



MARION COUNTY CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Website: Mcchildrensalliance.org

Volume 25, Issue 11 ~ November 2025

Don't get **Wrapped** up in the Holiday **Stress**

**JOIN THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKGROUP
FOR ITS ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING CAMPAIGN**

Friday, December 12 - Wednesday, December 25, 2025

available during the holiday season at the Paddock Mall

Booth will be located between Victoria's Secret and Hollister.

Bring any unwrapped gifts to the Mall and our volunteers will wrap them for you. We provide everything needed i.e wrapping paper, bows and gift tags. Boxes are extra!

****Gifts do not have to be purchased in the Mall too be wrapped!***

~ Volunteers Needed ~

Must be at least 18 years or older and have gift wrapping experience.

Pick the days and hours you want to volunteer. Groups welcome!

For information or a volunteer form, call Valerie at **(352) 438-5990** or email [**Fvpinfo@mcchildrensalliance.org**](mailto:Fvpinfo@mcchildrensalliance.org)

All proceeds benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence.

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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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"

~ CORPORATE HONOR ROLL ~

Platinum Members: City of Ocala; Brown & Brown Insurance; Kids Central, Inc.; MC Board of County Commissioners; Marion County Health Department; Public Education Foundation of Marion County; United Way of Marion County; **Gold Members:** Citizens First Bank; Florida Express Waste & Recycling; Gallagher; Duke Energy; Heart of Florida Health Center; Marion County Sheriff's Office; The Palmer Foundation; **Silver Members:** American Panel; Jenkins Auto Group; Radiology Associates of Ocala; iServ; Friends Recycling; SMA Healthcare; Habitat for Humanity; Allstate Kevin McDonald; AdventHealth; Angie Lewis State Farm;

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.

JOIN THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKGROUP

FOR ITS ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING CAMPAIGN



December 12 – December 24, 2025
during holiday hours at the Paddock Mall

Gift Wrapping Booth located between
Victoria's Secret and Hollister

*** Volunteers must be at least 18 years old
AND have experience wrapping gifts**

Volunteer Gift Wrapping Form

(Please Print Clearly)

* Required Information

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Phone: () _____ -or- Cell: () _____

*E-mail: _____

Volunteers Needed December 12 through December 24, 2025

Please list dates and times you want to volunteer:

Date _____ Time _____ to _____

Date _____ Time _____ to _____

Date _____ Time _____ to _____

Date _____ Time _____ to _____

Date _____ Time _____ to _____

Date _____ Time _____ to _____

Your support is sincerely appreciated **BUT**, please remember we will be depending on you to show up on the days and hours **YOU** sign up for to wrap gifts.

E-mail completed to **monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org**.
For more information, available times and dates, call **(352) 438-5993**.

Driven for a Healthier You!



The Department of Health in Marion County's Mobile Health Unit serves county residents in their communities throughout Marion County. It provides services such as immunizations and other preventative healthcare needs. For more information or opportunities to partner with us, please contact Tammie Durden at 352-644-2627 or Tammie.Durden@FLHealth.gov

Visit Marion.FloridaHealth.gov for more information on the department and its services.

Come see us at

Interfaith Soup Kitchen
435 NW 2nd Street, Ocala, FL 34475

Wednesday, December 10 • 9:00–12:00 P.M.

Services offered are:
Preventative Healthcare Services
Health Screenings
Education
STD/HIV Testing

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church
We Care
and

Usher Ministry

YARD *Sale*

DECEMBER 6, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

728 NW 6th Ave.
Ocala, FL.



Table Donations \$10.00
Reserve your table now *
TJ @352-817-6627

Gift of Christmas Toy Drive

All donations
benefit the
Family
Violence
Prevention
Workgroup's
annual Gift
of Christmas
Toy Drive



Sponsored by:



**TOY
DRIVE**

Thank You
for helping
make
Christmas
special for
families
in our
community!
We
Appreciate
Your Support

ALL AGES

BUT WE ALWAYS
HAVE A HUGE
NEED FOR ITEMS
FOR OUR TEENS

EXAMPLES ARE:

CD PLAYERS
CAMERAS
MP3 PLAYERS
TABLETS
MAKE UP SETS
PURSES
PERFUME SETS
WALLETS
WATCHES
(Boys and Girls)
FOOTBALLS
BASKETBALLS
BOARD GAMES
HEADPHONES
ARTS & CRAFTS

Deadline for donations is Friday, December 12, 2025

For more information or to donate toys, contact Valerie at (352) 438-5990
or email Monica@breakthesilenceonviolence.org

Gift cards or monetary donations can be mailed to
MCCA, 3482 N.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL 34475



YOU ARE INVITED!



LOOK UP MARION SUMMIT

Wednesday, Dec 3rd
College of Central Florida Klein Center

Doors open at 8am
Program begins at 8:30am
Continental Breakfast

Cost \$20

Kids' Brains & Screens

You will leave empowered with practical solutions, clear how-to guidance, and the confidence to make informed decisions about screen time and personal devices in your home.



Mande Hamann

INAUGURAL KEY PRESENTER & WORKSHOP LEADER

Mande is a businesswoman and former early childhood/children's pastor, and is a mom to 2 young adults and 1 teenager. After her own family struggled with toxic screen issues, she was introduced to ScreenStrong. The ScreenStrong lifestyle changed everything for her family. Mande became a ScreenStrong Ambassador and is committed to spreading this powerful message.

- National Speaker for ScreenStrong
- Lead Trainer for ScreenStrong Ambassadors
- Youth Speaker & Advocate
- Co-Host of the popular ScreenStrong Families Podcast
- Leader of Parent Workshops, School Assemblies, & Community Events
- Key Presenter at ScreenStrong Conferences & Community Forums, and National Conventions

screen
STRONG



JOIN US DEC 3RD
RETHINK THE SCREENS.
RECLAIM YOUR KIDS.
RECONNECT YOUR FAMILY.

SCAN THE CODE OR REGISTER AT:

www.LookUpMarion.com

MORE INFO: (352) 438-5990



SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



VIEW ALL OUR SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS: WWW.LOOKUPMARION.COM

Please join Kingdom Revival Church for a **FREE**

Drive Thru Community Christmas Lunch

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

3318 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470



For information, please call Rose at (352)361-5044



Symphony of STRENGTH

WAR, CRY
4
Peace

ALL WHITE
Event

MUSICAL HOLIDAY GALA 2025

DECEMBER

14TH

5:00PM

TICKETS

\$50

FUNDRAISER



MARY SUE RICH CENTER 1824 NW 21ST AVE.
SOLICITING SPONSORS FOR OUR FAMILIES OF GUN VIOLENCE

SONGS • CRAFTS • GAMES • SNACKS AND MORE!

You are invited to a

FAMILY

Christmas EXPERIENCE

FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY!

DEC. 7 | 3-5
P.M.

FREE
EVENT!

Please join us at St. Paul's United Methodist Church for our Family Christmas Experience!

We will have an afternoon of family fun with games, songs, crafts, snacks, and stories on December 7, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. located at 800 S.E. 41st Ave.

This event is free to attend and we ask that you register so we have enough fun for all!

<https://m.signupgenius.com/>

M
S

MARKET ST
AT HEATH BROOK

Meet Santa

Center of Market Street at The Big Christmas Tree

Dec 5th, 6:00- 8:00pm

Market Street at Heath Brook

4414 SW College Rd, Ocala, Florida 34474



2ND ANNUAL BOBBY'S BIKES HOLIDAY GIVEBACK EVENT

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 18 | 6 PM- 8 PM

MUSIC, DANCING, FOOD, & GIVEBACK EVENT FOR 20 + CHILDREN

**INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING YOUR
CHILD(REN) FOR A BICYCLE? COMPLETE
GOOGLE FORM VIA QR CODE**

**SCAN
ME!**



DIAMONDZ AND PEARLZ EVENT CENTER

4875 SW 60TH AVE #200

OCALA, FL 34474



FITTHEAVEN.PUNCHPASS.COM



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Now in its 39th season, CWAH has collected more than \$1.8 million, of which **\$30,04.61** was raised during the 2024 - 2025 campaign to help those in need in Marion County

HOW TO HELP:

Mail checks to Community With a Heart, P.O. Box 1777, Ocala, FL 34473. To donate online, go to <https://www.ocalafoundation.org/community-foundation-funds/community-with-a-heart/> or you can scan the QR code. Donations are tax-deductible. There are no overhead costs and every cent donated goes to help residents of Marion County.



How to apply for assistance from CWAH:

To see if you're eligible for assistance, go to <https://www.communitywithaheart.org>. Individuals seeking help can also contact one of the agencies below for a referral, agree to a home visit, provide recent documentation of the need and demonstrate self-sustainability. Individuals can only apply and receive assistance once in three year period. Agencies include: the Marion County Children's Alliance, Interfaith Emergency Services, Marion County School Social Services, Brother's Keeper, Community Legal Services, Ocala Housing Authority, Isaiah Foundation, Central Florida Community Action Agency, Marion County Community Services, Habitat for Humanity, Cleve Butler and James Jackson, Community-at-Large Members.

OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US

to
BRING *the Harvest* **HOME**

*Donate non-perishable food, baby supplies,
and personal hygiene items at one of our drop
off locations before **Dec. 5!***

Or come by on:

Friday, Dec. 5

7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

at the Ocala Downtown Square!

Visit: BringTheHarvestHome.com for a full list
of needed items!

**All donations
benefit:**



DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE IF YOU NEED HELP! SIGN UP



"Do the good that presents itself to be done."

- St. Vincent DePaul

2025 Holiday Help Drives

Information for Applicants

Each year, Blessed Trinity and Brother's Keeper helps hundreds of families during the holiday season. **Eligible families receive food for Thanksgiving and food & gifts for children 12 and under at Christmas.** This year we are partnering with Toys for Tots. It is only through the generosity of many others in our parish and community that we're able to provide this assistance each year.



Holiday Sign-Ups: **Monday, October 13 through Tuesday, December 5***
Mon. & Fri. 9am -11:30am and Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9am-2:30pm
**Cut-Off for Thanksgiving food applications is Fri. November 14*

Who's Eligible: THANKSGIVING FOOD & CHRISTMAS FOOD: **Families with at least one child under the age of 18 residing in Marion County.**



CHRISTMAS TOYS: Families with at least one child 12 and under living in one of the following zip codes:
34420, 34421, 34433, 34434, 34473, 34474, 34475, 34477, 34478, 34479, 34483

Applicants Need: **Photo ID** with Marion County address,
Social Security cards for adults and children,
Birth Certificates for all children,
Lease and Utility Bill to prove residency and zip code
Proof of food stamps qualification (if eligible)



Pick-Up Dates/Times: Thanksgiving: **Tuesday, November 18** from 9:00am-4:00pm
Christmas: **Tues., Dec. 16 or Wed., Dec. 17** from 9am-4pm
**Clients will be assigned a pick-up time/day*

Pick-Up Location: **Knights of Columbus Hall** | 1510 SE 3rd Ave, Ocala, FL 34471
Located at the north end of the Blessed Trinity parking lot
***Bring Photo ID of the applicant when picking up**

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
320 NW 10th St., Ocala
(352) 622-3846

THRIFT STORE
320 NW 10th St., Ocala
(352) 732-7988

SOUP KITCHEN
435 NW 2nd St., Ocala
(352) 789-8139

MAIL TO
5 SE 17th St.,
Ocala, FL 34471

Truckin' It To Preschool



**Saturday
January 31, 2026
11 AM - 2 PM**

(A quiet hour for children with
sensory sensitivities begins at 10 AM)

Marion Oaks Community Center
294 Marion Oaks Ln, Ocala, FL 34473

- Learn about the many preschool options available in Marion County and meet local preschool providers
- Receive assistance with VPK applications
- Free children's activities
- Interact with trucks and emergency vehicles

Scan today to apply as a
vendor or truck exhibitor!



**Early Learning
Coalition** OF Marion
County

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

FREE Backpack*
with \$40 in
preschool supplies
and fun activities
when your VPK
application is
approved at the
Truckin' It To
Preschool event

Florida **VPK**

VPK is FREE for all 4-year-olds

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) is a high-quality education program that prepares children for success in school. Children must be 4-years old on or before September 1 to be eligible. For VPK application to be approved, you must provide:

- Proof of Child's Age (Birth certificate, passport, immunization record, etc.)
- Proof of Residency (Utility bill, lease agreement, pay stub, government issued document, etc.)

For all eligibility and acceptable documents, visit
ELC-Marion.org/parents/vpk.

*Backpacks are limited to the first 120 approved applicants.
While supplies last.

FREE Screenings

Don't miss the fun activity stations at the Truckin' It to Preschool event. While the kids play, parents/guardians can complete an easy Ages and Stages Questionnaire for children 2 months to 5 years old. Areas screened include:

- Behavior
- Cognitive
- Communication
- Social-emotional
- Gross and fine motor skills

Receive resources to continue supporting your child's development at home.



Sponsored by the Children's Forum and the State of Florida, Division of Early Learning

Books, Balls, & Blocks!





MLK DAY Celebration 2026

JANUARY 10, 2026
Food Drive

JANUARY 17, 2026
*Prayer Breakfast
Wreath Ceremony
Youth Day*

JANUARY 18, 2026
Ecumenical Service

JANUARY 19, 2026
Day in the Park

Theme: Mission Possible II
"Uniting the Nation;
Building a Future"

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

PAULA LEAHMON
(352) 426-8028

DWANETTE DILWORTH
(352) 207-6036



SHORES WINTER GATHERING

AND Community Car Show

DECEMBER 7th, 2025
1 PM - 5 PM

Vendors, Food Trucks, Cars, & Activities for Kids!

590 Silver Road Ocala, FL



Play it Safe

— Shop Smart this
Holiday Season!

- Keep deflated balloons away from children younger than 8 years old. Discard broken balloons at once.
- Avoid small balls and toys with small parts for children younger than age 3.
- Get the right size helmets and safety gear for children using bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates. Ensure they are worn properly while riding or skating.
- High powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children under 14. Building & play sets with small magnets should also be kept away from small children.

NSN
NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY NETWORK
A PART OF THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

QR CODE

NSN 13-3



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Christmas

POT LUCK PARTY

DECEMBER 13 AT 12:00 PM

BRING A FAVORITE DISH TO
SHARE!!

Let's celebrate together!

Bring your favorite horse something special or special gifts for the barn!! We will have a sign up sheet soon for these items!

GOD BELONGS IN MY CITY FLORIDA INC

PROJECT HOLIDAY SMILE



**WE ARE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR THE
MARION REGIONAL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER.**

**HELP US BRING HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND POSITIVE ACTIVITIES TO THE YOUTH
FROM AGES 7-17 YEARS YOUNG DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.**

ITEMS NEEDED:

Large Stockings

Candy

Chocolate & Marshmallows

Board Games

Soft-cover teen books

Puzzles

Playing cards

Socks packages



Scan Here

For more information call: 352-613-4033

SYMPHONY UNDER THE LIGHTS

Friday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. on the outdoor stage of the Reilly Arts Center, 500 N.E. 9th St.

Bring a blanket or chair. The annual free concert is sponsored by Jenkins Auto Group. For more info, visit reillyartscenter.com.

ST. JOHN NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

St. John will present its Nights of Lights on its campus at 1915 S.E. Lake Weir Ave., on December 5-7, 12-14, 18-23 and 25-27, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The free event includes light displays, music and light shows, Santa and food and crafts will be available for purchase.

CHRISTMAS PARADES

DUNNELLON:

Saturday, December 6, at 6 p.m. at Dunnellon Middle School, 21005 Chestnut St. For more information, <https://www.facebook.com/dunnellonchristmasparade>

BELLEVUE:

Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m. at Lake Lillian and Robinson Road and ends at 110th Street.

For more information, <https://bellevuechristmasparade.com>.

OCALA:

Saturday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. The parade begins on East Silver Springs Blvd., at Southeast 25th Ave., and heads west to Northeast Eighth Avenue in the Tusawilla Park Area. Bernadette Castro will be the grand marshal.

Go to ocalachristmasparade.org for more information.

SANTA ON THE SQUARE

Santa will visit kids of all ages on the downtown square, 1 S.E. Broadway St., December 9, 11, 16 and 18, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is free, but families should bring their own cameras.



HOPS HISTORIC OCALA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Christmas HOME TOUR

SATURDAY
December 6th
FROM 2-8 PM

**ADVANCE TICKETS \$30
at Your Hearts Desire
or \$35 AT THE DOOR**

HOPS HISTORIC OCALA PRESERVATION SOCIETY
352-484-0502 | www.HistoricOcala.org



13th Annual Chosen Children's Christmas Party

Sponsors Needed

**Santa - Facepainter
Fruit Cups - Drinks - Cupcakes
Stockings - Stuffed Animals**

For 13 years we have made Christmas possible for children who would otherwise go without.

Call Sue at 352-454-5296
for more information or donation pick up

Donations can be made through R.A.M.A.L. Educational & Social Services (501c3) ramalservices.org or via Zelle 352-875-4237

R.A.M.A.L.
REACH AND MOTIVATE AND LEAD
EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES, INC.



HOLIDAY Bazaar

@ Silver Springs Shores Community Center
590 Silver Road

Homemade Crafts & Treats Vendors

Friday Dec. 5 **5pm to 7pm**

**Music
Food
Door Prizes
And tons of FUN!**

We will be collecting non-perishable food & Toy donations for "A Mother's Love Ministry"

Presented By:
**Marion County Progressive Democratic Caucus
of Silver Springs Shores**



★ Operation Christmas Card ★



A simple Christmas Card can do something extraordinary - bring warmth, joy, and a reminder that someone cares.

Each year, the mission of **Operation Christmas Card** is to spread joy and remind our seniors they are not forgotten - sharing kindness, connection, and the true spirit of the season - one heartfelt card at a time.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!



Create or purchase your Christmas card (s) - handmade and store-bought cards are both welcome.



Handwrite a heartfelt message or holiday greeting inside each card. (Using larger print makes it easier for our seniors)



Place each card in an envelope but leave it unsealed and blank on the outside.



Gather all your cards together in a large envelope. You can **mail them** to the address provided below, or if you're in the **local area**, contact us to **arrange a pick up**.



DEADLINE: Friday, December 5, 2025 ★

MAIL TO:

**1571 SE 80th Street
Ocala, FL 34480**

QUESTIONS or ARRANGE PICK UP:

Email: eclark.willowgrace@gmail.com



First Choice Senior Living Advisors
SENIOR LIVING MADE SIMPLE

Together we spread joy!



Willow
GRACE



SUNSHINE State GOLF Carts



DON'S GARAGE
OCALA'S BEST AUTO MECHANICS



Procyon Training



All About You
Women's Boutique



**Winterfest &
Light Up Wildwood
Christmas Parade**

**Friday, December 5, 2025
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Parade starts at 6:00 p.m.
Tree lighting at 7:30 p.m.

Tree lighting, snow slide, vendors,
kids' zone, food trucks,
and, of course, Santa!

FREE

**WILDWOOD CITY HALL
100 N. MAIN ST., WILDWOOD, FL 34785**

352-461-0134
wildwood-fl.gov

WILDWOOD
FLORIDA
PARKS & RECREATION



**1950's
HAPPY DAYS
SOCK HOP**

December 6, 2025
Mary Sue Rich Community Center
1821 NW 21st Ave, Ocala, FL 34475
5PM-9pm

Get ready to rock around the clock! Join us for a fun-filled 1950's Sock Hop Night benefiting Stirrups 'n Strides! Enjoy classic '50s music, buffet dinner, dancing, casino games, a silent auction, and so much more. Dust off your poodle skirts and leather jackets—it's going to be a night to remember!

Scan the QR code to find out more!

Stirrups'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), Non-Profit Organization. Tax ID#20-5935626. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.



Ovations Encore Gala

An elegant evening to honor outstanding contributions to community service, advocacy, and humanitarian excellence

Saturday January 17, 2026 | 6:00PM - 9:00PM
APPLETON MUSEUM OF ART, OCALA, FL

Keynote - Elgin Carelock
Renowned author, educator, and leadership coach

Unveiling
of the 2025 Ovations of the Year Award

Soul-stirring
performance by Ocala Symphony Chorus

See **HONOREES** and Purchase **EARLY-BIRD TICKETS** at:
<https://www.accoladecelebrations.org/event-details/ovations-encore-gala>



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Super Grateful Weaving Workshop

With AIHOM Visual Arts Practitioners!
Powered by the MCA Cultural Grant

Celebrate gratitude in a creative, hands-on way during this cardboard loom weaving workshop. Participants are invited to take time to reflect on what you are thankful for and experience how small moments of gratitude can make a **SUPER** difference in everyday life.

When:
Saturday, December 13, 2025
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Where:
Heart of the Park at Tuscawilla
516 NE Sanchez Ave.
Ocala, FL 34470

RSVP at:
Heartoftheparkocala.com

**FREE WITH
RSVP!**

Ages 7+ Welcome with Adult
Saturday - December 13 - 10:00 - 11:30 AM
All supplies included.



MCPS
MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
"Helping Every Student Succeed"

Winter CAREER FAIR

**Competitive
Salaries and
benefits!**

If you're graduating in December, relocating to Ocala, or seeking a career change, this event is for YOU! We're hiring a variety of positions such as teachers, school bus drivers, support staff and more. Be prepared for **on-site interviews** with School Principals and District Administrators. Bring your resume and Dress to Impress!



**Thursday, December 4, 2025
4pm - 6pm**



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



www.marionschools.net

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FAIR OR
INTERESTED IN A VIRTUAL INTERVIEW, CALL (352) 671-7787
OR **EMAIL TONYA.NUNN@MARION.K12.FL.US**



**Scan the QR Code
with your cellphone
camera to register.**



An Equal Opportunity School District



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:

Instructor-Led Portion of the class:
**December 2, 2025
9:30AM to 4:30PM**

Location:

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

Where to Register:

<https://forms.gle/zdQ4gney5STX4b16>

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.

This course is **FREE** for Marion County Residents only.
Course Fee for non county residents is \$175.

Instructor-Led Course link is not permitted to be shared.

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

NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness)- Marion County

November is Mental Health Awareness Month. Please take the time to check in on your loved ones and yourself.

SAVE THE DATE: Our second annual NAMI Walk will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2026 at Baseline Road Trailhead at 10:00 am. Sponsorship opportunities will be coming soon. For more information, please contact our Walk Manager, Carly Sullivan at carly@namimarioncountyfl.org

We have opportunities to join ongoing support groups and classes:

NAMI Peer Connection support group is a free recovery support group for any adult who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition. Groups are held every two weeks and are led by NAMI trained facilitators who have been there.

NAMI Family Support Group is a free support group for family members, partners and parents of someone living with a mental- health condition. Groups are held every two weeks and are led by NAMI trained facilitators who have loved ones living with a mental health condition.

For more information about the support groups and registration, please contact Steven Leilich, Executive Director, at steven@namimarioncountyfl.org





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



ALLIANCE WORKGROUP MEETINGS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| December 2
Tuesday | Mental Health First Aid
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Via Zoom
See page 22 to register. It's FREE |
| December 9
Wednesday | Safe Kids Coalition Marion
9 a.m.
Florida Dept. of Health |
| No Meeting
Wednesday | Safe Streets of Marion Cty. Taskforce
10 a.m.
Mary Sue Rich Community Center
at Reed Place |
| No Meeting
Monday | Family Violence Prevention Workgroup
11 a.m.
Via Zoom - Call (352) 438-5990 for link |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| December 3
Wednesday | Look Up Marion Summit
Doors open at 8 a.m.
Program begins at 8:30 a.m.
College of Central Florida
3001 S.W. College Rd.

Continental Breakfast ~ Cost \$20
See page 7 to register! |
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