CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

September 1, 2026 - October 1, 2026

SUMMARY
1. Lights On Afterschool 2. CTAC Retreat: Staff Recognitions, Partner Panel, & Program Site Visits 3. Election Results: Amendment 3, Alachua Co. Delegation Races, & Governor's Race

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		
DATE	**MEETING / EVENT**	**SUMMARY**
October 1, 2026	FACCT Policy Meeting	Attended by ED Kiner and COO Goldwire
October 2, 2026	Library Partnership FRC Community Baby Shower	E. McCauley tabled with resources.
October 2, 2026	Convening on Student & Family Homelessness	COO K. Goldwire attended and shared information regarding Family Resource Centers.
October 3, 2026	Sponsored Event: Promise and Purpose Resource Fair	Communications Intern M. del Moral tabled with resources.
October 3, 2026	Sponsored Event: Community Spring Block Party	E. McCauley tabled with resources.
October 5, 2026	Control Flu Informational Meeting	E. McCauley met with Dr. Derika Shlueter and Dr. Lacey Chambers to learn about Control Flu Alachua efforts.
October 5, 2026	One Nation One Project Conference	COO K. Goldwire served as a conference speaker, presenting on “Mapping the Local Funding Landscape.”
October 6, 2026	Lights on Afterschool Planning Meeting	ED M. Kiner and E. McCauley met with Bishop Stokes and the WMSCC team for Lights on Afterschool planning.
October 6, 2026	Partnership Meeting with the College of Education	COO K. Goldwire discussed experiential learning opportunities for funded providers and students in the Education Science Program.
October 9, 2026	UF Homecoming Parade	E. McCauley attended, CTAC mobile vehicle displayed Trust highlights

October 13, 2026	Alachua County Commission Meeting	ED M. Kiner, E. McCauley, and D. Cunha attended county proclamation of "Lights on Afterschool Day"
October 13, 2026	Economic Mobility Community Meeting @ Library Partnership	E. McCauley attended.
October 13, 2026	City of Gainesville Meetings: City Manager & Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker	ED Kiner met with the City Manager and Commissioner Duncan-Walker to discuss the Gun Violence Initiative and the partnership between the city and CTAC.
October 13, 2026	Micanopy Commission Meeting	ED M. Kiner, E. McCauley, and D. Cunha attended Micanopy proclamation of "Lights on Afterschool Day"
October 13, 2026	Root Cause Prosperity Kick-Off	ED Kiner attended the kick-off event for the Alachua County Prosperity Project with Santa Fe College as the 32601 Zip Code Leader. CTAC is a partner in the project.
October 14, 2026	Department of Juvenile Justice Meeting	ED Kiner, COO Goldwire, DPO James met with DJJ leadership to discuss the detention center and possible opportunities to partner.
October 15, 2026	CTAC Staff Retreat	CTAC Staff held a retreat at Lake Wauburg followed by visits to Library Partnership FRC and Aces in Motion.
October 16, 2026	ACSO Trunk or Treat Event	E. McCauley tabled at the event.
October 16, 2026	Kids Can Cook Introduction meeting	COO K.Goldwire attended.
October 17, 2026	Sponsored Event: Alachua County Horticultural Expo	E. McCauley tabled at event with resources.
October 19, 2026	Reach Out & Read Meeting	ED Kiner and DOP James met with Jessica Capote, UF Health Pediatrics to discuss the program and how to partner on literacy efforts.

October 19, 2026	ACPS Special Needs Focus Group for Teachers	ED Kiner and Research Coordinator B. Wagner joined C. Robinson & Associates for the focus group discussion.
October 20, 2026	FRC Quarterly Meeting	E. McCauley, B. Wagner, and L. Means attended this meeting at Library Partnership.
October 20, 2026	Senator Stan McClain Meeting	ED Kiner met with the Griffin Group and Senator McClain to discuss the upcoming election and legislative session.
October 20, 2026	Rep. Jackie Randall Meeting	ED Kiner met with the Griffin Group and Rep. Jackie Randall to discuss the upcoming election and legislative session.
October 20, 2026	Florida Association for Infant Mental Health	COO K. Goldwire served as a panelist, presenting on Trust funded programming and Amendment 3.
October 21, 2026	Lights on Afterschool	CTAC Staff and Board Chair M. Chance attended the annual celebration of Lights on Afterschool, held this year at the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center in Micanopy.
October 22, 2026	UF Community Relations Meeting	ED Kiner met with Karen Thomas to discuss the Prosperity Project and other opportunities to partner.
October 22, 2026	ACPS Special Needs Focus Group for Administrators	ED Kiner and Research Coordinator B. Wagner joined C. Robinson & Associates for the focus group discussion.
October 23, 2026	Safety Net Collaborative Meeting	E. McCauley attended.
October 24, 2026	Sponsored Event: Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat at Deeper Purpose in High Springs	Communications Intern M. del Moral tabled at sponsored event.
October 24, 2026	Balance 180 Trunk or Treat	E. McCauley tabled at the event.

October 27, 2026	League of Cities: Archer	ED M. Kiner and E. McCauley attended.
October 28, 2026	Boo at the Zoo	E. McCauley tabled at the event.
October 28, 2026	HPW - Boys & Girls Club Calming Room Grand Opening	ED Kiner& COO K. Goldwire attended the ribbon cutting of the Calming Room at the SE Boys & Girls Club. CTAC provided the sponsorship for HPW's design of the space.
October 28, 2026	County Staff Meeting	CTAC staff met with county staff to discuss mutual projects including Family Promise Case Managers Funding and other projects.
October 30, 2026	Trick or Treat at the Shoppes at Thornebrook	CTAC Staff tabled at the event.

PROGRAMS CALENDAR

October	
October 1, 2026	Nonprofit Lifecycles Intro Session #1
October 1, 2026	FACCT Policy Meeting
October 5, 2026	CTAC Regular Staff Meeting
October 5, 2026	Alliance for Scholars Contract Discussion
October 6, 2026	The Future Call: Conversations on Florida's Early Learning Future
October 6, 2026	Nonprofit Lifecycles Intro Session #2
October 6, 2026	Just for Us Education, LLC Launch Brunch
October 7, 2026	Special Needs Parent Focus Group
October 8, 2026	FACCT Research Affinity Group
October 8, 2026	FACCT Policy Meeting
October 8, 2026	Programs' Team Meeting
October 9, 2026	Community: UF Homecoming Parade
October 12, 2026	Capacity Building: Nonprofit LifeCyle Introduction
October 12, 2026	Hand Gun Violence Prevention Strategic Planning Implementation Workshop
October 13, 2026	NCIT STeering Committee Meeting
October 14, 2026	Leadership Gainesville
October 14, 2026	Meeting with Family Promise
October 15, 2026	CTAC Staff Retreat
October 19, 2026	Dolly Parton Imagination Library/Gainesville Thrives: Impact Data Meeting
October 19, 2026	Special Needs Teacher/Educator Focus Group
October 20, 2026	The Future Call: Conversations on Florida's Early Learning Future
October 20, 2026	SAMIS S3

October 20, 2026	Family Resource Center Quarterly Partner Meeting
October 21, 2026	Lights On Afterschool - Willie Mae Stokes
October 21, 2026	FIMR CRT Meeting
October 22, 2026	Programs' Team Meeting
October 22, 2026	FACCT Policy Meeting
October 22, 2026	Special Needs Administrator Focus Group
October 26, 2026	CTAC Regular Staff Meeting
October 29, 2026	FACCT Policy Meeting
October 27-30, 2026	Florida Afterschool Conference
November	
November 5, 2026	Programs' Team Meeting
November 7, 2026	Capacity Building: Nonprofit LifeCyle Workshop #1
November 5, 2026	Capacity Building: Nonprofit LifeCyle Workshop #2
November 10, 2026	SMG Quarterly Meeting
November 10, 2026	Special Needs Parent Focus Group
November 12, 2026	Provider Child Abuse Reporting Training
November 12, 2026	Site Visit: Amplified Student Voice
November 16, 2026	Capacity Building: Nonprofit LifeCyle Workshop #3
November 16, 2026	Site Visit: Family Promise at SWAG
November 17, 2026	SAMIS S3 Meeting
November 18, 2026	Capacity Building: Nonprofit LifeCyle Workshop #4
November 18, 2026	FACCT IT Affinity Group
November 19, 2026	Programs' Team Meeting
November 19, 2026	FACCT Policy Meeting
November 23, 2026	CTAC Regular Staff Meeting

INITIATIVES



The Children's Trust of Alachua County invites you to help celebrate the individuals, young people, businesses, organizations and community leaders who are making a meaningful difference in the lives of children, youth and families throughout Alachua County.

Sponsored by **SouthState Bank**, the Community Champions Awards recognize exceptional leadership, service, innovation, advocacy and community impact. From youth leadership and community partnerships to hands-on service and a lifetime of dedication, these honorees represent the people and organizations helping build a stronger future for our community.

- **Date:** December 14, 2026 4pm - 5:30pm
- **Location:** Alachua County Library District – Headquarters Branch, 4th Floor meeting room

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION

Program Support for Closing FY2026 and Prep for FY2027

- Data quality review and provide support to programs in completing FY2026 data and reporting. Compiled and analyzed data for annual report, evaluation, and CQI. Met internally and with providers to review progress, impact, and data reporting. Provider meetings included:
    - Gainesville Thrives - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
    - Early Learning Coalition - Child Care Tuition Assistance program
    - One Community Family Resource Center
    - PEAK Literacy
    - A&A Consulting -, Doula Friendly Initiative
    - Alachua County Reads

- Collaborative planning to support implementation and evaluation for new programs:
    - Project CONNECT - Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County
    - Project CONNECT - Anita Zucker Center for Early Childhood Excellence
    - Family Promise - Community Case Managers

Special Needs Initiative

- Partnered with C. Robinson to facilitate five focus groups: one for parents raising special needs children (9/24 and 10/7), one for providers and professional serving special needs families (9/23), one for Alachua County Public School teachers (10/19), and one for Alachua County Public School Administrators (10/22).

- Continued to share and encourage survey participation across the county for parents and providers who work with families with special needs children. Surveys will provide insight into available resources and gaps in services for families. Provider surveys will also inform the development of an asset map of resources and services available to families.
    - Parent Survey (English): **Survey Link** | **Special Needs Parent Flyer - English**
    - Parent Survey (Spanish): **Survey Link** | **Special Needs Parent Flyer - Spanish**
    - Partner Survey: **Survey Link** | **Special Need Partner Flyer**
    - Parent Focus Group (on 11/10/2026): **Registration Link** | **Parent Focus Group Flyer**

- Collaborating with C. Robinson to conduct 35+ interviews with community partners and providers serving special needs families.
- Facilitated ongoing meetings with CTAC team to plan and implement initiative

Board Reporting

- Developed and delivered presentations to the CTAC Board on the following:
    - FY26 Afterschool Programs (October meeting)

- Strategic Plan implementation (together with Director of Programs, Belita James) (October meeting)
- FY2026 Summer Camps (November meeting)
- Alliance for Scholars - Summer Camps (November meeting)

Participated in the following workshops, trainings, and collaborative learning:

- FACCT Research and Evaluation Affinity Group meeting
- SAMIS S3 meeting
- Florida After School Conference in Orlando
- FRC Quarterly partner meeting at Library Partnership Family Resource Center

Participated in Lights on Afterschool event at the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- FY 2026 Programmatic Awards and Expenditures Report (September)
- FY 2026 Checks and Expenditures Report (September)
- FY 2026 Budget Reports (September Preliminary)
- FY 2027 Programmatic Awards and Expenditures Report **

COMMUNICATIONS

- Gained **91** net followers on Facebook and **20** followers on Instagram.
- We amassed **108.4 K** views on Facebook, **416** views on LinkedIn and **5.1K** views on Instagram in the **past 30 days.**
- The most viewed content on our Facebook was:
    - Our post about the Community Champions Awards (**9.7 K views**)

- The most viewed content on our Instagram were:
    - Our post about the CTAC staff retreat (**318 views**)

In the news:

Gainesville Sun

- October 20, 2026 — What's at stake for Alachua County under Amendment 3?

TV20

- October 2, 2026 — Alachua County, Gainesville leaders to discuss repurposing vacant buildings for homeless families

Mainstreet Daily News

- October 3, 2026 - Children's Trust of Alachua County approves final $13.6M budget

Alachua Chronicle

- October 14, 2026 - Children's Trust brings Lights On Afterschool to Micanopy on Oct. 21
- October 9, 2026 - Nominations open for Children's Trust Community Champions Awards

CBS

- September 30 - Children's Trust Accepting Nominations for Community Champions Awards

Highlights:
This month, communications pushed out messaging for our Community Champions Awards through email, newsletters, bulletins, press releases, Peach Jar, letters and flyers to community organizations, churches and schools, flyers at community events, television show segments, our website page and banner, email signatures and word of mouth.
Result: 49 applications for our first annual awards.

Communications also created multiple flyer designs for the special needs listening project, and pushed out messaging via the aforementioned pathways, with the addition of Superintendent Patton's help in getting the surveys to parents of children with IEPs in the district.
Result: 340 parent surveys, 58 partner surveys, well attended focus groups

Communications created buzz around the Lights on Afterschool event with flyers, press releases and social media pushes, plus highlights of the various city hall proclamations.
Result: A well attended event, with multiple news stories previewing it.

Communications created two digital billboards for the Homecoming Parade.
Result: Hundreds of people saw our storytelling and messaging around town.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tabling/Resource Sharing:
In October, CTAC tabled and shared resources at the following events:

-Community Baby Shower (Library Partnership FRC), Gainesville
-Promise and Purpose Resource Fair (Promise and Purpose), Gainesville
-Community Spring Block Party (Community Spring), Gainesville
-Alachua County Sheriff's Office Trunk or Treat (ACS)), Gainesville
-Alachua County Horticultural Expo (Gainesville Garden Club), Newberry
-Lights on Afterschool (CTAC/Willie Mae Stokes Center), Micanopy
-Deeper Purpose Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat (Deeper Purpose), High Springs
-Flip or Treat (Balance 180), Gainesville
-Boo at the Zoo (Santa Fe Zoo/Fun 4 Gator Kids), Gainesville
-Shoppes at Thornebrook Trick or Treat (Shoppes at Thornebrook), Gainesville

This year we added a new initiative, **Trick or Treat and Read!,** where we were giving out a total of 500 free Halloween-themed early literacy books between the different Halloween events we attended.

Total October Tabling Interactions: (Estimated 2,727), in the municipalities of **Gainesville, Newberry, High Springs. and Micanopy**

Community Meetings/Event Attendance:
CTAC Highlights: Promoted special needs listening project, Community Champions Awards, and highlighted the impact of the investments made by Alachua County Property Taxes.

-UF Homecoming Parade
-Lights on Afterschool Proclamations: County Commission and Micanopy Commission
-Economic Mobility Listening Session, City of Gainesville
-FRC Quarterly Meeting
-Safe Kids North Central Florida Coalition
-Safety Net Collaborative
-League of Cities: Archer

Collaborations and Conversations:
Communications, introductions, and/or planning with the following organizations/entities: Willie Mae Stokes Community Center, Alachua County Library District, Help Me Grow Alachua, Cade Museum, Peak Literacy, Alachua County Reads, Library Partnership FRC, Control Flu, Fun 4 Gator Kids, Deeper Purpose, Kids Count, Aces in Motion, Gainesville Circus Center, Safe Kids NCFL, Safety Net Collaborative, Girls Place, League of Cities, HOPE Alachua, Balance 180, Gainesville Garden Club, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
We hosted our annual Lights on Afterschool event on October 21, 2026, which was held this year at the Willie Mae Stokes Center in Micanopy. We were joined by Micanopy Mayor Jiana Williams and incoming state representative Jacqueline Randall, Board Chair Mary Chance, and many of the partners listed above for a fun celebration of the importance of afterschool.

Looking Ahead:
In November we plan to share resources at health fairs in Newberry and Gainesville and are looking forward to sponsoring the Safe Kids Day at Legacy Park in Alachua on November 14th. We are once again the presenting sponsor for Fun 4 Gator Kids' Glow in the Dark Night, which draws over 2,000 participants each year to Veteran's Park in Gainesville.

BOARD MOTIONS AND REQUESTS

DATE	MOTION / REQUEST	STATUS
8.12.2024 3.10.2025	Member Chance mentioned that programmatic dashboards showing awarded amounts and actual invoiced/funded amounts for each program area would be helpful and useful for staff to create or distribute. Member Chance suggested checking with other CSC's and considering listing funded organizations under priorities on the website for accountability.	In progress pending website host update completion
10.12.2026	Judge Pena would like to receive school safety and arrest data broken down by school.	In progress

SUCCESS STORIES

Music and Arts Program (MAP) | Success Story

A young participant entered the Music and Arts Program (MAP) with a love for music but struggled with shyness and a lack of self-confidence. Although eager to learn, the young child was initially hesitant to participate in group activities or express creative ideas.

Through MAP's supportive environment, hands-on music and arts instruction, positive encouragement, and opportunities to perform, the participant gradually began to develop confidence, strengthen communication skills, and build meaningful friendships.

What began as a quiet interest in music blossomed into a willingness to participate, share talents, and embrace new challenges. This journey illustrates the positive difference MAP strives to make by helping young people discover their potential, believe in themselves, and experience the joy of artistic expression.

M.K. Rawlings Community Partnership School | Success Story

M. K. Rawlings Community Partnership School continues to find creative ways to make wellness fun, accessible, and meaningful for students. Through the “Roll the Dice” Wellness Activity, students participated in a simple, interactive experience designed to promote physical activity, mindfulness, hydration, positive social interactions, and emotional well-being. During the activity, students rolled a die and completed the wellness activity connected to their number. Activities included 10 jumping jacks, taking five deep breaths, stretching for 30 seconds, drinking water, giving a compliment, walking in place, and naming three things they are grateful for. What began as a simple game quickly became an opportunity for students to practice healthy habits while encouraging one another. Students were excited to see what activity they would roll and eagerly participated in each challenge. The activity created opportunities for movement, laughter, encouragement, and positive peer interactions while reinforcing the importance of taking care of their bodies and minds. The Roll the Dice activity shows how M. K. Rawlings Community Partnership School is incorporating wellness into the school environment in engaging, age-appropriate ways that students can easily understand. By turning healthy choices into a fun experience, students learn that wellness is something they practice every day—one roll of the dice at a time.

Teens Work Alachua, Goodwill Industries of North Florida | Success Story

Ernell has continued to demonstrate hard work, dedication, and professionalism throughout his TeensWork Alachua internship with Alachua County Animal Rescue. After successfully completing the Summer 2026 session, he returned for the Fall 2026 session, building upon the skills and experience he gained over the summer.

During his time with AC Animal Rescue, Ernell has been a dependable team member who embraces every opportunity to learn and contribute to a professional environment. His commitment and strong work ethic have not gone unnoticed. After seeing the positive impression Ernell made during his summer internship, the AC Animal Rescue team was eager to serve as a site for the Fall 2026 session

and specifically requested to host him again. Because of the meaningful impact he has made through his dedication and professionalism, Ernell has also been offered the opportunity to join the AC Animal Rescue team once he turns 18.

Ernell's experience is a wonderful example of what TeensWork Alachua strives to achieve: providing young people with meaningful opportunities to develop their skills, gain confidence, contribute to the workplace, and prepare for future success. His journey from intern to future employee demonstrates the lasting impact that a strong work ethic and commitment can have. We are proud of Ernell and look forward to seeing all that he achieves in the future.

UF College of Dentistry - Saving Smiles | Success Story

This month, the Saving Smiles program supported a 5-year-old child experiencing severe dental pain who had never received prior dental care. The family faced multiple barriers, including lack of dental insurance, limited transportation, and difficulty taking time away from work. To ensure access, our team coordinated a Lyft ride to the appointment.

Upon arrival, the child was highly anxious and initially unable to participate in the examination. Despite her anxiety, our team worked patiently to build trust and completed the evaluation which revealed two severely decayed and abscessed primary molars requiring extraction. Using the newly implemented portable nitrous oxide unit at UF HealthStreet, and a patient centered approach, the child remained calm throughout the procedure. .

The intervention relieved the child's pain, prevented further infection, and created a positive dental experience that will support future care. The family is now connected with ongoing oral health services, and the child is scheduled for follow-up treatment to address remaining needs.