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# MACCA

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF  
CHILD CARE AGENCIES

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*DEDICATED TO PROTECTING  
AND INVESTING IN  
MISSISSIPPI'S MOST  
TREASURED RESOURCE...  
OUR CHILDREN!*



## Letter from President

We have nearly made it through another year. And like many others, I find myself reflecting back on the last year. Working in child welfare, we always hope we have done enough. Enough to keep that family together. Enough to help that child find peace and healing from their trauma. Enough to protect children from harm. Enough in giving a voice to the “least among us”. In this field, it is always hard to know our impact.

We would love to put ourselves out of business, knowing that all children have loving families caring for them and all the resources they need to thrive. Until that happens, we must be okay with knowing that we used each hour and each dollar given to us to work toward that goal. And so I ask myself...How did MACCA do this year?

I proud of the work we did this year.

Our summer conference brought over 200 child welfare professionals together and focused on helping them care for themselves as they care for others. This work is hard and it takes a toll on those who serve. Focusing on how we should take care of ourselves and find balance is so critical to keeping the most talented and dedicated people in our field. I am proud that MACCA made this a priority this year.

Our Executive Team initiated a strategic planning and rebranding effort for MACCA this year. We looked at our organization, at similar organizations, and at the changing landscape of child welfare to determine who MACCA needed to be and what we needed to focus on to make the child welfare system better. Our 2024-2026 Strategic Plan includes a renewed mission statement, vision, core values, and pillars for our work. As we start 2024, we will use this plan to guide the development of SMART goals for each our of pillars so that we always know what our line of sight is for MACCA. I am proud that MACCA is working intentionally to be a leader in our state.

Our policy and legislative advocacy efforts were running at full speed this year. MACCA worked alongside leadership and frontline staff from various state agencies, courts, and community organizations to develop policies and programs to serve the children and families of Mississippi. We educated lawmakers on the needs of foster children and families in our state and served on the legislative Foster Care and Adoption Task Force charged with developing policy recommendations for the coming session. I am proud that MACCA continues to be a voice for those we serve.

I can look back on this year and know that we made a difference. I also know that we are poised to continue this work into next year with focus and determination. I am blessed to serve with such amazing leaders with insanely big hearts. And until we put ourselves out of business, we will keep serving the children and families of Mississippi.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,



Samantha Kalahar  
President

# MACCA in the Community



MACCA meets with Senator Wicker during the trip to Washington, DC in October.

## MDCPS Spotlight

### MDCPS Adoption Celebration in Tupelo



# Introducing MACCA Committee Chairs



Advocacy - Sean Milner,  
Executive Director, Baptist  
Children's Village



Collaboration - Paige  
McCormick, Assistant Director  
for Mississippi, Youth Villages



Education - Fredniki White,  
Clinical Services Director,  
Mississippi Families for Kids



## MACCA STRATEGIC PLAN



### Our Mission:

MACCA elevates Mississippi's "Continuum of Care" for children and their families in Mississippi through Advocacy, Collaboration, and Education.

## 2024-2026

### Our Vision:

MACCA strives to create a thriving future for Mississippi's children.



### ADVOCATE

- **MACCA is the most trusted and influential advocate for child welfare in the state of Mississippi.**

#### WE WILL

- Engage decision makers on child welfare standards, concerns, and needs.
- Provide expert input, research, and data to support evidence-based policies, and advocate for their implementation.



### COLLABORATE

- **MACCA collaborates with organizations, stakeholders, and community partners to form coalitions and alliances to strengthen the child welfare network.**

#### WE WILL

- Foster the sharing of expertise, knowledge, and best industry practices among coalition members.
- Build relationships with community partners to strengthen child welfare services.



### EDUCATE

- **MACCA provides educational opportunities for members and external partners.**

#### WE WILL

- Create educational opportunities to strengthen current and future leaders in child welfare services.
- Share materials and resources to stay abreast of the changing child welfare landscape.

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## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear MACCA Members and Friends,

As we bid farewell to 2023, I am thrilled to share key milestones from our journey this year. Together, we have accomplished significant feats that strengthen our association and set us on a promising path toward the future.

I am delighted to announce the successful completion of our strategic plan. Through collaboration, we have crafted a roadmap shaping our association's impact for years. This achievement reflects our shared commitment to excellence and our association's ongoing success.

Our identity and messaging have been enriched through branding discussions, complementing our strategic plan. Look forward to a 2024 brand identity rollout, reinforcing our dedication to MACCA's mission.

A true highlight in 2023 was hosting our largest conference yet. This event brought together experts, professionals, and enthusiasts, creating a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge. The success of this conference not only showcased our collective strength but established us as a leading force in the industry.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to announce that our next conference returns to the IP Resort and Spa in Biloxi, MS. We anticipate another incredible gathering, fostering greater collaboration and innovation.

As we approach a new year, may your efforts continue to bring comfort, joy, and positive change to the lives you touch. Thank you for being the heart and soul of our association.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a well-deserved break. Cheers to another year of making a difference!

Warm regards,

LaDarion Ammons  
Executive Director



LaDarion Ammons, JD  
Executive Director

# MACCA in D.C.



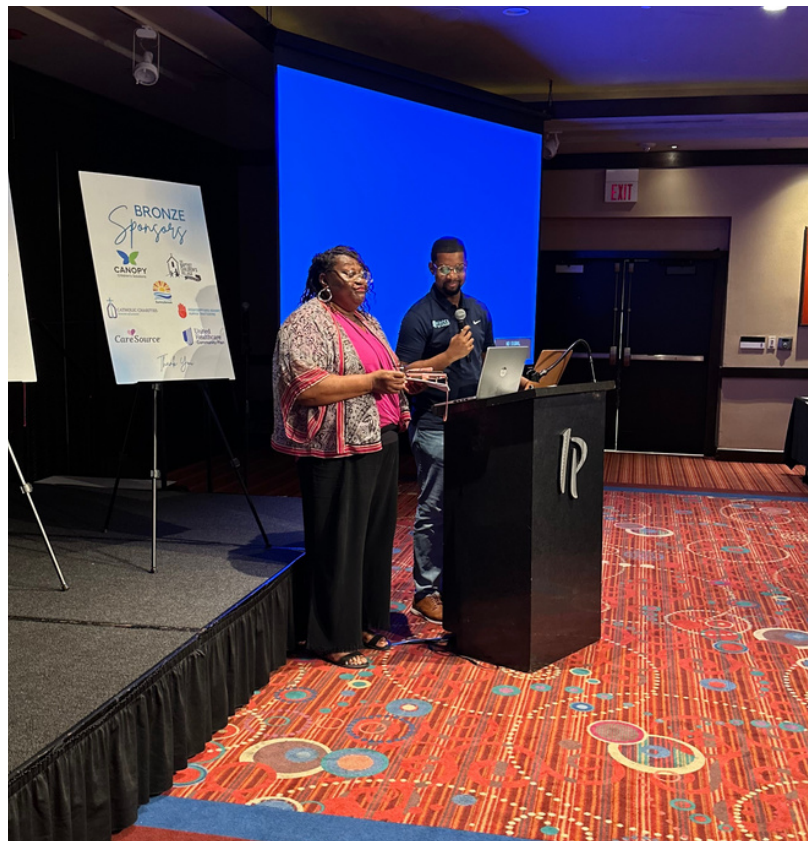
# Recap MLC23 Self-Care Edition

Relax | Renew | Refresh



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Relax | Renew | Refresh



Recap

# MLC23

Self-Care Edition

Relax | Renew | Refresh



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Relax | Renew | Refresh



Recap

# MLC23

Self-Care Edition

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MLC24

*Back to the Basics*

*Save the Date*

AUGUST 21 & 22, 2024

*IP Resort & Spa*

# MACCA in the Community



The Hope Village  
Guild at the 2023  
Run for Hope '23



MS Families for Kids  
23rd Annual  
Wendy's Children's  
Golf Classic



# Share Your News!

Send us your latest updates,  
upcoming events, and other info  
you want to share with your fellow  
MACCA members!

Email to [taylor@tenonestrategy.com](mailto:taylor@tenonestrategy.com)

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A Family with a Heart

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Charlie Rogers**



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Shannon Toth**



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MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD CARE AGENCIES





MERRY

CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR