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3RD QUARTER NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends & Family of The Marian Center

As we reflect on the past few months, we are filled with gratitude for a summer filled with friendship, creativity, learning, and meaningful connection. From exciting activities and community partnerships to new experiences and opportunities to serve, our students and adults have embraced each moment with enthusiasm and joy.

This summer reminded us that meaningful growth happens when individuals are given opportunities to discover their talents, build relationships, and share their gifts. Whether through culinary competitions, community partnerships, special visitors, or engaging activities, our Marian Center family continues to inspire us with their creativity, resilience, and joy.

We hope you enjoy this glimpse into a memorable summer. Together, we continue to build a community where every individual is valued, included, and empowered to flourish.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sister Lidia Valli
Executive Director





Berry Best Culinary Competition



Every Thursday this summer, our ADT clients competed in the Berry Best Culinary Competition! Eight teams of four participants each showcased their creativity and culinary skills, crafting berry-inspired sweet and savory dishes judged on taste, presentation, and creativity.

Congratulations to our first-place winners - Bruno, Steve, Octavis, and Francesca - for their winning dish: Chicken, Apple & Gouda Sausage with Bruno's Blueberry Bourbon BBQ Sauce!

A special thank-you to the Junior League of Miami for their support in making this delicious experience possible.



**Chef Bruno's Blueberry Bourbon
Barbecue Chicken Sausage**





State Appropriations Check Presentation

We were honored to welcome Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and State Representative Mike Redondo as they presented the check for our approved state appropriation. We are deeply grateful to them for their leadership, advocacy, and continued commitment to the Marian Center and the individuals and families we serve. This investment strengthens our mission to educate and empower individuals with diverse abilities and nurture them to wholeness.

This special occasion celebrated the power of community and our shared purpose. Together, we are making a meaningful difference and building a brighter future for the Marian Center community!





Instituto Fe y Vida: A Week of Service, Friendship & Fun

This past July, the Marian Center welcomed students from Instituto Fe y Vida for a joyful week of service, friendship, and connection with our clients!

Their visit was filled with dance lessons, art projects, games, and fun culinary experiments. A special highlight was learning new dance moves from our very own John!

We are grateful to the Instituto Fe y Vida students for sharing their time, energy, and kindness with our community. Their visit created lasting memories and reminded us that when we come together, everyone has something to share and learn.





Honoring September 11: Remembering, Reflecting & United

On September 11, the Marian Center community came together to remember and honor the lives lost on 9/11 and all those whose lives were forever changed by that tragic day. Through reflection, prayer, and a spirit of unity, we honored the courage and sacrifice of the first responders, military personnel, and countless individuals who showed extraordinary strength and compassion in the face of unimaginable circumstances.

We remember. We honor. We will never forget.



Celebrating Ire Diaz & Her Legacy of Advocacy

The Marian Center congratulates Ire Diaz on her retirement as CEO of the Advocacy Network on Disabilities (AND)! Throughout her professional life, Ire has championed inclusion, access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities and their families throughout Miami-Dade County. Her leadership and advocacy have helped advance the ongoing effort to create a more inclusive community.

To celebrate her dedication, our students and adults presented Ire with gifts and a commemorative certificate, followed by an inspirational song honoring her legacy and our shared commitment to inclusion.

We are deeply grateful for Ire's leadership, advocacy, and lasting impact on our community. Congratulations, Ire, and best wishes on your retirement!





Welcoming Our New Client Supervisors:

Jahara Sellers & Ashley Burleigh

Marian Center School & Services is pleased to welcome Jahara Sellers and Ashley Burleigh to our team as Client Supervisors!

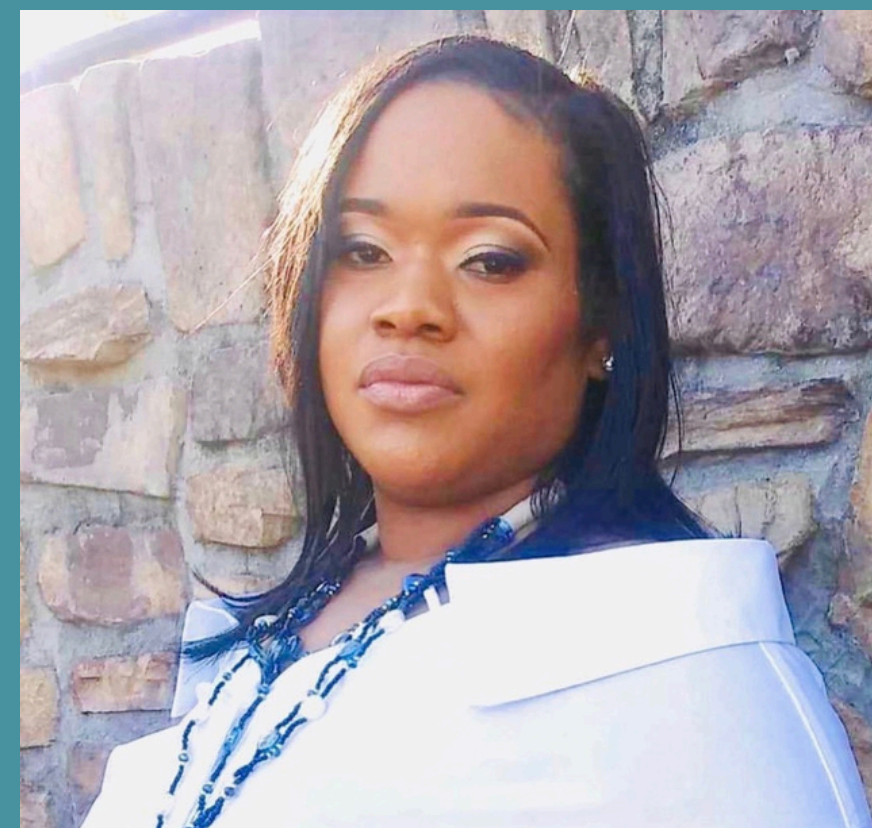
Jahara brings more than 15 years of experience as a Direct Support Professional dedicated to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. She will help develop creative strategies and engaging activities tailored to the diverse abilities, interests, and needs of the adults we serve, expanding opportunities for individuals at all skill levels.

Ashley brings more than 10 years of experience as a Direct Support Professional along with strong administrative skills. She will help strengthen daily documentation practices, support staff training, and ensure accurate, consistent reporting as we implement the requirements associated with our newly awarded state appropriation.

We are excited to welcome Jahara and Ashley and look forward to the experience, fresh perspectives, and expertise they bring to our team. Their contributions will help strengthen our programs, allow us to accept more clients, and further advance our mission to educate, empower, and nurture individuals with diverse abilities to wholeness.
Welcome, Jahara and Ashley!



Jahara Sellers



Ashley Burleigh



JOIN US!

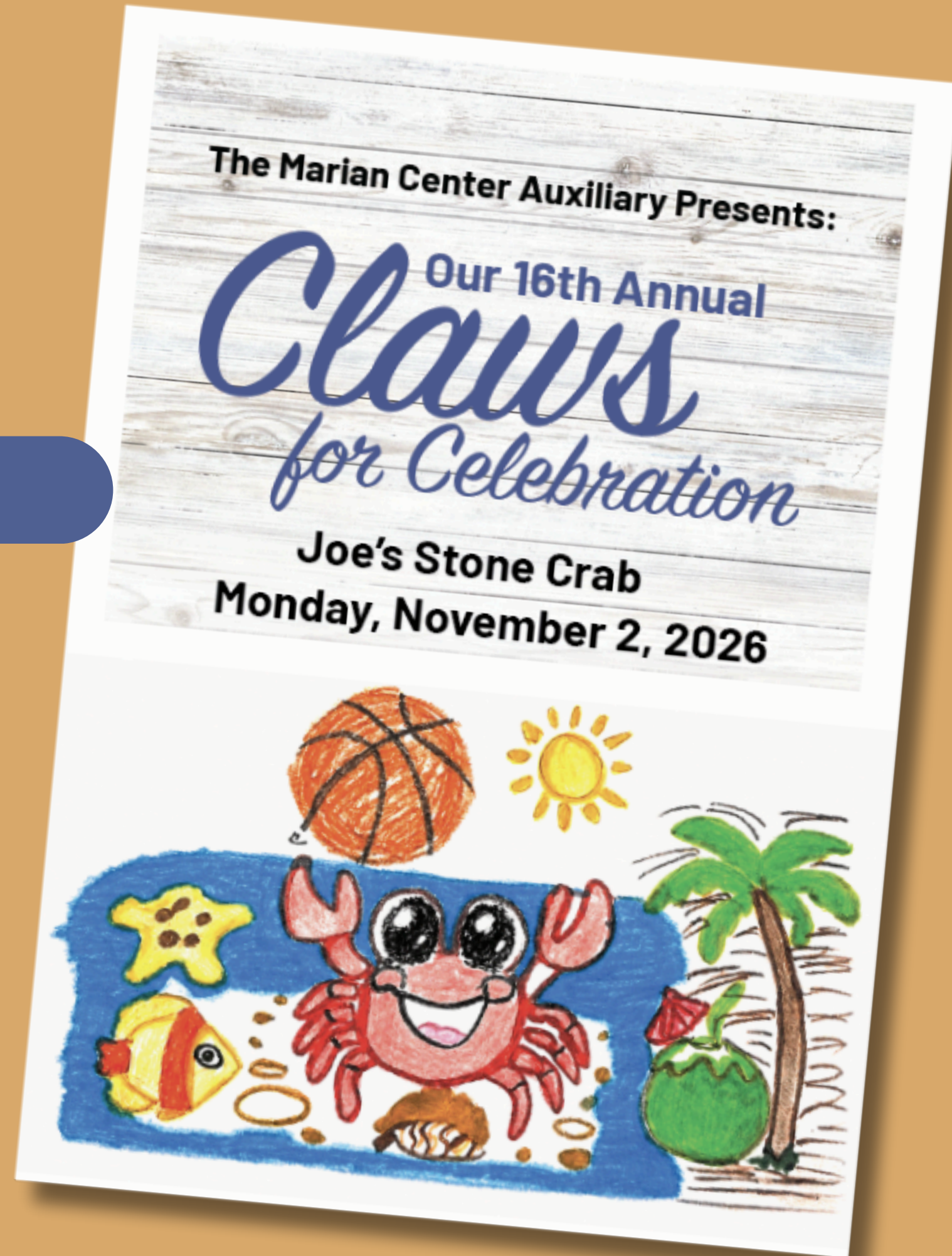
16th Annual Claws for Celebration

Joe's Stone Crab

Monday, November 2, 2026

Cocktails 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Lunch 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM





“Every time a human being does something to improve another human being, we really do something good for all of humanity.”
-Sister Lucia -

Get involved

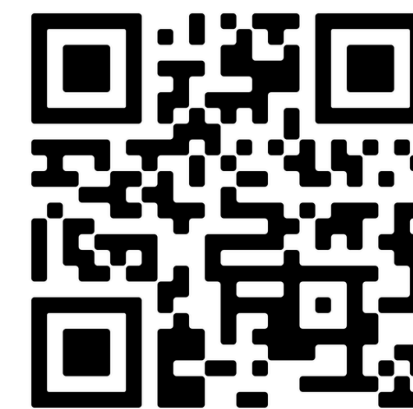
Join us in our Mission: to educate and empower persons with diverse abilities, and nurture them to wholeness, following the Gospel and the Church's call to love, charity and justice.

Request a Tour Contact us to find ways to help.

Follow us in



Donate Now



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