27TH!

**SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
PURCHASE YOURS AT: VHVUSA.ORG/PTSD
SHIRTS COST: \$25**



FRONT



BACK

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT PARTNERS HELPING THOSE IN NEED.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 14, 2025

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

Live Art Auction, Live Entertainment, Dinner,
Dancing, Raffles, 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!



The poster features a large, stylized white letter 'J' on the left side. Three black birds with orange and yellow accents are flying upwards along the vertical stroke of the 'J'. At the bottom of the 'J', there are three raised fists in shades of brown and tan. The background consists of light green watercolor splashes and a vertical orange stripe. Text is arranged on the right side of the poster.

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

Save-the-Date for the 22nd Annual

DRIVE -THRU ONLY!

**Saturday,
July 26, 2025**

**10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friends Recycling
2350 N.W. 27TH Ave.
Ocala, Florida**



**~ FREE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES ~
STUDENT(S) MUST BE PRESENT ~ NO EXCEPTIONS!
THEN, STOP BY OUR BOUTIQUE**

**FREE CLOTHING AND HYGIENE ITEMS,
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST) FOR TEENS!**

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**ED CROSKEY CENTER
1510 N.W. 4TH ST., OCALA**

***Backpacks and School Supplies
NOT available at this location!***



Immunizations (**Must Bring Current Shot Record**),
School Physicals, Vision and Hearing Screenings, dental cleanings,
fluoride, sealants and exams for children birth to 18 years old.

Vendors include: Marion County Health Department, Central Florida
Community Action Agency, Community Home Project, Estella Byrd
Whitman Community Health Center, Ocala Fire Rescue and more.

Sponsored by

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

For information, vendor and sponsorship opportunities or to donate school supplies, call (352) 438-5990

22nd 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 22nd Annual "Drive Through" Back 2 School Bash will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025 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 they 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)	X				
2. Printed Brochures/Materials in All Backpacks	X	X			
3. Printed Material in Swag Bags Distributed to Parents/Guardians (300 max)			X		
4. Immediate Acknowledgment on Social Media	X	X	X	X	X
5. Company Listed on Signage at Event	X	X	X	X	

**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 Marion County Children's Alliance, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475
Scan QR code or to pay online, go to:



<https://mcchildrensalliance.networkforgood.com/projects/252358-back-2-school-bash-2025>

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



WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE DESERVES A
PLACE TO CALL HOME
WE NEED YOUR HELP!



WILL YOU SPONSOR TODAY?



1 BATHROOM
\$100



1 BEDROOMS
\$700



KITCHEN
\$300



LIVING SPACE
\$500



FULL UNIT
\$1600

SPONSORS MAY CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE
BY MAKING A MONETARY DONATION
TOWARD FURNISHINGS AND DECOR, OR BY
DIRECTLY PURCHASING AND PROVIDING
ITEMS THEMSELVES

CONTACT US NOW

PENNY@SAVINGMERCY.ORG



**JOIN SAVING MERCY AND CREATE YOUR
OWN ARTWORK INSPIRED BY**

Home is Where the Heart Is

6/17/2025 - 6 TO 8PM

PAINTING WITH A TWIST

4414 SW COLLEGE RD UNIT #370, OCALA, FL 34474

\$40 PER PERSON



WHAT YOU'LL CREATE!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER





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





PACK OUR PANTRY

ITEMS ACCEPTED

- Canned vegetables & fruits
- Canned meats & beans
- Rice, pasta, and grains
- Boxed meals (mac & cheese, oatmeal, etc.)
- Peanut butter, jelly, and canned soups
- Pet food
- Clothing items for all ages/sizes
- Hygienic items
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned soups and stews
- Breakfast cereals and granola bars
- Snacks for children
- Water and Drinks

Drop off at:

3601 W. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34475

Every Tuesday 10am-1pm



Every donation helps, no matter how big or small. Together, we can provide much-needed support for our neighbors in need.

**Saturday
October 11, 2025**

WEAR YOUR WINGS 5K FUN RUN/WALK

**Proceeds benefit victims and
survivors of domestic violence**

**College of Central Florida
3001 S.W. College Rd Ocala, FL 34474**

**SCAN
ME**



**\$30/ Early Rate Through 9/5
\$35/ Late Registration 9/6 - 10/10
\$40/ Day of Race Registration
Ask About Becoming a Sponsor**

REGISTER HERE



**7 a.m. Registration & Packet Pickup
7:30 a.m. Pre-Race Celebration Begins
8 a.m. Fun Run/Walk Race Begins**

**Shirts guaranteed to the first 150 registrants
Medals guaranteed to the first 150 finishers
Awards for top three male/female finishers in each age group**



**Race Coordinator
Heaven Colon**



**COLLEGE of
CENTRAL
FLORIDA**

—an equal opportunity college—



<https://runsignup.com/race/FL/Ocala/WearYourWings5KFunRunWalk>

WANT TO HELP OUR YOUTH? LIFESTREAM HAS OPENINGS ~ APPLY NOW

LifeStream Behavioral Center has openings within our Youth Recovery Care Center (YRCC), a treatment program focused on empowering youth and restoring families. We provide integrated, evidence-based care for youth ages 12-17 dealing with substance use and co-occurring mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and trauma-related challenges. As a 16-bed coed residential facility, we offer both short-term residential and outpatient services. Our program is built on a foundation of therapies such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing, the 12 Steps program, and Life Skills training, all designed to meet the specific needs of each young person we serve. Call **(352) 717-1656** or **YRCC@LSBC.net** for information and to make referrals.



Axes & Arrows

Youth Camp

June 16-20 from 9-2pm

Early Care 8am-9am For Ages 9-15

Designed for Kids!

Introduction to Archery featuring
11 steps of basic safety, range and skills through games!

Featuring Experiences such as:

- Beat the Instructor
- Archery Golf
- 3D Animal Targets
- Clay Pigeons
- Box Targets
- Hunger Game Challenges
- Introduction to compound bows
- Axe & Ninja star throwing
- Swim Time



Register by June 13th - Spaces limited
Register at: 590 Silver Rd.
For more information call:
352-438-2810

 Follow us at Silver Springs
Shores Community &
Youth Center -MSTU





Summer FISH CAMP

For Ages 9-15

Happening June 2nd-6th 8am-5pm

Early Care 7:30-8am/ After Care 5-6pm

Featuring:

- Take home rod & reel
- Tackle
- Prizes & Awards
- FWC Ranger Instruction
- Lessons on fishing
- Lessons on boat preparation
- Learn how to identify fish
- Family Fish Fry on Friday at 12pm



Register by May 30th - Spaces are limited
Register at: 590 Silver Rd.
For more information call:
352-438-2810

 Follow us at Silver Springs
Shores Community &
Youth Center -MSTU





SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL CHARITY

Taste of the Town Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for

Friday, September 12, 2025, from 5-8p

at the Ocala Downtown Market

for an evening of fun, music, libations, and savory samplings of many of our community's different restaurants, including beer and wine vendors.

You won't want to miss this event that will offer something for every palate, Come Eat For a Cause!

HOSTED BY:



Estella Byrd Whitman

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

352.875.2226 | www.ebwchc.org

Camp HOPE - CASA Marion

Camp HOPE America - Florida is a free mentoring camp for children who have been exposed to domestic violence or other forms of trauma. During a week-long overnight camp, children are challenged to step outside of their comfort zones with fun and engaging activities! Campers participate in Pathways events all year long to stay connected with their camp friends and mentors.



Camp Dates
July 21st - July 27th



Eligibility

- Ages 7-11 years old
- Participation in free Pathways events
- All individuals interested in Camp Hope will be interviewed prior to be accepted to the program
- Campers must be working with their local domestic violence center or community agency

Keep the Fun Going All Year!

Pathways is a year-long mentorship program for campers to stay connected & engaged. For more information regarding our Pathways events please contact us!

For Questions & to Register for Camp Hope

Call: 727-710-1064 | Email:

camphopemarion@casamarion.org



KINGDOM REVIVAL CHURCH

PRESENTS



FALL FEST



“EVERYTHING’S FREE”

CLOTHING ~ HYGIENE ITEMS AND MUCH MORE! LUNCH AVAILABLE
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!)

**Saturday, August 16, 2025
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3318 E. Silver Springs Blvd.**

Donations accepted through Friday, August 8, 2025

For more information or to donate items,
Call Rose at (352) 361-5044.



Saving Mercy



CAR SHOW

Hoods Up for Homes!

Free for
Public

Welcoming
Vendors

Register on
Eventbrite



Car Registration fee

- \$15.00 Early
- \$20.00 Day of
- Multiple Trophies
- Car Club Challenge

SEPTEMBER

27

10AM-2PM

FOOD TRUCKS |

KIDS ACTIVITIES

| LIVE MUSIC

Double S Red Barn
6736 NE 36th Avenue Rd, Ocala, FL 34479



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

HAPPY
Father's
DAY

JUNETEENTH

Celebrate Freedom

JUNE 19

ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- June 4** Safe Streets of Marion Cty. Taskforce
Wednesday 10 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Center
at Reed Place
- June 9** Family Violence Prevention Workgroup
Monday 11 a.m.
Via Zoom
Call (352) 438-5990 for link
- June 11** Safe Kids Coalition Marion
Wednesday 9 a.m.
Florida Dept. of Health
- June 16** Community Council Against Substance
Monday 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

- June 4** Alliance Monthly Meeting
Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community
Center at Reed Place

*Please
join us!*

Agenda

Agency Spotlight
Renee and Evan Brandies
(Harlow's Helping Hands)

Guest Speaker
Laura Burgess,
Executive Director
and Hilary Cabezudo,
Social Services Manager
(Pace Center for Girls)