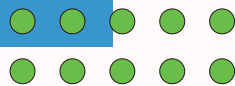


NEWSLETTER



2024



35th ANNIVERSARY
MACCA

Honoring our legacy, Empowering the future

**MISSISSIPPI ALLIANCE FOR
CHILD AND COMMUNITY
ADVOCACY**

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

MACCA IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MEMBER NEWS

CONFERENCE RECAP

2025 CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

BOARD MEMBERS



SAMANTHA KALAHAR, PRESIDENT

Fellow Child Welfare Advocates,

It is finally that time again...time for fall! (Real fall, not that two day cool-off that teases us before broiling us further for a few more weeks.) It is time for leaves to turn orange, yellow, red and brown as they end their time decorating the world. It's time for life to transition to a new season, one with different joys to behold. Instead of beach days, baseball and suntans, we now get to enjoy pumpkin spice, backyard fire pits and cozy pullovers. Although we enjoy the gifts of each season we begin to look forward to the next season and what it has in store.

Just as the seasons change, so do our roles in the work we do. Often our seasons follow the natural pattern of life, and sometimes they decide that the transition must come a little out of season. This is one of those times for myself and my role with MACCA. I have treasured my time as President of this great organization and been blessed to be a part of leading us during our strategic planning, redesign and rebranding.



I have been humbled to be a part of the intentional alignment of our organization with the evolving child welfare landscape. But I will be moving to the next season of my career and leaving my position with First Place for Youth and will be stepping down in my role as President of MACCA as I will no longer represent a member organization.

But just as pool days and sunscreen turn to hayrides and pumpkin spice, MACCA will move to its next season under the leadership of a new President with new visions for where the organization can grow and further its mission. Beginning on October 15th, Shea Hutchins will assume the role of MACCA President! She will bring a new approach to the next season with her leadership and build upon what we have begun.

Although I will no longer be a member of MACCA, I will always be a partner and advocate for the mission. It should never be underestimated how much can and has been done through MACCA as the members serving the children and families align on high standards of care, collaborative services, and a dedication to building a continuum of care that meets the diverse needs of all families and children in our state. The ability to speak with one voice for policies, standards, and resources that benefit the whole continuum rather than the individual agency or program is what makes the work of MACCA so impactful. Through this collaborative work internally and the intentional work with external partners, MACCA is moving Mississippi's child welfare system in the right direction.

I am grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me over the past two years. I am humbled by the leaders that I have stood beside and the incredible knowledge, experience and passion that each of them holds. I look forward to serving with you as a partner and ally moving forward. We still have so much more to do!

Thank you!





MACCA'S 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.



COLLABORATE

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



EDUCATE

- MACCA provides educational opportunities for members and external partners.

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.

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.

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.



Mississippi Alliance for Child and Community Advocacy

INTRODUCING OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO



Honoring our legacy, Empowering the future



MACCA IN D.C.



MACCA traveled to Washington, D.C., in September for our annual D.C. Fly-In, where we met with the Mississippi delegation to discuss key issues impacting our work. This year, we were also pleased to meet with VOCA representatives at the Department of Justice to provide updates on Mississippi's progress and advocate for continued support.

MEMBER NEWS

MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES FOR KIDS

25th ANNUAL

Registration
\$100


children's golf classic



OCTOBER 10TH AT 10 AM
At Lake Caroline Golf Club
Madison, MS



MISSISSIPPI FAMILIES
for kids

Join MS families for Kids for their 25th annual 4-man scramble, 18-hole golf tournament complete with food, drinks, prizes, and gifts benefiting MFFK's child permanency efforts on October 10th, 2024 at Lake Caroline Golf Club in Madison, MS at 10:00 a.m.

Registration is OPEN for teams and individuals. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. All purchases are tax deductible.

Registration deadline: October 4th.

REGISTER



CANOPY
Children's Solutions

**DISCOVER THE IMPACT OF
CANOPY CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS
IN 2023**

Read Canopy's **Annual Report** and see how Canopy is making a difference in the lives of children and families across Mississippi.

**READ
NOW**





MEMBER NEWS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

CELEBRATION OF ADOPTION

*An evening to honor the
joy and beauty of adoption*

EVENT INFORMATION

Thursday, October 24, 2024
Banquet begins at 6:25 p.m.
Private Reception begins at 5:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church
300 North Church Street | Tupelo, MS

This year will again feature
our annual Silent Auction.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Steventhen Holland

His life is the result of the gang-rape of an
eighteen-year-old mentally challenged young woman.
Incredibly, despite his mother's lack of intellectual
ability, homelessness, and a society that was constantly
pressuring her to abort him, HE SURVIVED!



Scan for more
information

Purchase tickets by visiting
www.NewBeginningsAdoptions.org
or by contacting Kala at 662-842-6752, ext. 104,
kala@newbeginningsadoptions.org.

TICKETS

\$1,000 donors are eligible for
Private Reception tickets,
which include a
meet-and-greet and photo
with Steventhen Holland
and light refreshments.



TOM'S
CATERING

aria

EVERMID
SOUTH

KAY'S KREATIONS
build the dream

EAT WITH
US GROUP

Thank you to Tom's Automotive & Window Service,
American Family Association,
Pyramid Auto, Kay's Kreations, Eat With Us Group
and Specialty Sales & Supply for their support!

REGISTER



ETHICS, DIVERSITY & MANDATED REPORTING 2024



REGISTER ONLINE

REGISTER



MDCPS held their 3rd Annual
Forward Conference - Together We
Can on October 1, 2024.



MEMBER NEWS

Sunnybrook Children's Home Awarded Two Contracts by Mississippi's Department of Child Protective Services (MDCPS) to Launch Statewide Programs for Foster Youth



Myrle Grate, Sunnybrook Executive Director, shakes hands with Devon Loggins, CPS Deputy Commissioner of Clinical Support, after receiving news that Sunnybrook Children's Home was awarded a grant to help launch two landmark initiatives in support of youth exiting foster care: Transportation & Driving Pilot Program (Ages 15+) and Supervised Independent Living Program (Ages 18-21+)

In addition, Sunnybrook Children's Home has been awarded a second contract to expand its Supervised Independent Living Program (SIL), a statewide initiative focused on serving youth over the age of 18 who are exiting the foster care system. This program will support residents as they transition out of foster care, offering them the tools and training needed to navigate adulthood with confidence and success.

Through the Supervised Independent Living Program, youth will have access to essential resources such as money management, time management, social skills training, job readiness, and practical life skills, including driving education. The program is designed to ensure that foster youth can build a strong foundation for independence, positioning them to thrive as they transition out of MDCPS custody.

These programs underscore Sunnybrook's ongoing commitment to serving foster youth across Mississippi and reflect the state's dedication to improving outcomes for this vulnerable population. Both contracts represent a vital step forward in offering the support foster youth need to succeed in their personal and professional lives.

For more information about the Transportation and Driving Pilot Program or Supervised Independent Living Program grants at Sunnybrook Children's Home, please visit www.sunnybrookms.org or contact Ron Veazey at (601) 540-4253 or rveazey@sunnybrookms.org.

Sunnybrook Children's Home is proud to announce the award of two significant contracts by the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services (MDCPS) aimed at empowering foster youth across the state. These contracts are set to launch groundbreaking initiatives designed to help young people in foster care gain vital life skills, including the ability to obtain their driver's license and prepare for independent living.

The Transportation and Driving Pilot Program, the first of its kind in Mississippi, will assist foster youth aged 15 and older in securing their learner's permit and driver's license. This statewide initiative will provide driver's education classes at various locations across Mississippi, strategically scheduled during school vacation and holiday breaks in alignment with local school district calendars.

The need for such a program is evident, as currently, less than 5% of foster youth nationwide have obtained their driver's license. The Transportation and Driving Program aims to significantly increase this percentage, empowering young people with the ability to access greater opportunities for education, employment, and personal independence.

"This initiative represents a transformative opportunity for foster youth, providing them with a critical life skill that will help open doors and pave the way to a brighter future. We are grateful to MDCPS for their partnership in launching this important program," said Myrle Grate, Sunnybrook Executive Director.



MEMBER NEWS



For Social Works, Therapists, Community Leaders, and more.

Registration closes Sunday, October 6th.

For more information about the conference please email Latoya Clark-Horne (lclark-horne@mchms.org) or call 601-853-5000.

REGISTER

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 24

9 AM - 4:30 PM

Registration opens at 8:30 AM

Location: Methodist Children's Homes



Faith Haven held their Annual Golf Tournament on September 27, 2024.



Sally Kate Winters Family Services' Christmas Fundraiser is here!

Place your pre-order by calling their office at 662-494-4867 or emailing kelly@sallykatewinters.org. Adult sizes range from only S-XXXL; each \$25. Tiles and Ornaments are \$16. There is a limited quantity, so be sure to get your order in.

Payments and pick-ups will begin November 4th!



Conference Recap





MLC25

MACCA Leadership
Conference 2025

LIGHTS | LEADERSHIP | ACTION

AUGUST 20-21, 2025
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI



Share Your News!

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

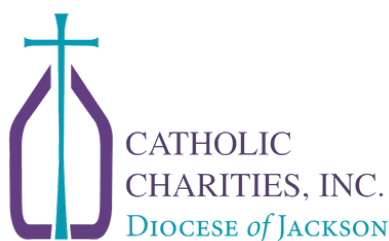
Email to taylor@tenonestrategy.com



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FOLLOW

US ON FACEBOOK

MISSISSIPPI ALLIANCE FOR CHILD AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY