

# News Release: Manatee Glens

P.O. Box 9478, Bradenton, FL 34206-9478 ☎ 941-782-4299 ☎ Fax: 941-782-4301 ☎ [www.manateeglens.org](http://www.manateeglens.org)

Staff name: Sondra Guffey

Email: [Sondra.guffey@manateeglens.org](mailto:Sondra.guffey@manateeglens.org)

Phone: 941-782-4320

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## MANATEE GLENS PUTS THE PIECES TOGETHER FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS DAY

(Bradenton, FL)... Manatee Glens is hosting the annual Sexual Assault Awareness Day Rally on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. outside Manatee Glens Rape Crisis Services, 383 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Bradenton, 34205. The event features the help and healing available to the men, women and children who have been victims of sexual assault and the ways we help them “put the pieces together.” Survivors will exhibit their art work and tell their stories, and community groups will have displays emphasizing child safety. The special guest is Lauren Book of Lauren’s Kids.

“We are delighted that Lauren has again chosen to include Manatee Glens in her walk. She shares our commitment to healing, advocacy and education,” stated Manatee Glens President/CEO Mary Ruiz. “Through our community and law enforcement collaborations, we have made great progress and are daily helping families, adults and children put the pieces together.”

Book, a child sexual abuse survivor and nationally-recognized child protection advocate, is in the midst of her fifth annual 1,500-mile “Walk in My Shoes” walk from Key West to Tallahassee. The Walk takes place in March and April, National Child Abuse Awareness and National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, over a period of 42 days in honor of the 42 million survivors of child sex abuse in the U.S. and serves to raise awareness about child sexual abuse prevention, empower survivors and advocate for change in Florida law relating to sexually violent predators and child protection.

To join the Walk in My Shoes group, meet at Manatee Glens, 383 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West at 12:30 p.m., a van will take you to the meeting place (Chick-Fil-A, 4573 14<sup>th</sup> Street West). Please register as a walk participant at [www.laurenkids.org](http://www.laurenkids.org), if you plan to join the walk.

Manatee Glens Rape Crisis Center serves an average of 600 victims each year, providing more than 5,000 counseling, victim advocacy and crisis intervention services for both youth and adults. In its first two years of operation (February 2012-February 2014), the SANE(Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Clinic has served 120 sexual assault victims who would otherwise have had to go to a hospital emergency room for an exam.

Lauren’s Kids is a non-profit organization that works to prevent abuse and heal survivors. The organization, headquartered in Aventura, Florida, was started by Lauren Book, who endured abuse at the hands of her nanny for six years.

*Reporters who want more information about Manatee Glens, or to schedule an interview with Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, please call 941-782- 4320 or e-mail [Sondra.guffey@manateeglens.org](mailto:Sondra.guffey@manateeglens.org) or visit [www.manateeglens.org](http://www.manateeglens.org). For information on Lauren Book, visit [www.laurenkids.org](http://www.laurenkids.org).*

Manatee Glens is Your Community Behavioral Healthcare Hospital,  
treating mental health and addictions concerns in youth, adults and seniors.

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