

June
2025



ECCAC

Emerald Coast Children's
Advocacy Center

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Greetings!

As we close out another school year and head into the sunny days of summer, we're reminded of the joy this season brings—more time with family, outdoor adventures, and memories in the making. But as the pace slows and the days grow longer, it's important to remember that safety doesn't take a vacation.

Whether at the beach, pool, or lake, water safety is key to keeping our children safe while they have fun in the sun. Summer may be carefree, but we must stay mindful—because every child deserves a childhood that is safe, healthy, and full of joy.

Here are a few simple water safety tips to keep in mind:

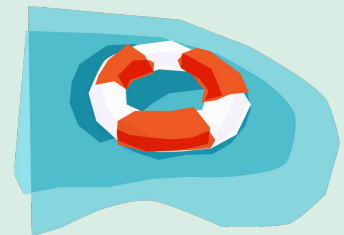
Start with these basics:

- **Always keep an eye on children around water – no distractions.**
- **Never rely on floaties or toys as a substitute for supervision.**
- **Teach kids to swim and understand water rules early.**
- **Use pool fences and locked gates to keep unsupervised children out.**
- **Keep a phone nearby for emergencies – but don't scroll!**

We encourage you to talk with your children about water safety and make a family plan. A little preparation goes a long way toward making this summer both fun and safe.

Julie Porterfield, MPA

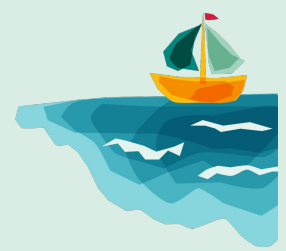
Water Safety Facts



Children can drown in as little as 1 inch of water.

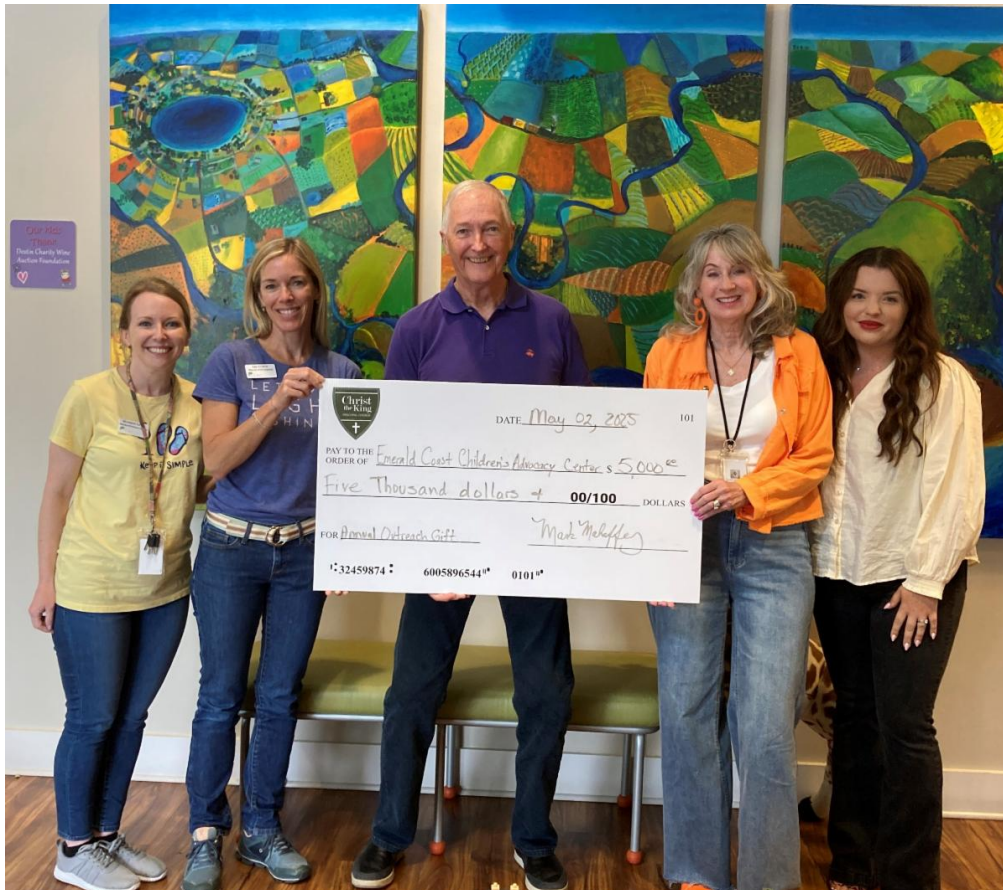


Most drownings happen silently and quickly— within 2 minutes and often with a caregiver nearby.



Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for children ages 1 to 4.

Empowering.



A Grateful Heart: Thank You to Christ the King Episcopal Church

ECCAC is deeply thankful to **Christ the King Episcopal Church** for their generous **gift of \$5,000**.

This meaningful contribution directly supports our mission to protect and serve children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or trauma across Okaloosa and Walton Counties.



Restoring.



2025 Walton Leadership Class

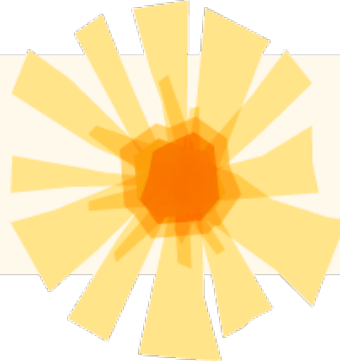
The 2025 Walton Leadership Class, part of the [Walton Area Chamber of Commerce](#), completed a meaningful project for our DFS Center. The group **raised over \$10,000** and renovated the Dugas Family Courtyard, originally opened in 2016.

The refreshed space now features new landscaping, games, pavers, furniture, and benches—creating a safe, welcoming area for children, families, and staff to gather, play, and even host therapy sessions.

In addition to fundraising, class members volunteered their time to complete the renovations.

We are so grateful to the leadership class for all of their efforts!

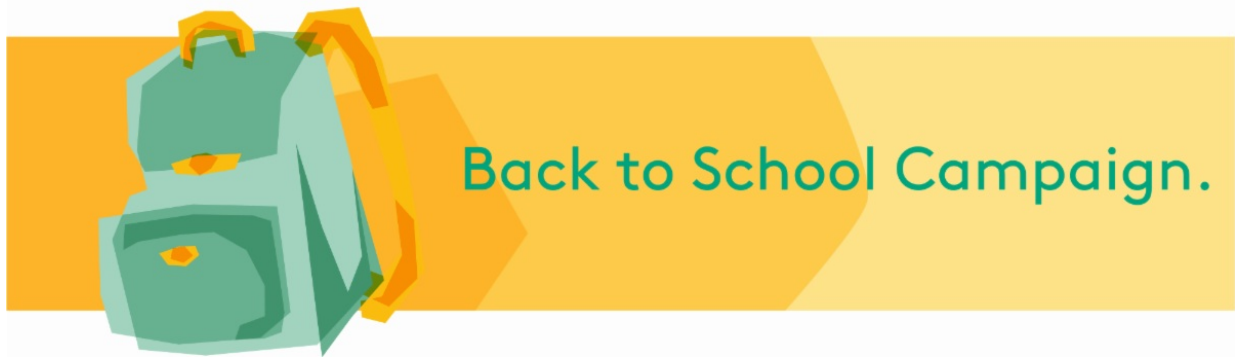
Preventing.



The CARES Center at the [Emily Odum Institute](#) is offering free Safe Sleep Classes designed to help parents and caregivers learn how to create a safe sleeping environment for infants. These classes are an essential resource for anyone caring for a baby and are open to the community. Class dates:

- June 12
- July 10
- August 14

All classes are held at the CARES Center and require advance registration to attend. In each session, you'll learn about the latest safe sleep recommendations, how to reduce the risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), and tips for setting up a sleep space that supports your baby's health and safety. To sign up, please email LaShana@eccac.org.



Fill The Backpacks: July 1st - August 4th!

For the third year in a row, we are honored to partner with **Intuitive Research and Technology** for our Back-to-School Campaign!

Intuitive Research has generously donated backpacks for us to fill with school supplies—and that's where you come in!

We've put together a list of items based on the needs of our children, and we would be so grateful for your support.

Please take a look at the supply list and drop off any donations at either of our centers during business hours.

Together, we can help set our kids up for a successful school year!



School Supply List

EVENTS CALENDAR

1st Day Back at School

Monday, August 11th
Walton & Okaloosa County Schools

Bubbles & Bunco

Wednesday, October 8th
Vin'tij
Hosted by Cindy Cole

Chars & Cigars

Wednesday, October 8th
The Pierce Residence
Hosted by Jim & Tammy Pierce

Savor the Sunset

Wednesday, October 22nd
The Swanson Residence
Hosted by Jerry & Peggy Swanson

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The ECCAC volunteers have been hard at work since our April Newsletter!

Over the past few weeks, our dedicated team has had the opportunity to support and participate in several impactful community events, including [Throwdown presented by the Emeril Lagasse Foundation](#), [The Walk by Lauren's Kids](#), [United Way Emerald Coast's Day of Caring](#), the [Destin Charity Wine Auction](#), the [World's Greatest Baby Shower hosted by Healthy Start](#), and [Digital Graffiti presented by Alys Beach](#)—just to name a few!

We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and enthusiasm each volunteer has contributed. Your efforts have played a vital role in helping us meet our goals and continue building strong partnerships throughout the community.

Thank you for making a difference!



Emeril Lagasse Foundation



United Way
Emerald Coast



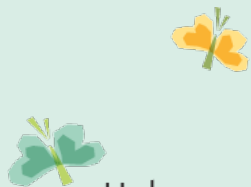
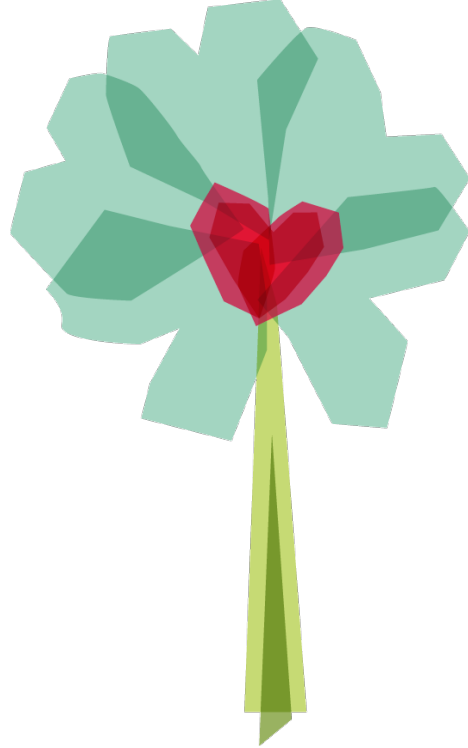
Annual & Monthly Membership

When you partner with us as a member, it is important for you to know that our team is celebrating because you are playing a huge role in a child's healing journey. It is a **BIG DEAL!**

Thank you for your partnership as we work together in our fight to **END CHILD ABUSE** and **END CHILD NEGLECT!**

Please note that all memberships are renewed on an annual or monthly basis. You can cancel your membership at any time by contacting us at info@eccac.org.

Join Today!



Rise to the challenge.

Help us restore childhood joy and hope for the future.



Become a Champion



Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center | 401 McEwen Drive | Niceville, FL 32578 US

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