

# Foster Care Resource Guide

Twelfth Judicial Circuit  
Manatee | Sarasota | DeSoto



# Key organizations and local contacts

## Department of Children and Families

The Florida Department of Children and Families is committed to the well-being of children and their families. Our responsibilities encompass a wide-range of services, including – among other things – assistance to families working to stay safely together or be reunited, foster care, youth and young adults transitioning from foster care to independence, and adoption.

### Contact information:

Kim Kutch, Community development administrator (circuit 12)

Email: [Kim.Kutch@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Kim.Kutch@myflfamilies.com)

Phone: 941-554-1823

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/>

## Florida Department of Health/Family Safety Alliance

The role of the Child Welfare System Advocate is a position under the umbrella of the Florida Department of Health and funded by Manatee & Sarasota County Governments. The position is unique in that it is the only one that exists in the State. The purpose is to assist the local Family Safety Alliance, as outline in FL Statute 20.19, in its mission to serve as a collaborative, prevention-focused, and transparent partner that provides community oversight, education, and advocacy in the achievement of systemic improvements in community-based child welfare services.

### Contact information:

Nathan Scott, Child Welfare Policy Coordinator

Email: [Nathan.Scott@flhealth.gov](mailto:Nathan.Scott@flhealth.gov)

Phone: 941-861-2578

<https://www.facebook.com/C12FSA/>

## Safe Children Coalition

The Safe Children Coalition (SCC) is a community coalition blending available resources to support, advocate, grow and educate the children and families we serve. SCC is committed to solving community problems by providing vital services to the community's most disadvantaged and at-risk families.

The Safe Children Coalition's diverse programming includes child welfare/foster care and adoption services, a youth shelter, a homeless youth education support program (Schoolhouse Link), family counseling services, after school, an early literacy program for pre-school aged children (HIPPI) and a college/career preparation program for at-risk youth (Achievers). The Safe Children's Coalition is the lead agency for Community Based Care in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit (Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties).

### Contact information:

Brena Slater, President & CEO

Email: [bslater@sccfl.org](mailto:bslater@sccfl.org)

Phone: 941-371-4799

<https://sccfl.org/foster>



# Organizations supporting child welfare & the foster care system

## All Star Children's Foundation

Mission: The mission of the All Star Children's Foundation is to create a safe place to heal the trauma of child abuse.

Programs Offered: All Star Children's Foundation is comprised of the All Star Children's Center, a clinical treatment facility, and the All Star Campus, with 6 individually licensed foster homes, a clubhouse and inspirational green space featuring a playground, tricycle trail, vegetable gardens, butterfly gardens, an outdoor movie theater and more.

### Contact Information:

Lindsey May, Director of Programs

Phone: 941-217-6503

Address: 3300 17th Street - Sarasota, FL 34235

Website: <https://www.AllStarChildrensFoundation.org>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/AllStarChildren/>

## Bridge A Life

Mission: Provide Christ-centered hope for children with relational trauma through awareness and family support.

Programs Offered: Adoption Assistance, Free Meals, Home Repairs, Education and Training, Ladies' Night Out, Parents' Night Out

### Contact Information:

Jody Jester, Director of Programs

Phone: 941-306-8628

Address: 1680 Fruitville Rd Suite 315-3 - Sarasota, FL 34236

Website: <https://www.bridgealife.com>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Bridge-a-Life-103603273036823/>

## Florida Baptist Childrens Homes & One More Child

Mission: To provide Christ-centered services to children and families in need.

Programs Offered: Anti-Trafficking, Foster Care, Foster Family Homes, Help For Single Moms

### Contact Information:

Jerry T. Haag, Ph.D., CFP, President/CEO

Phone: 863-687-8811

Address: Joe K. Blanton Campus 1015 Sikes Blvd. - Lakeland, FL 33815

Website: <https://onemorechild.org/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/OneMoreChildSince1904>



## Manatee Sheriff's Department

**Mission:** It shall be the mission of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office to provide service to the community and respond to crime in the best tradition of professional law enforcement. In order to meet this objective, the following policy statements are promulgated to serve as goals in the day to day operation of the agency.

### **Contact Information:**

Connie Keehner, Child Protective Investigation Division

Phone: 941-747-3011 Ext: 1948

Address: 3500 9th Street West - Bradenton, Florida 34205

Website: <http://www.manateesheriff.com/Bureaus/ChildProtection>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ManateeSheriff>

## Manatee Children's Services

**Mission:** To advocate for and provide the resources, skills, and shelter to alleviate abuse through prevention and intervention for all children and their families.

**Programs Offered:** Child Protection Team And SCAN Services, CPT Medical Exams, KIDS Personal Safety, BRIC Parenting, Teenage Pregnancy Prevention, Grandparents As Parents, Sexual Abuse And Victims Of Crimes Counseling, Crisis Intervention Counseling, Emergency Shelter, Girls' Group Home, Boys' Group Home, Our Place Group Home

### **Contact Information:**

Melinda Thompson, Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 941-345-1200

Address: 1227 9th Avenue West - Bradenton, FL 34205

Website: <https://www.manateechildrensservices.com>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/manateechildrensservices>

## The Twig

**Mission:** To encourage and inspire foster families by meeting their needs

**Programs Offered:** Boutique for children in foster care, foster care awareness events, private shopping appointments and TwigBoxes for individuals that have aged out of foster care.

### **Contact Information:**

Nicole Britton, Director of Development

Phone: 941-220-7958

Address: 826 Pinebrook Road - Venice, FL 34285

Website: <https://www.TheTwigcares.com>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheTwigCares/>



## Parenting Matters

**Mission:** To strengthen all families and prevent child abuse in at-risk families through comprehensive parenting education and support.

**Programs Offered:** Parent Partner Program, Musical Motion, Active Parenting and Active Parenting Plus Programs, Parenting in Recovery, Chosen Families

### **Contact Information:**

Katrina Bellemare, Executive Director

Phone: 941-756-3007

Address: 602 3rd Street East - Bradenton, FL 34208

Website: <https://www.parentingmattersfl.org>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ParentingMattersFL/>

## Forty Carrots Family Center

**Mission:** Forty Carrots Family Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families through educational programs for parents, children and professionals in the field.

**Programs Offered:** Parenting Program, The Preschool at Forty Carrots, Mental Health Program

### **Contact Information:**

Michelle Kapreilian, Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 941-365-7716

Address: 1500 S Tuttle Ave - Sarasota, FL 34239

Website: <https://fortycarrots.com/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/FortyCarrotsFamilyCenter/>

## The Florida Center for Early Childhood

**Mission:** To help build and foster strong families and expand the potential of young children

**Programs Offered:** Early Childhood Development Services, Healthy Families, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Clinic, School-Based Mental Health Therapy, Early Childhood Court

### **Contact Information:**

Kathryn Shea, President and CEO

Phone: 941-371-8820#1165

Address: 4620 17th St - Sarasota, FL 34235

Website: <https://www.thefloridacenter.org>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/TheFloridaCenter/>



## Heart Gallery of Sarasota

**Mission:** We are a non-profit helping hard to place kids find permanent homes! The Heart Gallery is a traveling photographic exhibit created to find forever families for children in foster care.

**Programs Offered:** Organize and fund recruitment events for foster care children to meet adoptive families, Traveling photographic exhibits to recruit foster & adoptive parents, Celebrations of achievement such as our graduation celebration for children aging out of foster care who graduate high school.

### Contact Information:

Allison Juceam  
Phone: 954-850-6606  
Address: 202 Island Circle - Sarasota, FL 34242  
Website: <https://www.heartgalleriesarasota.org>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/heartgalleriesarasota/>

## Guardian Angels of SW Florida

**Mission:** Guardian Angels is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) non denominational organization dedicated to providing safe and loving Christian homes for children placed in the foster care system throughout Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties. We strive to offer these children a sense of family, stability and hope for a brighter future where they will be able to grow physically, emotionally and spiritually.

**Programs Offered:** Foster Care, Foster Family Homes Campus Construction

### Contact Information:

Bobbie Price, President of the Board  
Phone: 941-792-5374  
Address: 1429 60TH Ave W, Suite 200 - Bradenton, FL 34207  
Website: <https://guardianangelsfl.org/>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Guardian-Angels-of-SW-Florida-756039357790272/>

## Children's Guardian Fund

**Mission:** Through the funding of donations, we are able to provide emergency essentials and on-going support for the needs of children in our community that otherwise would be unavailable.

**Programs Offered:** Normalcy and Enrichment, Providing a Voice for Every Child

### Contact Information:

Svetlana Kaminsky, Executive Director  
Phone: 941-504-9515  
Address: The Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center 1750 17th Street, J-1 - Sarasota, FL 34234  
Website: <https://www.childrensguardianfund.org>



## Centerstone

**Mission:** Centerstone's Noble Purpose is "Delivering Care That Changes People's Lives" and specializes in mental health and addictions so that health and wellness are possible for every family.

**Programs Offered:** Hospital and Addiction Center, Outpatient Services, Children's Programs, Specialty Services, Therapeutic Foster Care

### Contact Information:

Nancy Low  
Phone: 812-343-3953  
Address: 391 6th Avenue West - Bradenton, FL 34205  
Website: <https://www.centerstone.org>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Centerstone.org>

## Manatee County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

**Mission:** To provide a positive and supportive community where foster and adoptive families can connect and grow.

**Programs Offered:** Welcome Bags for Foster Children, Adoption Congratulations Packages

### Contact Information:

Michele Connizz, President  
Phone: 941-755-6279  
Address: 5623 Simonton St - Bradenton, FL 34203  
Website: <https://www.manateecountyfapa.com/>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/manateecountyfapa/>

## Sail Future

**Mission:** SailFuture transforms the lives of high-risk youth by combining long-term housing, accredited alternative education, counseling, and rite of passage sailing experiences.

**Programs Offered:** Quality Residential Treatment Program, Technical high school, Independent Living & Extended Foster Care, Foster Parent Licensing & Support

### Contact Information:

Michael Long  
Phone: 941-219-9847  
Address: 2381 Fruitville RD - Sarasota, FL 34237  
Website: <https://www.sailfuture.org>





## Florida Sheriff Youth Ranches

**Mission:** The mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is to prevent delinquency and develop law-ful, resilient and productive citizens.

**Programs Offered:** Summer Camps

**Contact Information:**

Bill Frye, President

Phone: 800-765-3797

Address: Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. 2486 Cecil Webb Place - Live Oak, FL 32060

Website: <https://www.youthranches.org/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/FSYouthRanches>

## Everyday Blessings

**Mission:** The mission of Everyday Blessings, Inc. is to provide high quality care for children and young adults in the foster care system. We will partner with community agencies, local organizations, and private donors to do so. This work will be done while treating each child with the love, dignity and respect that they deserve.

**Programs Offered:** Springboard is designed for young adults transitioning into full independence

**Contact Information:**

Richard Stroud, Executive Director

Phone: 813-982-9226 ext. 221

Address: 8421 Pritcher Rd - Lithia, FL 33547

Website: <https://www.everydayblessingsinc.org/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/WeAreEverydayBlessings>

## SOLVE Maternity Homes

**Mission:** Solve provides free housing & support for at-risk pregnant women, empowering them to become confident, capable parents and thriving members of society.

**Programs Offered:** SOLVE Maternity Program, Evolve Program, Case Management & Counseling

**Contact Information:**

Peggy Kerwin, Executive Director

Phone: 941-748-0094

Address: Solve Maternity Homes 1335 Manatee Avenue West - Bradenton, FL 34205

Website: <http://solvehomes.org/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Solvematernityhomes>



# 2020 Giving Challenge

## All Star Children's Foundation

\$33,515 Raised

187 Donors

## Childrens Guardian Fund

\$27,331 Raised

298 Donors

## The Twig

\$37,235 Raised

408 Donors

## Guardian Angels of SW Florida

\$15,044 Raised

168 Donors

## Bridge a Life

\$39,825 Raised

399 Donors

## Forty Carrots Family Center

\$18,675 Raised

143 Donors

## Parenting Matters

\$23,125 Raised

111 Donors

## Centerstone

\$3,355 Raised

51 Donors

## SOLVE Maternity Homes

\$69,383 Raised

686 Donors

## Everyday Blessing

\$4,175 Raised

48 Donors

## The Florida Center for Early Childhood

\$22,031 Raised

193 Donors

## Florida Baptist Childrens Homes

\$34,275 Raised

256 Donors



In 2016, Manatee Community Foundation began a partnership with the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation to collaborate and engage with organizations working in the space of foster care in Manatee County. With an unprecedented number of children removed from their homes due to the opioid and heroin crisis, it was a time to bring people together to support philanthropic solutions. Together, the group of social service organizations and government partners identified Early Childhood Court as one of the most promising programs to help children in care reach permanency faster. To date, the programmatic efforts in both Manatee and Sarasota counties have decreased the time that children are in care, often resulting in reunification of children with their parents. The group also identified other opportunities for supporting the system: recruiting new foster families, providing supportive services to current foster parents, and giving case workers support to avoid burnout are among them.

During COVID19, the foster care system experienced additional challenges while courts were closed, children were sheltering with abusers, and families were not able to visit with their children in care.

Together, we can change a life for good. To learn more or to support the Foster Care Fund of Manatee Community Foundation, visit [ManateeCF.org](http://ManateeCF.org) or call (941) 747-7765.

This guide was created by Jasmine McDaniel in 2020.

**Susie Bowie**

Executive Director

2820 Manatee Ave West,

Bradenton, FL 34205

Phone: 941.747.7765

Fax: 941.747.7899

## Mission

The mission of Manatee Community Foundation is partnering with our citizens to strengthen and enhance our community through philanthropy, education, and service—now and forever. We value leadership, transparency, trust, integrity, loyalty, respect, and inclusivity in our work.