

## YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION OPENS CHILD WAITING ROOM

On August 1, 2008, the Children's Waiting Room at the Manatee County Judicial Center officially opened for business. In a dedication ceremony that was attended by members of the judiciary, contributors and donors to the project, members of the bar, courthouse personnel and others, Chief Judge Lee E. Haworth and Chief Administrative Judge Janette Dunnigan cut the ceremonial ribbon marking the opening of the Children's Waiting Room. The Children's Waiting Room is a project that was spearheaded by the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar Association. The Children's Waiting Room is located on the Family Law floor of the Judicial Center, adjacent to the Domestic Violence Courtroom. Children who accompany their parents or guardians to court proceedings at the Judicial Center will now have a safe and friendly environment to visit while awaiting hearings.

The Children's Waiting Room includes a jungle-themed, hand painted mural that was done by mural artist Ann Marie Nicholas, as well as custom cabinets that were designed and constructed by Ray Mizner. Additionally, the room contains a variety of children's toys, books, and other kid-friendly electronic entertainment. The Children's Waiting Room project was funded through a grant from The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, the Florida Bar Foundation, local businesses, and sustainable donations from a number of local law firms and attorneys. Also, several community organizations, including Junior League of Manatee County, Fifth Third Bank and the Manatee County Bar Association, conducted book and toy drives in support of the project. Over 700 books were collected, more than \$3,800.00 of in-kind donations were received and more than \$20,000.00 in sustainable donation commitments have been made to support the Children's Waiting Room over the next five years.

Chief Judge Haworth stated the following about the Children's Waiting Room: "Over the years the Manatee County Bar Association has made many worthy contributions to the community. This new project continues the tradition by recognizing that children need a safe place to play and relax when they come to court. When I saw the children's waiting room I was wowed by the bright colors and cheerful mural. The Young Lawyers Division should be commended for creating such a thoughtful and useful gift. The judges appreciate it and we know the kids will love it."

The Manatee County Young Lawyers Division wishes to thank everyone who contributed time, money and effort to supporting this worthy project. The Children's Waiting Room is a gift to our community that we can all be proud of.

*The Manatee County YLD extends a special thank you to the sustainable donors who made the Children's Waiting Room possible through their generous contributions to the project:*

Laurie E. Baker, Esq.  
Blalock, Walters, Held & Johnson, P.A.  
Larry R. Chulock, Esq.  
The Family Law Clinic, P.A.  
-and-  
Marcia J. Lockwood, Esq.  
The Florida Bar Foundation  
The Florida Bar ~ Young Lawyer's Division

*The Manatee County YLD would like to thank the following businesses and organizations in the community who conducted book drives and provided a variety of in-kind donations to the Child Waiting Room:*

Fifth Third Bank  
A & R Comics, Cards, & Games  
Books A Million  
Build-A-Bear  
Bun in the Oven  
Funtoysia  
Junior League of Manatee County

Grimes, Goebel, Grimes, Hawkins,  
Gladfelter & Galvano, P.L.  
Hamrick, Perrey, Quinlan & Smith, P.A.  
Harlee & Bald, P.A.  
Harrison, Kirkland, Pratt,  
Chulock & McGuire, P.A.  
Kallins, Little & Delgado, P.A.  
Kirk Pinkerton, P.A.  
Lakin Smith, P.A.  
Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.  
Ann Marie Nicholas ~ A Room with a Hue  
The Parker Law Group, P.A.  
Janet S. Porges, Esq.  
Edward B. Sobel, Esq.

Little Bookworms  
Manatee County Bar Association  
Deborah Merrick - First Book  
Roberta's Toy Box  
SYSCO - West Coast of Florida

*The YLD extends its appreciation to the  
following law firms and individuals for  
their generous contributions to the Child  
Waiting Room:*

Ozark, Perron & Nelson, P.A.  
Weiffenbach & Kaklis, P.A.  
Kristin Carter  
Jennifer Cowan  
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