

MAY
2026



Emerald Coast Children's
Advocacy Center

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ECCAC Sand Sculpture Project - Every Child Deserves a Childhood

Our recent sand sculpture event was more than just a beautiful display—it was a powerful reminder of our mission.

Right on the shore, ECCAC staff, local government, and board members came together with one shared goal: protecting our community's children.

A special thank you to **Jason with Sand Effects**, whose incredible talent brought the sculpture to life and helped spark meaningful conversations about protecting children and preserving the joy of childhood.

The truth is: no matter how beautiful or affluent a community may seem, child abuse still exists. It is up to *all* of us to end it.

We are so grateful to everyone that joined us for such an impactful day.



DONATE to ECCAC

Graduations with our ECCAC CARES Team

We are proud to celebrate our recent Wraparound graduates.

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.



A family member shared, "I am so grateful for my CARES Case Manager, Shaneeka. She was there for me during emergencies, helped me when I was stuck, and is a huge part of why I'm thriving independently today."

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 CARES Wraparound Case Manager, Zane, pictured with one of our families' little ones. Born premature, our CARES team helped his family to navigate complicated medical needs and new financial pressures. Today, he is healthy and thriving!



Destin Charity Wine Auction Raises Record-Breaking \$4 Million for Children in Need in Northwest Florida

The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center is incredibly grateful to be one of 16 local children's charities supported through the 21st Annual Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation. ❤️

This year's sold-out event raised a record-breaking \$4 million to benefit children in need across Northwest Florida, the largest amount raised in the foundation's history.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, sponsors, vintners, and community supporters, these funds will help ECCAC continue to provide critical services, advocacy, prevention education, therapy, and support for local children and families.

We are honored to stand alongside other incredible nonprofit partners working together to create safer, healthier futures for children throughout our community.

Lauren's Kids Walk in My Shoes 2026

Last week, the Emerald Coast community came together in Niceville for Lauren's Kids 2026 Walk in My Shoes event, joining thousands of walkers across Florida in a statewide effort to raise awareness and protect children.



Throughout the month of April (National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month) communities walk together to educate others, empower survivors, and spark important conversations surrounding child safety and abuse prevention.

With 95% of child sexual abuse preventable through education and awareness, events like Walk in My Shoes remind us just how powerful communities can be when they come together with purpose. This is why we walk. ❤️



Our CFO, Serena, walked with her granddaughter - for the kids!

We are so grateful to everyone who showed up to support this mission. Whether participants walked a single block or the entire route, every step represented hope, advocacy, and a commitment to creating safer futures for children.



Our CEO, Julie, kicking off this incredible event with Lauren's Kids Founder Lauren Book

1,500 miles. One powerful mission. Protect childhood. Thank you to all who came out and walked for our children.

Step One Subaru Fort Walton Beach STEPPED UP for the children!

A huge thank you to Step One Subaru Fort Walton Beach for hosting an incredible car show, necessities drive, and fundraiser benefiting the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.

Step One Subaru FILLED a car with life-changing essentials for our children.

Through the generosity of the Step One team, children and families in our community will receive essential items including diapers, formula, clothing, and hygiene products, meeting immediate needs and making a meaningful impact.

We are so grateful for community partners who continue to show up in such a big way to support local children and families. ❤️





Lumber of Love Event for Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation

This is what IMPACT looks like.

Our AMAZING ECCAC volunteers rolled up their sleeves for Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation's "Lumber of Love" — and this one hits close to home for us. ❤️

This isn't just an event... it's a ripple effect of positive change in our community. Since it began, the auction has given back over \$38 MILLION to children's charities in our community.

And the best part? When the event wraps, all that lumber gets a second life — helping Habitat for Humanity of Walton County build a home for a deserving family.

Just to paint the picture:

🌟 784 sheets of plywood

🔨 1,383 2×4s

🔩 12,000 screws

All coming together to build something so much bigger than an auction floor.

A huge shoutout to our new Community Engagement Manager, Christopher Phillips, for leading the charge and making sure our volunteers had an incredible day while giving back.

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

VOLUNTEER

Appreciation Breakfast Tours & Team Building



10 a.m. - 12 p.m. May 9th, Niceville ECCAC
Contact: Christopher@ECCAC.org for more info

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE



ECCAC

**Emerald Coast
Children's Advocacy Center**

Debi Riley-Broadnax, MSW, ECCAC CARES Program Manager, awarded the 2026 "Elected Official of the Year"

Debi Riley-Broadnax, MSW, our CARES Program Manager, has been awarded the 2026 "Elected Official of the Year" by the National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter.

Debi received this award for her dedication to health equity, child welfare, and alleviation of suffering for the community.

Debi is a vital part of our work here at the ECCAC, and she is the backbone of our CARES team that provides critical support and intervention to families in crisis.

She also serves on the Fort Walton Beach City Council, giving critical wisdom and perspectives that shape our community and the futures of the families within it.

Thank you Debi for all that you do!



Miss Walton donates Confidence Kits to ECCAC!

We are incredibly grateful to Miss Walton, Gracie Partridge, for her thoughtful donation of Elevated YOU confidence kits for children served through ECCAC.

These special kits, filled with self-care items, encouragement, and uplifting messages, are designed to help young girls recognize their worth, build confidence, and feel empowered.

Partnerships like this remind the children and families we serve that their community believes in them and is invested in their future.

Pictured to the Right: Gracie and ECCAC Therapist Sarah-Kate Newton, LCSW



ECCAC Healing Fact:

Sand tray therapy is a creative form of counseling where children use miniature figures and sand to express thoughts, emotions, and experiences they may not yet have the words to describe.

It provides therapists with better understanding of a child's inner world and past experiences.



Digital Graffiti

Digital Graffiti at Alys Beach transforms the iconic white architecture of Alys Beach into a one-of-a-kind open-air nighttime gallery, where cutting-edge digital projection art blends creativity, technology, and architecture into an immersive experience along nearly a mile of illuminated pathways.



Featuring works from artists around the world alongside emerging talent and educational collaborations, it's one of the most unique and visually striking events on the Emerald Coast. We're proud to partner with Digital Graffiti as a charitable recipient—don't miss it! ✨

[Digital Graffiti Tickets](#)

HEROES UNITE to Stand Against Child Abuse



ECCAC Staff, State Attorney's Office, Florida Department of Children and Families, Child Protection Team, and Local Law Enforcement



ECCAC

Emerald Coast Children's
Advocacy Center

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
MONTH



April was Child Abuse Prevention Month - HEROES UNITED

A heartfelt thank you to our ECCAC staff and partner agencies (Florida Department of Children and Families, Children's Trust of the Panhandle, the State Attorney's Office, and local law enforcement) for your incredible partnership during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our local government leaders in Okaloosa and Walton Counties for standing with us through their public proclamations and taking a visible stand to help end child abuse.

Your collaboration, dedication, and shared commitment to protecting children made this month a meaningful and impactful success for our community.



*Destin Mayor Bobby Wagner, ECCAC CEO Julie Porterfield
ECCAC Community Engagement Manager Christopher Phillips*



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.

DONATE NOW



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

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