



A note from the Mary Lee's House team:

As the year draws to a close, we know this season can be especially challenging for many families in our community. Small acts of kindness—whether hosting a toy drive, sharing resources, or simply contributing a donation—can make a meaningful difference. When we care for one another, we strengthen the wellbeing of every child and create a community where all families feel respected, protected and on the path to healing. Thank you for helping us spread compassion and kindness during this important time of year.

-Mary Lee's House Team

Mission Moment: Becca White, PEDI Clinic

" We had a Mom who has been involved with the PEDI Clinic for several years, and her story is truly remarkable. During her pregnancy, she was struggling with a substance use disorder and entered a residential treatment program. When her daughter was born, unfortunately the baby was removed and temporarily placed with a foster family.

Fast forward—Mom committed herself fully to her recovery. She did everything required to be reunified with her daughter and has maintained a loving, supportive relationship with the foster family ever since.

Since then, she has welcomed a little boy and continues to remain actively involved in the clinic. Unfortunately, Mom and the father of her children experienced a domestic violence incident that resulted in Dad being incarcerated. What was once a two-parent household became a one-parent household overnight, and Mom has been doing everything she can to keep her family stable.

A few months ago, she reached out to let us know she was struggling financially—specifically with her medical insurance, car payment and car insurance. Thanks to the MLH scholarship grant, she received the support she needed, lifting a tremendous weight off her shoulders.

We are incredibly grateful for the space MLH provides and for the resources that allow us to continue supporting families like hers."

House Happenings: A Look Back

Trunk or Treat

Mary Lee's House hosted the annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event on October 30th, and thanks to nearly 30 amazing volunteers, it was a huge success! Families enjoyed interactive trunks filled with candy, books, fidget toys, and more—all set to festive, spooky tunes. This is one of our favorite events of the year, and we look forward to it every time. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success!



Fall Feast: Picnic

Agency employees came together on November 6th for a well-deserved celebration of their dedication and hard work. Teams enjoyed a delicious lunch from the always-popular Chicken Salad Chick and spent quality time eating and connecting as a Mary Lee's House community. It was a beautiful day filled with camaraderie, gratitude, and an opportunity to recognize the incredible efforts our staff put forth every single day.



Partners Luncheon

The annual Partners Luncheon took place on November 5th at the Stovall House, where partners gathered to celebrate all we've accomplished over the past year. Guests also heard from Judge Daryl Manning, Hillsborough County's dependency judge, who spoke about the importance of supporting families as a whole to help them truly thrive. Congratulations to our Partner of the Year, Jennifer Renspie, and to all honorees! We couldn't do this important work without the ongoing commitment, advocacy, and support of our partners.



Winter Welcome

Mary Lee's House sparkles this holiday season thanks to the incredible team at Bright Brothers Holiday Lights & Pressure Washing, who transformed our building with beautiful Christmas lights. Their generosity extended indoors as well—our lobby tree shines brightly, bringing joy to the children and families who visit this season.

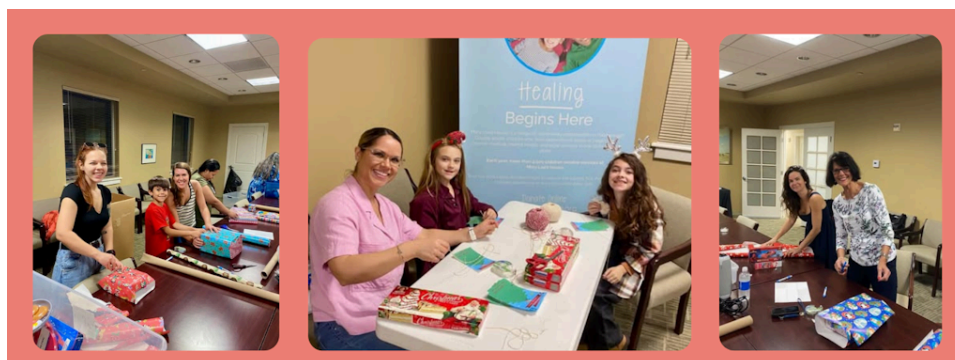
To celebrate the start of winter, we hosted Light Up Mary Lee's House event on November 13th alongside our wonderful partners: Bright Brothers, FBI Tampa Citizen's Alumni Association, and Sky Strategic Marketing. The generosity of Bright Brother's didn't stop there- they donated \$2500 at the event's lighting ceremony. The FBI Tampa Citizen's Alumni Association made the evening extra special by donating toys for visiting children and even providing a Santa for festive photo opportunities. Families, partners, and supporters enjoyed a cheerful night filled with holiday spirit—and sweet treats from Chill Bros.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the event magical, and to all who attended and supported us.



Santa's Workshop Volunteer Event

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who joined us for the Santa's Workshop event on November 19th. Together, they wrapped more than 75 play items and stuffed over 100 stockings with small toys and safety essentials. Thanks to their hard work, every child who visited Mary Lee's House in December left with a full stocking and a special toy to take home. We've seen countless smiling faces this month, and it wouldn't have been possible without our amazing volunteers. Thank you for spreading so much holiday joy!



House Happenings: Upcoming 2026

Volunteer: Gasparilla Beer Garden - Jan. 31st

Time to get in the Gasparilla spirit while making a difference! Volunteer at the Mary Lee's House Beer Garden during Gasparilla. We will need volunteers to take payments, monitor crowds and serve beverages. Krewe, we need you! Learn more and sign up below!



RAISE THE SAILS!

JANUARY 31, 2026

KREWE MEMBERS NEEDED!



Mary Lee's House has been chosen as one of the charities for Gasparilla's Beer Garden and we need all hands on deck!

January 31st, 2026

Curtis Hixon Park

Morning, Afternoon & Evening

Shifts Available

So grab your eye patch, practice your best Aye Matey, and sign up for our Krewe! All volunteers for this event must be 21+

www.maryleeshouse.org

[Learn More & Sign up HERE!](#)

A Night with Mary Lee's House: Viva Havana April 16th

Step into the spirit of Havana for an unforgettable evening dedicated to changing children's and families lives in Hillsborough County! Our Viva Havana evening brings the heat with lively entertainment, cocktail hour, dinner, and live auction. Shake up the evening & change lives!



Viva

A Night with Mary Lee's House:

Havana!

Thursday, April 16, 2026

6:00-10:00PM

Armature Works

Cigar Roller
Live Auction
Child's Artwork
Flamenco Dancers
Dinner & More!

**Join the
Party
Today!**



[Learn More & Purchase Tickets HERE!](#)

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