



Spreading The Love at Mary Lee's House

This Valentine's Day, we spread the love at Mary Lee's House by delivering sweet treats and warm smiles to the agencies that work so hard to support children and families in our community. Handing out doughnuts was a small gesture of appreciation, but it represented our gratitude for the compassion, dedication, and collaboration that make this place so special.

As we move through 2026, we will continue spreading the love through meaningful events, volunteer opportunities, and engaging learning experiences that strengthen our partnerships and deepen our impact on the children and families we serve. We invite you to join us in these efforts and find the opportunity that speaks to you—because when we come together, we can make an even greater difference for children and families in Hillsborough County.



Our Mission

Mary Lee's House is a community collaboration committed to protecting, respecting, and healing the children affected by abuse and neglect who pass through our doors.

Board of Directors

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Chris Sullivan

Jenny Steinbrenner Swindal

House Happenings

Meet Jillian Traurig Development & Events



Jillian Traurig has been part of the family at Mary Lee's House since January 2026, bringing heart, strategy, and her background developing relationships with donors and corporate partners. Born in Annapolis and raised just outside Tampa, she grew up balancing soccer, yearbook deadlines, and community service, later earning her Girl

Scout Gold Award by completing a long-term community project (with determination, persistence, and maybe a few well-timed cookies). Jillian attended Florida State University and began a nonprofit career spanning more than a decade, serving as Director of Programs at Junior Achievement of Central Florida and later as Development Director at Everyday Blessings, where she became known for turning complex priorities into practical action. Her community leadership also includes five years on the executive board of Junior League of Greater Lakeland, reflecting a long-standing commitment to service. In her free time, she enjoys following Tampa sports and is a season ticket holder for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, cheering loudly while keeping optimism close at hand. Today, Jillian brings energy, experience, and a belief that meaningful impact often grows from small, thoughtful steps as she supports children and families at Mary Lee's House, usually with purpose in one hand, possibility in the other, and a notebook nearby in case the next good idea shows up unexpectedly.

Meet Intern, Kodie Malone



Kodie Malone, our Spring Intern is from South Jersey and is currently a freshman at the University of Tampa studying International Business and Entrepreneurship. She says "My time interning at Mary Lee's House has been nothing short of amazing. As my first internship experience, I have already learned so much about professionalism and service. Sheyenne and the MLH team have been incredibly welcoming and supportive, not only in guiding me through my responsibilities but also in encouraging my personal endeavors. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to grow in such a positive and empowering environment while getting to serve the community." We are excited to have Kodie on board!

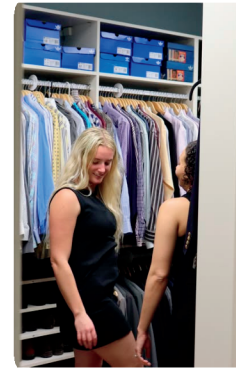
House Happenings: A Look Back

Building Hope: Ribbon Cutting Event

Building Hope, the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating two new spaces at Mary Lee's House-- The PEDI Clinic medical suite and The *Chasing Possible* Father's Closet, was held on February 18th and welcomed a wonderful crowd of supporters. Guests enjoyed light bites and refreshments as we marked this special milestone together.

Dr. Tanner Wright shared remarks on the importance of these new resources for the families we serve, and Brian and Renee Murphy, who named the closet *Chasing Possible*, had the honor of cutting the ribbon. We are grateful to all of our supporters who joined us to celebrate this meaningful moment.

We want to thank Tweeds who generously hosted a drive and promoted the event!



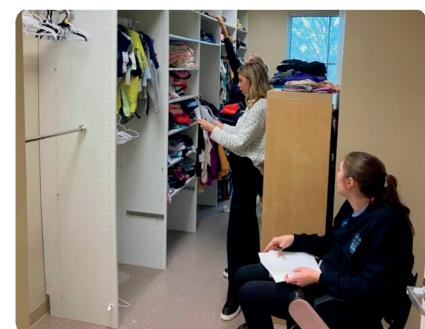
First Pres Serve Day



First Pres hosted their annual Serve Day on February 22, giving members the opportunity to partner with local organizations and lend a helping hand. Thirteen First Pres volunteers—including some younger helpers—spent the morning with us painting rocks for our upcoming rock garden and creating calming jars. These jars are a favorite for kids to take home, offering a simple tool that can help them regulate and soothe their nervous systems. Thank you, First Pres!

Children's Clothing Closet

A long-awaited goal has finally been achieved! The Children's Closet has been fully renovated and will now be stocked with essential items generously provided by Suncoast Credit Union. We are also grateful to the Junior League of Tampa for their partnership in this project, helping build the closet and reorganize every item within it. Thanks to their efforts, the children who pass through our doors will now have exactly what they need each time they visit.



Thank you!



House Happenings: Upcoming

April is

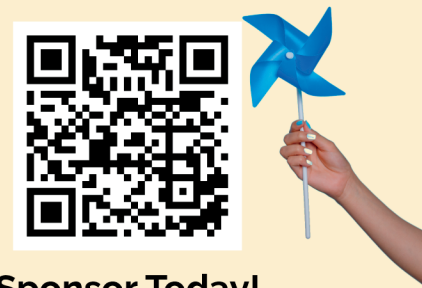
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April will be a month of reflection, raising funds, awareness and education for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Prepare now and be ready to show your support the month of April.

* Sponsor a Pinwheel

\$25 to sponsor!
Every pinwheel sponsored represents a child who has been affected by neglect or abuse.

Show your support for Child Abuse Prevention Month this April by sponsoring a pinwheel to be planted in honor of the cause. Each pinwheel represents a symbol of hope and a commitment to preventing child abuse in our community. For just \$25, you can sponsor a pinwheel and help raise awareness. Your contribution will make a meaningful impact in the lives of children and families. Sponsor yours today for the cause or in honor of a loved one! Use the QR code or visit maryleeshouse.org to donate!



See our marquee's special pinwheel garden through the month of April!

Sponsor Today!

* Join the Step Up for Child Abuse 5k

In partnership with Carter Injury Law, we are excited to host the Step Up for Child Abuse 5K Walk/Run at the end of the month. Proceeds from the event will be matched, doubling the impact of every step taken in support of children and families. We hope to see supporters, child welfare professionals, and families come out to participate and enjoy a fun and meaningful day together. Food, beverages and kids activities will be provided. Register TODAY! Kids attend free!

- **Sat. April 25th**
- **8:00AM**
- **Gadsden Park**

6901 S MacDill Ave, Tampa, FL 33611

The poster features a blue and white cloud-like background at the top with the text "Mary Lee's House & Carter Injury Law". Below this, the main title "STEP UP AGAINST CHILD ABUSE" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath the title, it says "walk for child abuse prevention month" in a smaller, italicized font. The date and location "APRIL 25, 2026 GADSDEN PARK" are prominently displayed. There are two QR codes: one for MARYLEESHOUSE.ORG and another for CARTERINJURYLAW.COM. A logo for Carter Injury Law, featuring a man's face, is also present. At the bottom, a white banner with a ribbon effect contains the text "\$30 ENTRY/KIDS FREE" and "FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED". The background of the poster is a colorful illustration of a park path with a pinwheel and a flower.

Register TODAY!
Kids attend FREE!

House Happenings: Upcoming

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* Attend a Mandated Reporter Training: April 28th & 29th



The annual Mandatory Reporter Trainings will be taking place April 28th and 29th.

Learn more about detecting abuse, the role of a mandatory reporter, and more about child welfare with experts from The Children's Network. The training course is a total of two hours and participants will leave with a Mandated Reporter Certificate.

Three training sessions available. Remember, every adult is a mandated reporter, and we encourage you to gain more knowledge!

SIGN UP!
or visit
maryleeshouse.org



* Craft for Kids Visiting Mary Lee's House

Sensory and therapeutic items are available for all children passing through the doors of Mary Lee's House and they fly off the shelves! Create something meaningful and complete a craft project at home. Give us a call at 813-250-6650 to schedule a drop off date/time for completed items.



Rock Painting Craft

Help us create the new Kindess Rock Garden at Mary Lee's House!



Learn More!

Calming Jar Craft

Create calming jars to help children regulate during appointments & in their daily lives.



* Host a Drive!

Learn More & See Our Wish List Items at maryleeshouse.org > Get Involved

No child walks out of Mary Lee's House empty handed and we couldn't provide that service without the support of community members like you! We are always in need of the following items. Host a drive within your work or social groups. This is an easy way to bring your community together to make a difference!



New Baby Clothing & Products



Teen Gift Cards



New Toys for Ages 4-12



Viva

A Night with Mary Lee's House:

Havana!

Thursday, April 16, 2026

6:00-10:00PM

Armature Works

- 🌴 Cigar Roller 🌴 Cuba Libres 🌴 Live Auction
🌴 Child's Artwork 🌴 Flamenco Dancers



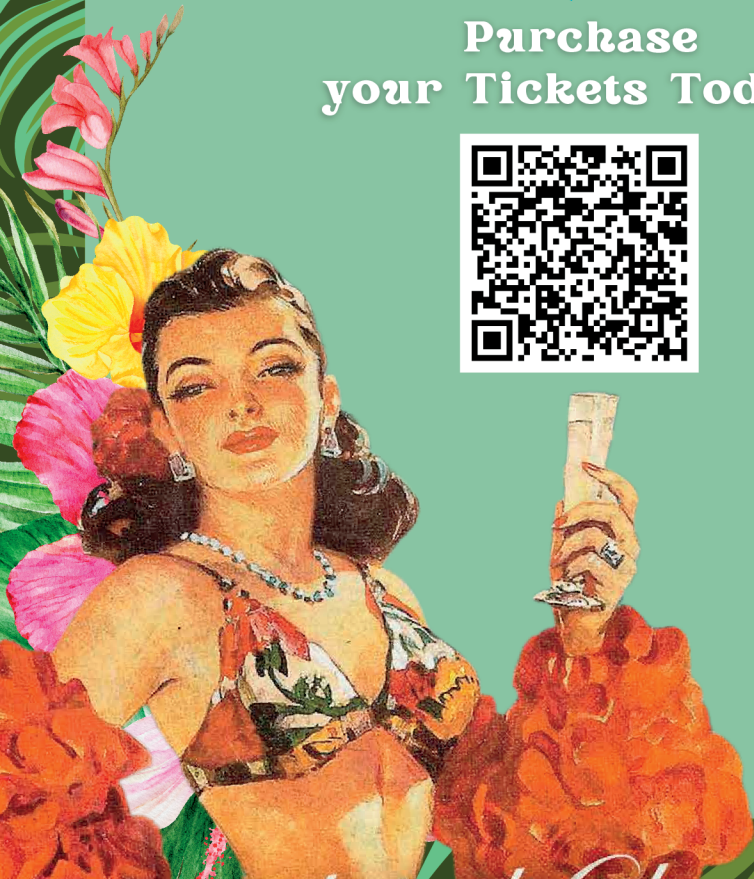
**Purchase
your Tickets Today!**



**View the Viva
Dress Guide!**



*Havana is
Calling!*



Viva



Sponsors!

as of March 13, 2026

Presenting Sponsor:

BRM

Family Foundation

Founding Sponsor:

Mary Lee Farrior

El Jefe:



HIERONYMUS
FOUNDATION

Ann Ferrentino



Service, Selection and Value Since 1895.

Tampeño:

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Ashlie Teeling

Toni Everett

Islander:



Katie McGarey

Lowry Murphey
Foundation

Water Sponsor:



Cigar Sponsor:



Maraca Sponsor:



Print Sponsor:



Floral Sponsor:



Donate to Mary Lee's House

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Donation Amount (\$) _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check Please make checks payable to Mary Lee's House and mail to:

Mary Lee's House
2806 N. Armenia Ave
Tampa, FL 33607

Card Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____

CVC Code _____ *Can be found on back of credit card.

If using an Amex, it will be a 4-digit code on front card

Online Payment Scan the QR Code to the right to visit the Mary Lee's House website and donate directly from your mobile device or visit maryleeshouse.org to donate!



Follow Mary Lee's House on social media!



An average of **2,500** children pass through the doors of Mary Lee's House each year.



OVER THE PAST 17 YEARS

12,327

Medical exams were performed

5,801

Children received counseling

5,496

Forensic interviews were conducted

3,061

Closed circuit testimonials & depositions took place

59,941

Child advocate services were provided