



ANGELS AGAINST ABUSE

July 14, 2026

Angels Against Abuse met on July 14, 2026, at Bridgepoint Church Tyrone, 6690 Crosswinds Drive North at 8:30 am. President, Sandy Kearney, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and guests introduced themselves and updated us on their activities. The attendance sheet was passed around.

The Mad Hatter Tea Party sponsored by the Kiwanis will be July 25, 2026.

The Angels' fashion show will be October 10, 2026, 11 am – 2 pm, at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Sandy has invitations available.

Amber Slusser, executive director of Suncoast Voices, was our speaker. Suncoast Voices was founded 22 years ago and serves Pinellas and Pasco counties. They "provide for the unmet needs of abused, abandoned, and neglected children and work closely with child protection investigators, case managers, and community partners to keep children out of the dependency system, meet their needs while in the system, and give them what they need to succeed once outside of the system." They have four clothes closets, provide tutoring, and provide access to summer camp.

Suncoast Voices offers Opportunity Passport, a financial education and savings match program specifically for young people who have been in foster care. The young people are helped to reach their goals and are eligible for a \$3,000 saving match to use for cars, apartments, education expenses, paying off debt, starting a business and more.

Many times, children are removed from their home or in a dangerous situation and have not been able to take clothes with them. Suncoast Voices provides new and gently used clothes, toiletries and other supplies to the children who need them.

They host an annual gala in October and hold donation drives to provide items to those who need them.

DCF operations manager, Marty Fuqua, spoke to us about the difficulty to staff fully. He has reorganized the scheduling for hiring and hopes to have 40 to 50 CPIs by the end of the year. His goal is to maintain everyone he hires. At present, he has increased CPIs by about 30%.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Valerie Rankin
Recording Secretary.