

**JUNE
2026**



ECCAC

**Emerald Coast Children's
Advocacy Center**

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Meet Oliver! ECCAC Therapy Dog

Oliver is one of our beloved therapy dogs at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center! Oliver was adopted, trained, and is handled by the incredible Sarah-Kate Newton,

LCSW, our ECCAC Clinical Supervisor.

Oliver provides comfort, companionship, and emotional support to children and families during some of their most difficult moments.

Sarah-Kate shares "He loves kids way more than adults. When we are out and about, adults love to talk to him, and he is sweet to them. BUT if he sees a kid, grownups are chopped liver. He is really drawn to kids. When we are out in the neighborhood walking, he goes right up to kids waiting for the bus or playing on the playground. He has to go introduce himself and make friends with them!"

"Oliver is very goofy and playful. He is also very opinionated and extremely expressive. You never have to wonder what he is thinking. Half the photos I have of him are of him giving me major side-eye."



"He is very quirky. He has no problem telling me what he thinks. He will use his paws like hands—if his water bowl is empty, he will swipe it across the room to let me know."

Therapy dogs can help reduce anxiety, create a sense of safety, and make it easier for children to open up during therapy and advocacy services.

Whether offering a calming presence during therapy sessions or simply sharing a quiet cuddle, Oliver is an important part of the healing journey for so many of children we serve.

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Local Law Enforcement Appreciation

We would like to recognize and thank our local law enforcement partners for their dedication, compassion, and commitment to protecting children in our community.

Thank you, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and Walton County Sheriff's Office.

Through Okaloosa and Walton County Sheriff Office's partnerships with the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center, children and families are met with support, advocacy, and a coordinated response during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Sheriff Eric Aden shares "The collaboration and relationship of the ECCAC and law enforcement is paramount to bringing justice for abused children while providing a safe place of respite from

their trauma. I am honored to have worked with the center for most of my 30-year career including serving on their board before becoming Sheriff.”

A special shout out to Captain Neslihan Suhi-Moore, our incoming ECCAC Board President.

Thank you for your commitment to the children.

We are grateful for all our local law enforcement, and what they do to help bring hope, healing, and justice to the children we serve.



Captain Neslihan Suhi-Moore, our incoming ECCAC Board President with ECCAC CEO Julie Porterfield and ECCAC COO Solange Arnett.





ECCAC Back to School Supply Drive

The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center is collecting school supplies all summer long to help local children start the new school year ready to learn and succeed.

From backpacks and notebooks to pencils and crayons, every donation helps equip children in need with the tools they need to thrive in the classroom.

Join us in empowering the next generation: because every child deserves a confident start to the school year. We encourage you to print this flyer for your local business and set up a box to collect supplies.

See and share our needs list below!



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



OUR KIDS NEED:

- 
- 
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- ELMER'S GLUE STICKS
 - ERASER TOPS
 - PENCIL SHARPENER
 - INDEX CARDS
 - POST-IT NOTES
 - FISHER SCISSORS
 - PLASTIC 3-RING DIVIDERS
 - WIRED HEADPHONES
 - SMALL STAPLER AND STAPLES
 - 1 SUBJECT SPIRAL NOTEBOOK
 - PLASTIC PENCIL BOXES
 - ZIPPERED PENCIL POUCHES
 - PLASTIC OR PAPER 3-PRONG FOLDERS
 - #2 PRE-SHARPENED TICONDEROGA PENCILS
 - DRY ERASE MARKERS-RED AND BLACK
 - WIRED EARBUD-STYLE HEADPHONES
 - T1 30XA CALCULATORS (MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)
 - CRAYOLA BRAND CRAYONS, MARKERS, COLOR PENCILS
 - COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS, WIDE RULE
 - YELLOW HIGHLIGHTERS
 - RED AND BLACK INK PENS
 - COLLEGE-RULED NOTEBOOK PAPER
 - 1-INCH 3-RING BINDERS
 - CASH DONATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MANDATORY SCHOOL SHIRTS, PE CLOTHES

EQUIP A
CHILD.
EMPOWER A
FUTURE. 



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Destin Rotary Crawfish Bash

Thousands of crawfish, plenty of laughter, live music, and a community coming together for great causes: this year's Destin Rotary Crawfish Bash was a tremendous success!

The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center is incredibly grateful to the Destin Rotary Club for selecting ECCAC as a beneficiary of this beloved community tradition.

From the dedicated volunteers and generous sponsors to the families and friends who came out to enjoy a plate of crawfish, every part of the event helped support local children and families in need.



Events like the Crawfish Bash showcase the very best of our community: neighbors gathering to have fun, make memories, and create meaningful change.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Destin Rotary Club and everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, and celebrated with us.

Your support helps ensure that local children have access to the safety, healing, and hope they deserve.



Spanish Therapy for Bilingual and Spanish Speaking Families

Imagine having to discuss the worst moments of your life in a language that isn't native to you. Even bilingual adults would find that extremely difficult.

Jami, one of our children's therapists at the ECCAC, is committed to helping children and families feel seen, understood, and safe in the language most comfortable to them.

When children can express their emotions in their native language, it strengthens communication, builds trust, and allows therapy to be more effective.

Providing services in both English and Spanish also helps reduce barriers to care and ensures every family has access to the support and healing they deserve.

Jami worked with a child who had immigrated to the Emerald Coast from Honduras. When he first came to us, he spoke only English and insisted he had forgotten all of his Spanish.

As therapy progressed and he slowly began processing the trauma he experienced in his early childhood, something remarkable happened: pieces of himself began to return.

Memories surfaced. Safety grew. Trust formed.

And eventually, so did his Spanish.

Word by word, he began speaking the native language he once believed was gone.

Trauma can cause children to disconnect from memories, emotions, culture, and even parts of their identity. Healing helps reconnect those pieces.

Stories like this are a powerful reminder that trauma-informed therapy is not just about reducing symptoms, it is about helping children reclaim who they are.



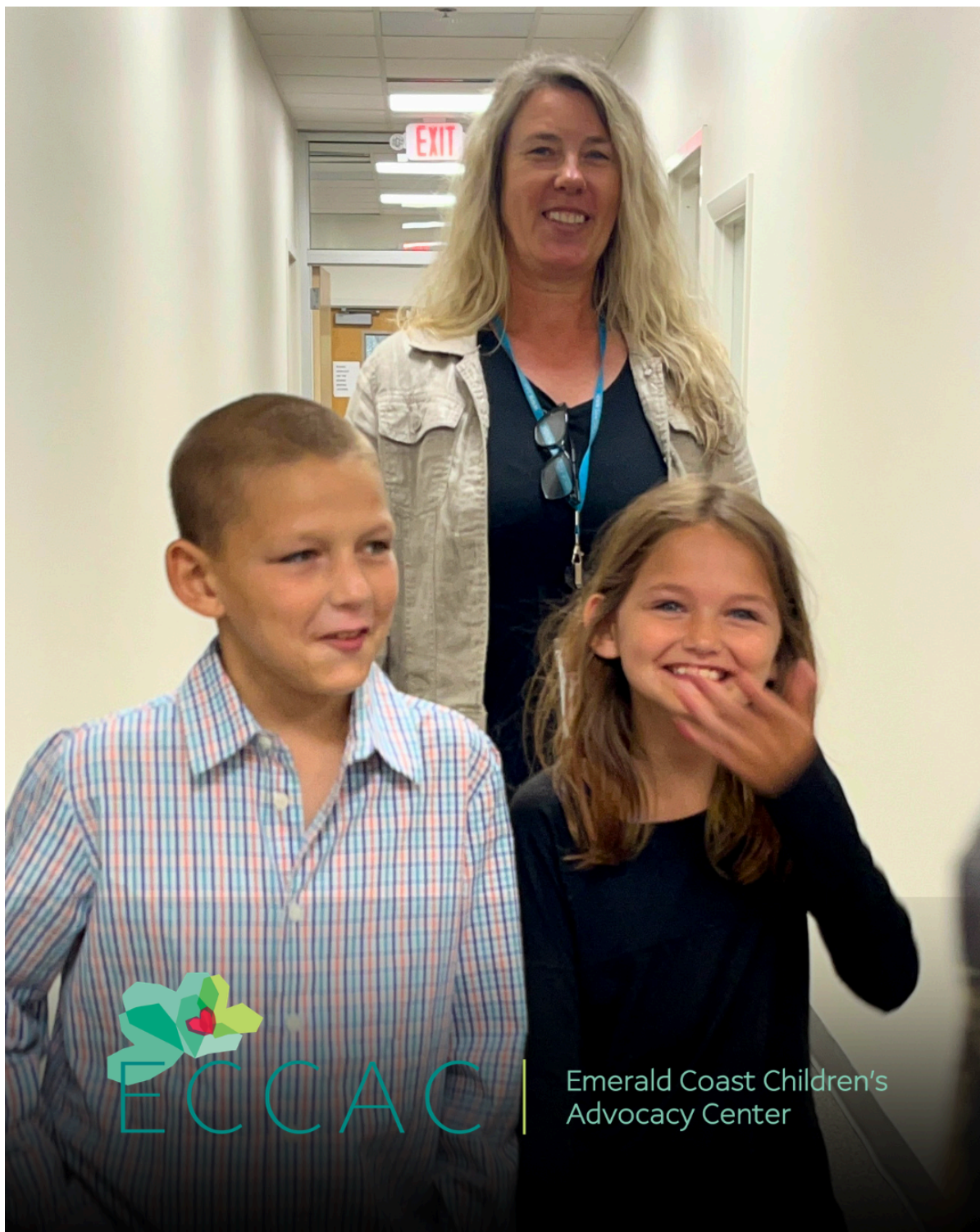
Graduations with our ECCAC CARES Team

CARES (Community Awareness, Advocacy, Resources, Education, and Support) is a prevention-focused initiative that helps families stay safely together by connecting them with vital resources and support.

After a year of working closely with a CARES team member, these families have built stability, strengthened skills, and taken meaningful steps toward long-term success.

We are honored to celebrate their journey and continued progress.





Our ECCAC CARES graduates. Those sweet smiles make it ALL worthwhile.



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ECCAC Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

We were delighted to celebrate our incredible volunteers at our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in May!

It was a wonderful opportunity to gather together, share our gratitude, and recognize the compassion, dedication, and generosity that our volunteers bring to the ECCAC every day.



The impact of our volunteers reaches far beyond the hours they give. Their kindness helps create a supportive environment for the children and families we serve and strengthens our mission throughout the community.

We are deeply grateful for each member of our volunteer family and were honored to spend the morning celebrating them.

Make a Direct Impact - Volunteer with the ECCAC!

Support the ECCAC Mission – Volunteer Today

If you have any questions about events and volunteering contact our Community Engagement Manager, Christopher: (251) 809-4067 or email at (Christopher@eccac.org)

Join us in making a difference for children in our community. By volunteering with ECCAC, you help support the hope, care, and safety for children who need it most. Every hand makes an impact.

Volunteer with ECCAC

Photobiomodulation Research Institute donates to ECCAC for America 250

The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center extends our heartfelt gratitude to the Photobiomodulation Research Institute for their generous donation during their America 250 Celebration.

As our nation prepares to commemorate 250 years of history, this gift is helping create a brighter future for children and families right here in our community.

Your support empowers us to continue providing critical services, advocacy, and trauma-informed care to children on their journey toward healing.

Thank you for choosing to invest in hope, resilience, and the well-being of the children we serve. We are honored to be part of this meaningful celebration and grateful for your partnership in making a lasting difference.



ECCAC Healing Fact:

Children are often more willing to talk, participate, and engage in therapy when a trained therapy dog is part of the session.

Studies consistently show increased motivation and engagement during animal-assisted therapy activities.

**Pictured to the right:
ECCAC Therapy Dog, Hattie**



Digital Graffiti: Art, Innovation, and Advocacy Under the Stars

The ECCAC team was honored to be part of this year's Digital Graffiti Festival, a one-of-a-kind celebration of art, technology, and community along Scenic Highway 30A.



Featuring more than 70 artists from around the world, the festival transformed the streets and architecture of Alys Beach into an immersive outdoor gallery filled with stunning digital art installations. Our team enjoyed exploring the exhibits, connecting with attendees, and sharing the mission of the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center throughout the event.

A special thank you to ECCAC Community Engagement Manager Christopher Phillips and our dedicated volunteers—Debi, Victoria, Jen, Barry, Clinay, Jaclyn, Brooks, and Shaneeka—who helped represent ECCAC during this incredible community event.

Partnerships and events like Digital Graffiti help amplify our mission of providing hope, healing, and justice to children and families across Okaloosa and Walton Counties. We are grateful to the Digital Graffiti team for welcoming us into such an inspiring and memorable experience.

Thank you for being part of the ECCAC community.

Your support helps us provide safety, hope, and healing for children every day.

Together, we're making a lasting difference—one child at a time.

-The ECCAC Team

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.

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

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