

December
2025



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Greetings!

As we enter this season of gratitude, reflection, and hope, we are reminded that some of the most meaningful gifts don't come wrapped in ribbons or bows, they come from the hearts of the children we serve. Recently, one of our young clients shared a set of "rules" she created for how to help a friend who might be going through something hard, just like she once did.

Her list was simple, sincere, and profoundly wise. It was also a powerful reminder of how much growth and healing can happen through therapy. For our team, this was more than a sweet moment, it was a victory. It's proof that the care, compassion, and consistency we pour into our work are helping children not only heal but also learn how to extend empathy to others.

What I Would tell a Friend:

- The guide of awesomeness
- 😊 Find a therapist that you trust
 - 😊 Talk to Friends
 - 😊 Make sure you have a good hobby to get your mind off of it
 - 😊 Find music you like
 - 😊 Make sure you laugh 10-20 times a day
 - 😊 don't Beat yourself up - It's not your fault.
 - 😊 you're perfect just the way you are, no one can change that.
 - 😊 you're beautiful
 - 😊 Feel your feelings don't ignore them or they will come back stronger.
 - 😊 Don't hang on to the bad memories make good ones to.

This child's heartfelt "guide of awesomeness" perfectly capture the spirit of the season and the heart of our mission: *healing hearts*.

From our team to YOU, have a wonderful holiday season full of joy, laughter, and appreciation for the small things. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

-The ECCAC Team

Empowering.



ECCAC Turns 25!



For a quarter of a century, the **ECCAC** has been a place of safety, healing, and hope for children and families across Walton and Okaloosa Counties, all under the incredible leadership of our beloved **CEO, Julie Porterfield**.

From the very beginning, it was Julie's vision, heart, and unwavering belief in what's possible that built this organization into what it is today. Because of her, and because of you, our amazing community, countless children have been given the chance to feel safe, to heal, and to simply be kids again.

As we celebrate this milestone, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude. Thank you for standing beside us, for believing in our mission, and for helping us give children the childhood they deserve.

Here's to 25 years of love, hope, and healing, and to all the good still to come.



Restoring.

Spreading Christmas Joy

We are currently collecting Christmas toy donations and gifts for the children we serve, now through December 22nd.

- 1.) Purchase items from our wish lists or shop for items yourself.
- 2.) If you are dropping off your items at one of the **ECCAC** centers, please contact sabrina@eccac.org to schedule your drop off.
- 3.) You may also drop off your gifts at

one of our community partner locations below:



Niceville Wish List

Julie Sacco Porterfield ECCAC
401 McEwen Drive
Niceville, FL 32578

DeFuniak Springs Wish List

Pierce Family ECCAC
336 College Avenue
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

- Pounders Hawaiian Grill 142 Palm Boulevard North, Niceville, FL 32578
- Pounders Hawaiian Grill 6 Walter Martin Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
- Pounders Hawaiian Grill 6276 Old Bethel Road, Crestview, FL 32536
- Dollar General 4680 E Hwy 20, Niceville, FL 32578
- Bank of America 4500 E Hwy 20, Niceville, FL 32578
- Main Street Fitness Company 26 S 10th St, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435
- Proactive Data 718 W Bay Loop Rd, Freeport, FL 32439
- Grand Fitness 440 Grand Blvd, Miramar Beach, FL 32550

We would also like to thank Books-a-Million (Destin & FWB stores), Emerald Coast Surgery Center, Flying Needles Quilt Guild, Swift Creek Neighborhood, Rocky Bayou Art Club, and the Teacher's Education Program at NWFSC for all of their support during this Christmas Season! THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to these community partners! We appreciate you!



Flying Needles Quilt Guild provided stockings for our kiddos! THANK YOU!

BIG Thank You to the Caduceus Society on The Emerald Coast

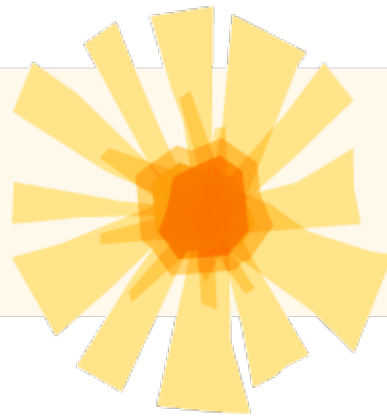


At a recent gathering of the Caduceus Society on the Emerald Coast, **ECCAC** graciously received \$2,015 in gift cards and funds. Over the past 5+ years, the Caduceus Society has donated over \$15,000 in gift cards and funds to support **ECCAC**'s Christmas efforts. **ECCAC** gives these gift cards and funds to area children and families in need for the holidays.

The Caduceus Society on the Emerald Coast of Florida is a philanthropic, physician-organized faith-based organization that is comprised of medical professionals in good standing. Their membership includes currently working or retired people who are committed to bringing medical care to the poor, the vulnerable, and the underserved through free health clinics, donation of time or financially. In addition, the Caduceus Society is active in generously supporting local charities, health clinics, purchasing medical equipment and providing grants for physician medical missions.

[Read More](#)

Preventing.



End of Year Giving

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the hundreds of children whose lives have been changed through the compassion and support of people like YOU.

At the **Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center**, we provide safety, healing, and hope to children who have suffered abuse or neglect. These children deserve to feel safe, loved, and believed.

Your gift today helps us continue to restore hope and lost innocence by providing counseling, forensic interviews, advocacy, and prevention programs, all under one roof and at no cost to the families we serve.



This season of giving, we invite you to make a lasting impact. Every dollar brings us closer to a community where every child can thrive.

Together, we can turn hurt into healing and fear into hope.

End of Year
Gift

Leave Your Mark

Leaving a legacy gift is a meaningful way to ensure that every child in our community continues to receive the care, healing, and hope they deserve—today and for generations to come. If you're considering including ECCAC in your long-term plans, we've put together a helpful list of frequently asked questions to guide you.



Learn More About Legacy Giving

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

That's a Wrap on Fall Events

What an incredible Fall Dinner Series! Each evening was filled with laughter, connection, and unforgettable moments. We are so grateful to our amazing hosts, for opening their homes and hearts to support the children and families we serve. These intimate gatherings not only build community, they truly help change lives.

Bubbles & Bunco

Hosted by *Cindy Cole at Vintij'*



Chars & Cigars

Hosted by *Tammy & Jim Pierce at their home*



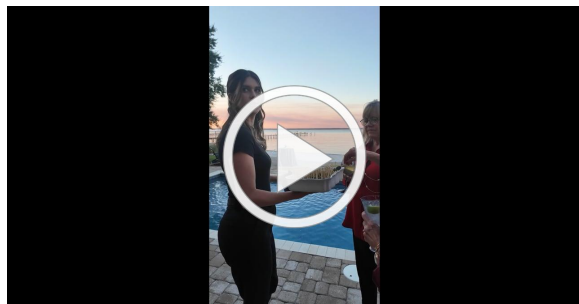
Savor the Sunset

Hosted by [Peggy & Jerry Swanson](#) at their home



Tour di Italia

Hosted by [Dr. Dennis & Glenda Lichorwic](#) at their home



THANK YOU!

We would like to extend our biggest, most heartfelt thank you to [Cindy Cole, Jim & Tammy Pierce, Jerry & Peggy Swanson, and Dr. Dennis & Glenda Lichorwic](#) for graciously hosting each of these amazing events.

If you'd like to secure a seat for next year, be sure to join us at our Annual Gala on March 7th!

We are also wrapping up our fall partner events, and want to extend a heartfelt thank you to every volunteer who showed up with their time, energy, and compassion. Your dedication to supporting our partner agencies allows us to build deeper community connections and raise even more funds for the mission we all believe in.

Together, we are protecting children, supporting families, and bringing hope where it is needed most.

Thank you for being part of the [ECCAC](#) family.

Key Contributor Reception

We are overflowing with gratitude for our incredible Key Contributors!

Thank you for caring with all your heart and for standing beside the [ECCAC](#) in the most meaningful ways. Your generosity, compassion, and unwavering support help us restore hope and protect the childhood every child deserves.

We had such a wonderful evening celebrating each of you, reflecting on the impact you make and the layers of care you add to our community every single day. Thank you for being a vital part of our mission and for helping us create a brighter, safer future for the children we serve.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Looking Foward to Gala 2026

Our annual Gala & Golf Weekend is right around the corner, and we can't wait to celebrate with you!

This event is always a joyous time filled with fun, community, and purpose.

We hope you'll join us for a memorable

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
EMERALD COAST CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

GALA & GOLF

WEEKEND

MARCH 7 - 8
2026

presented by

PEGGY & JERRY SWANSON

HILTON SANDESTIN BEACH GOLF RESORT & SPA
& KELLY PLANTATION GOLF CLUB



weekend in support of the children and families we serve.

We are currently selling sponsorships and will open up the ticket portal in January.

As always, thank you for your support!

[Purchase a Sponsorship](#)

To the individuals and companies who have already committed to supporting our Gala & Golf Weekend, please know how unbelievably grateful we are for you. Your generosity adds another beautiful layer to our **Collage of Care**, helping us restore hope, celebrate childhood, and ensure every child in our community feels safe, seen, and supported. We couldn't do this without you. **THANK YOU!**

OUR MISSION

We seek to heal and prevent the trauma of childhood abuse and neglect by providing advocacy, child-friendly therapies, and a safe environment for kids to feel seen, heard, and understood. We restore lost innocence, provide hope, and make a difference in all the lives we touch.





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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