

2022/2023
IMPACT REPORT



YOUR STORY MATTERS

2022/23





REFLECT

REFLECTING ON THE PAST

Kids' Minds Matter was founded in 2016 because of the growing national mental health epidemic, and the impacts in Southwest Florida, where there were very few ways to help children going through a mental health crisis.

Powered by the generous support of people throughout our region, Kids' Mind Matter has been working to change that, addressing the need for pediatric mental health services close to home in a variety of different ways.

In this impact report, we'll reflect on the many ways Kids' Minds Matter and its partners made a difference in the lives of Southwest Florida's children. Your narrative is of utmost significance as a supporter, for every child's story matters. How you help write their stories through your investment of time, talent, and treasure make it possible to enhance access to the care our children need most.

**Learn more at [KidsMindsMatter.com](https://www.KidsMindsMatter.com)
or contact us at 239.214.0921
or info@KidsMindsMatter.com.**



LOOKING AT THE FUTURE

Our priorities for the future are comprehensive to say the least. What will you do next to make a difference and show the world that kids' minds matter? Join us to create more success stories for the children of Southwest Florida. As we turn the page to 2024, here are some ways you can write a new chapter with Kids' Minds Matter.



JOIN US

- **BECOME** an advocate
- **DONATE** what you can
- **PURCHASE** a Kids' Minds Matter t-shirt
- **HOST OR ATTEND** a community education course
- **SUBSCRIBE** to our eNewsletter
- **TUNE IN** to Mental Health Mondays
- **SHARE** mental health resources
- **BECOME** a corporate partner



COMING TOGETHER

MENTAL HEALTH MONDAYS NOW AIRING ON WINK NEWS

A project that began during the pandemic, when the community was unable to attend classes and events in person, Mental Health Mondays brought valuable lessons to families in our region and beyond through Facebook Live. Recently, Kids' Minds Matter partnered with WINK News to create a Mental Health Mondays television series with segments booked every Monday from May 2023 through December on the CBS network.

They will continue to feature Golisano Children's Hospital professionals, Lee Health staff and other community leaders on topics related to children's mental health, including tips for parents and families to promote kids' mental wellbeing.



PARENTING CLASSES HELP RESOLVE CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

Since the 1980s, the rate of children with incarcerated mothers has increased by 100%, and children with incarcerated fathers has increased by more than 75%. To address the issue, Gabrielle Sholes, Public Education/Child Advocacy with Lee Health, has been teaching parenting classes at the Lee and Collier County Correction Facilities over the last year, and 12 women have completed the class so far. Classes like these have been shown to improve parent-child relationships and build parenting skills, which benefits the children while also working to break the cycle of negative outcomes for incarcerated parents.



ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS MAKING AN IMPACT

In 2023, Kids' Minds Matter added two new Child Advocate Educators to help students in Collier County schools, and the non-profit renewed many of its pre-Covid partnerships, collaborating and providing classes to reach more kids in Southwest Florida with:

- **Salvation Army**
- **Guadalupe Center**
- **Valerie's House**
- **Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)**
- **Bobbie Noonan and Lee Health Early Learning Centers**
- **And More**

1,207
PARTICIPANTS

Kids' Mind Matter was instrumental in bringing **86** mental health awareness activities to Lee and Collier, reaching **1,207** participants including parenting classes, Mental Health First Aid, Youth Initiative meetings and Community Presentations.

RAISING STUDENT ATTENDANCE & DECREASING HOSPITALIZATIONS

The Mental Health Navigator (MHN) program is making a measurable difference in Lee and Collier County schools, where eight Navigators and four Educators are available to help students and their families overcome behavioral health challenges.

With the help of these professionals, whose positions are funded by Kids' Minds Matter, we've seen

70.5%
increase in
attendance

71.5%
decrease in
hospitalizations

137
families served
by MHN program
in 2023



SHARING GRATITUDE

NCEF GRANT EXPANDS ACCESS TO PEDIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH CARE

The Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) granted \$450,000 to expand Lee Health's pediatric mental health programs and services at Lee Health. This grant includes funds for:

- A new psychologist position
- Two public education health advocates
- Two mental health counselors.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING AT GOLISANO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Philanthropic support has allowed a group of Golisano Children's Hospital and Lee Health staff to be trained by Cornell University in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI). Behavioral health training allows people to understand and de-escalate children's aggressive behavior while providing a safe environment. This investment in care will ensure a culture of caring and allow other Lee Health employees to be trained.

CLARK FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS SPECIAL TRANSPORT VEHICLE

Kids' Minds Matter has received a \$65,000 grant from the Clark Family Foundation to provide a special vehicle to transport children suffering from a mental health episode. In 2022, **377 Collier County children** in mental health crisis had to be transported by law enforcement to a mental health provider, most of them from school. Children are transported in a law enforcement vehicle and taken to a treatment facility. The new vehicle does not look like a law enforcement vehicle but is equipped with safety features to keep children who may be in a difficult place mentally from becoming violent or trying to escape. The vehicle will also be used for community outreach, special events and education about mental health issues.



INSPIRATIONAL MOMENTS

Special events bring advocates and supporters of Kids' Minds Matter together in sweet harmony!

12
EVENTS

5,225+
PARTICIPANTS

Here are some examples of recent events that amplified voices for kids in 2022-23:

7th Annual Signature Event

Advocates were invited to Reflect & Envision at the annual event on March 8. Guests were inspired to raise more than \$800,000 to improve access to mental health services. During the evening, Kids' Mind Matters founders Susan Goldy and Scott Spiezle were presented with the Courtnage Courage in the Community Award in honor of their commitment to overcoming the odds to positively affect others.

New Kaleidoscope Event

This free community event on April 3 allowed advocates to hear directly from local teens and experts. Together, participants celebrated the progress of Kids' Minds Matter, the achievements of community partnerships and collaboration, and the creation of additional opportunities to support pediatric mental and behavioral health in our community.

Mental Health Fair

On May 11, local mental health providers joined together to share services, as well as community updates for awareness and education. Attendees heard from keynote speaker, Daniel Regan, CEO & Founder of Healing US Centers, who discussed coping with trauma from a helper's perspective. The goal of the annual event is to help integrate behavioral health services, improve outcomes and reduce costs.

Normal is Overrated

Kids' Minds Matter was proud to sponsor the Normal is Overrated event on February 25 at FSW! The event uplifted the voices of today's youth as they shared their stories about the importance of mental health. Thank you to Colton, Layla, and Madison for bravely sharing their mental health journeys and inspiring others to do the same.



CONVERSATIONS AT THE STATE CAPITAL

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE

Lee Health Government Relations advocated in the 2023 session for Telehealth Practice Standards (HB 267) by Representative Fabricio. This legislation passed and was signed into law. This bill revises the definition of telehealth to include phone calls, allowing providers from anywhere in the country to help meet the need right here in Florida.

Looking Ahead: Lee Health Government Relations continues to advocate on the federal level for The Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023 (HR 1843) and the Behavioral Health Information Technology Coordination Act (S. 2688). This advocacy is crucial as it aims to expand access to telehealth services and improve the coordination of behavioral health information technology, ultimately enhancing the quality and accessibility of mental health care for individuals in need.



BUILDING CAPACITY

Lee Health Government Relations advocated in the 2023 session for HB 33 Psychology Interjurisdiction Compact by Representative Hunschosky and Representative Silvers. This legislation passed and was signed into law. This bill allows Florida to join PSYCPACT and allow those licensed to practice telepsychology in PSYPACT states; psychologists licensed in compact states may apply to the Commission for authorization. Thus, under the compact, a Florida licensed psychologist is eligible to provide services to out-of-state patients through either telehealth or a temporary authorization to practice.

Looking Ahead: Lee Health Government Relations is advocating on the federal level for the CARE for Mental Health Professionals Act (S. 1075/HR 2438), which promotes Mental Health License portability. They also support the ASSIST Act (HR 3761) and PEER Support Act (S. 2733). The ASSIST Act creates a program to increase mental health and substance use disorder care providers in schools and school-based health centers. The PEER Support Act seeks to address the behavioral health workforce.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lee Health Government Relations is advocating on the federal level for The Community Mental Health and Resilience Act of 2023 (HR 3073). This legislation will build community partnerships to help prepare and respond in constructive ways to build resilient communities. As well as various bills that help address the need to access services in a school setting.

GET INVOLVED BY VISITING THE
KIDS' MINDS MATTER WEBSITE AND
SHARING THE ADVOCACY MESSAGE
WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY!

GET INVOLVED



FUTURE DREAMS & ASPIRATIONS

Although we've made a lot of progress over the years, the need for children's mental and behavioral healthcare grows continuously as the Southwest Florida population expands and new challenges arise from local and world events.

Thus, our aspirations have grown, and our priorities continue to evolve. This is where your story matters most! By advocating and generously supporting Kids' Minds Matter, you can help us achieve the following goals in 2024:

- Developing an intensive outpatient program and partial hospitalization program
- Expanding Golisano clinics throughout the region, including Cape Coral
- Encouraging the adoption of outpatient group therapy
- Increasing the number of providers at existing practices to meet growing demand
- Partnering with the Collier and Lee County School Districts to expand the Mental Health Navigator program

EXPANDING EMERGENCY CARE FOR KIDS IN CRISIS

Kids' Minds Matter advocacy and funding continue to be critical to developing resources for children at risk of harming themselves or others. Under Florida law, the Baker Act is used when someone is hospitalized due to a mental health crisis, including minor children. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Baker Acts skyrocketed because of the stress and devastation people faced across our region, and sadly, many of those impacted were children and teens. Prior to the storm, the intensive care resources to treat Baker Acts were already strained in Southwest Florida, and with some units closed due to hurricane damage, the need to address the demand for emergency mental and behavioral health services became even more evident. An intensive outpatient program and partial hospitalization program are the top priority for Kids' Minds Matter in 2024.



OUR VISION

To ensure children receive the right care at the right place and right time, making the full continuum of services available in our region.

OUR MISSION

As an initiative of Lee Health, Kids' Minds Matter is dedicated to raising awareness and funds that will drive and support opportunities for increased access to pediatric mental and behavioral healthcare in a five-county region of Florida, including Lee, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Charlotte counties.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

- Improving Access to Care
- Building Capacity in the Region
- Community Engagement & Partnership

STORY MATTER



Kids' Minds Matter advocates for children's mental and behavioral health. With generous supporters, passionate advocates and collaboration with other mental health providers, we have created a strategic roadmap to caring for our community in order to keep up with the growing need in Southwest Florida.



COLTON

Student & Mental Health Advocate

Colton shared his mental health journey and how he contacted a help hotline during his darkest time of need. It was an hour on the phone that saved his life, and now he wants to help others overcome thoughts of self-harm.



LAYLA

Student & Mental Health Advocate

Layla's story matters because after asking her mom for help, she had to wait because of limited access to mental health services. Layla hopes one day she will have the self-assurance and fortitude to support others.

KIDS' MINDS MATTER SIGNATURE EVENT

Your Story Matters

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

5:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Arthrex One Conference Center

1 Arthrex Way, Naples, FL 34108

RSVP

KidsMindsMatter.com/Story

Our Featured Speakers

Child Provider Specialist **Dr. Michael Rizzo**
Youth Mental Health Advocate **Kelly Maguire**

YOU MATTER!

