



CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

VOLUME 29, NO. 2

SUMMER 2017

Soaking up the Summer Fun!

Summertime at Chambliss Center for Children was filled with fun and laughter. Nearly 100 school-aged children enrolled in our summer camp this year, and they had a season of non-stop activity. Some of these children are in our care before and after school throughout the year, and some come only during the summer. All are here because their parents are working or in school and want their children in a quality program during summer vacation. We packed their days with activities such as dance, art, STEM, swimming, tennis, soccer, field trips, bike rides and other special activities. This is all possible because of the support we receive from the community. Thank you for your generosity!



TVA NUCLEAR - OUR PARTNER IN EDUCATION

TRANSITIONAL LIVING



The two Transitional Living duplexes across from our main campus.



Left to right are Board member **Julie Stowe**, Sustaining Board members **Susan Stein** and **Andrea Aaron**, both of whom helped decorate the units, **Carter Fowler** with **The Furniture Shoppe**, who provided a great deal on the furnishings, and staff member **Gloria Miller**.



President & CEO **Phil Acord** (left) is pictured here with **Scott Macellan** and his wife **Lisa Macellan**.



Our Transitional Living Program was the brainchild of retired Residential Program Executive Director **Elizabeth Pelton**. She is pictured here with President & CEO **Phil Acord**.



Residential Program staff **Tobe Taylor**, **Liz Blasbery** and **Jon Berestecky** are excited to fill these duplexes with youth needing the services we provide.

We celebrated the completion of our new Transitional Living duplexes on June 27th with a Ribbon Cutting and Community Picnic. The event featured remarks from Board Chairman **Paul Fitzgerald**, President & CEO **Phil Acord**, Residential Program Executive Director **Liz Blasbery**, VP of Special Projects **Gloria Miller** and **Scott Macellan** with the **Robert L. & Kathrina H. Macellan Foundation** and **The Macellan Foundation Inc.** Representatives from the surrounding neighborhood associations were also in attendance. Following the remarks and ribbon cutting, attendees were offered tours of the duplexes and treated to a community cookout by **The Feed Co.**, which was sponsored by **Russ Blakely & Associates**.

The Transitional Living Program is designed to assist youth “aging out” of the foster care system. Youth from throughout the state are eligible to apply. In addition to housing, this program offers counseling and training in basic life skills, such as financial planning and budgeting, cooking, interviewing and job readiness skills. Funding for the duplexes was provided by the Robert L. & Kathrina H. Macellan Foundation and The Macellan Foundation, Inc.

Award Named in Honor of Phil Acord

The **Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA)** presented the **Phil Acord Award** to its first recipient in March. **Dr. Floyd Creech** was recognized for his work in the field of early childhood education and his advocacy on behalf of children and families. The award was created for a male in the industry, and named after our President & CEO **Phil Acord** to honor his contributions to SECA and the impact he has had on the lives of so many young people and their families. A very deserving honor for Mr. Phil!



Congratulations, Katrina!

We want to give a big shout out to **Katrina Gilbert** who graduated in May from Chattanooga State with an Associates Degree in Media Technologies! She is pictured here with her husband **Chris** and their children, from left to right, **Haleigh**, **Autumn**, **Hope**, **Lydia**, **Trent** and **Brooklyn**. As you may recall, Katrina is the Chambliss Center for Children parent who was featured in the **HBO** documentary “**Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert**.” Released in 2014, the film was produced by Maria Shriver.



Lake Winnie

Aliahy and Ibi found their favorite ride.



Cooling off on the Boat Chute are **Marcus Tumlin** and **Mark** (front row), **Demoriah** and **Tariq** (second row) and **Kisha Fifer** and son **Miles** (third row).

Quadarius Scott had a great time with his daughter **McKenzye**.



Jackson Lenoir (right), who is our tennis coach through the **Chattanooga Tennis Association**, spent the day with **Nehemiah** and **Nathan**.

The annual field trip to Lake Winnie is one of the most anticipated days of the season for the children in our summer program. Sustaining Board member and former Board Chairman **Tennyson Dickinson** once again treated the children, along with staff and parents, to a fun-filled day at her family-owned amusement park. Thank you to Tennyson and her family for continuing this long-standing tradition!



Dustin Newcombe, **Corinne Burris** and her niece **Adalyn** were ready to get the day started.

Our children and their families always have a great time at **Lake Winnie**. Pictured here, from left to right, are Jaliyah with her Great-grandmother **Mary Hayden**, and **Cassandra Russell** with her son **Benjamin** (center) and nephew **Corey** (right).



Face painting is always a huge hit with the kids.

Board Member **Dr. Tonia Cox** (back center) was the Chair of this year's Parents' Night Out event. Helping her serve snow cones this year were, from left to right, **Bella**, **Sara** (back), Tonia's daughters **Isabelle** and **Emma**, her husband **Will** and Board member **Mark Hite**.



Parents' Night Out

For many parents, it is truly a treat to have a night out, especially when you know your child is being cared for and having fun. Each year in June, our Board hosts a Parents' Night Out event for the parents and guardians of children in our program. This year, we had around 40 parents and caregivers in attendance. Everyone enjoyed dinner and lively games of Bingo in our gym. Many took home great prizes, including free weeks of childcare, paid for by board members. The children, supervised by staff and volunteers, had a great time outdoors swimming, jumping on inflatables, and playing on the playground, where they were served pizza, watermelon, and snow cones. Everyone had a great time!

Bingo winners had a great selection of prizes to choose from. **Brenda Parker** chose a great tool set and toolbox.



Nikki Russell (right) brought her grandmother **Barbara Mulkey** (left) along for this fun event.

Board member **Cathy Dorvil** (center) and her daughters **Melinda** (left) and **Meola** (right) are some of our best volunteers.



Volunteers & In-Kind Donations

Our thanks to each one of you for your help in making Chambliss Center for Children the best place for children in our community! This list acknowledges those who donated time, talents, and services from March 1–June 30, 2017. Thank you!



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We Couldn't Do It Without Our Friends!

Each year during National Volunteer Month in April, we host an appreciation luncheon for all the wonderful volunteers who serve our agency. This year, nearly 50 of our friends joined us as we thanked them for their generosity. Attendees were treated to lunch and a special fashion show featuring clothing from our thrift store modeled by staff and adorable children in our program. We then honored several individuals and groups for their outstanding contributions of time and energy to our agency and our children. The 2017 honorees included **Chattanooga Christian School** for School Group of the Year; **Levi Lebovitz** as Youth Volunteer of the Year; and **Pat Cox** as Adult Volunteer of the Year. **TVA Nuclear** was recognized for their continued partnership with the agency. Special recognition was also given to **Denny Brown** for his help at our new Red Bank property, as well as **Jay Walling** and **Phillip Harris** for their many years of helping coordinate TVA's Day of Caring for our agency.

All of these individuals and groups have assisted our agency by helping with projects and spending time with our children. In total, we had 1,200 people donate 7,000 hours of time to our agency in 2016! We would like to extend a sincere thanks to all of our volunteers!

Pictured here, from left to right, are Vice President **Katie Harbison**, President & CEO **Phil Acord**, long-time TVA Day of Caring volunteers **Jay Walling** and **Phillip Harris**, and Director of Volunteer Services **Virginia Rushton**.



President & CEO **Phil Acord** (left) is pictured here with Adult Volunteer of the Year **Pat Cox** (center) and Director of Volunteer Services **Virginia Rushton** (right).



We love having our current and Sustaining Board members attend this event. Pictured here, from left to right, are Sustaining Board member **Andrea Aaron**, current Board members **Greyson Brown** and **Patsi Walker**, and Sustaining Board member **Priscilla McLaughlin**.

Staff member **Monica Rucker** and **Azalia** showed off their beautiful dresses from The Thrift Store during the fashion show.

Youth Volunteer of the Year, **Levi Lebovitz** (center), is pictured here with his parents, **Alan** and **Allison Lebovitz** (left) and his grandparents **Betty** and **Charles Lebovitz** (right).



A special thanks goes out to volunteer **Denny Brown** (center), who is pictured here with **Phil Acord** and **Virginia Rushton**.



Friends, from left to right, **Alex, Claire, Isabel, Emma** and **Sara Kate** got very creative with the props at the photo booth.



Thanks to **Events with Taste, Chick-fil-A, The Feed Co.,** and **Food City** for providing a great dinner for attendees.

Because of our wonderful Chairmen, left to right, **Mark Hite, Dr. Tonia Cox** and **Will Cox**, we had our most successful year ever!



Everyone's favorite part about Bunny Hop! are the bunnies. Pictured here are **Brithny** (left) and **Meola** (right) with their new furry friend.

Benton Bilbrey and his daughter **Avalie** had a great time despite the chilly weather.



The inflatables were a very popular element of the event!

Bunny Hop!

The 17th annual Bunny Hop! took place on Friday, May 5th at the First Tennessee Pavilion. This fun, family event was full of exciting activities for children including arts and crafts, a bunny petting station, balloon artists, face painting, a magician, inflatables, a photo booth, a sports zone, the Chattanooga Aerials, and kid-friendly food. Adults enjoyed live music, a silent auction, and a buffet dinner catered by **Events with Taste**. Board members **Mark Hite** and **Dr. Tonia Cox**, along with her husband **Will**, served as Chairmen for this year's event and, assisted by their dedicated committee, coordinated all aspects of this special evening. Despite the unseasonably cold weather, we had our most successful Bunny Hop! to date. We had nearly 500 people in attendance and ended up with more than \$58,000 to help us care for at-risk children!

Grand Bunny

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Mark Hite



It was a Happy Easter at EMJ!

EMJ Corporation and its family of companies hosted an Easter egg hunt and party for our children in April. More than 70 staff from EMJ Corporation welcomed the children to their headquarters near Hamilton Place Mall. The children were then guided through two floors of offices where they found activity stations, a photo booth with the Easter bunny, a picnic snack, and a wonderfully imaginative indoor Easter egg hunt!

Rakiyah was excited to have her picture taken with the Easter Bunny!

EMJ employee **Jennifer McCosby** got a big hug from **Nya**.



Ice Cream Social

The 13th Annual Ice Cream Social at the **Chattanooga Market** was a tremendous success! Five local creameries, including **Cold Stone Creamery**, **Clumpie's Ice Cream**, **Mayfield**, **Milk & Honey**, and **The Ice Cream Show**, provided sweet treats on a lovely June day to attendees who purchased tickets.

After testing 10 different flavors, participants voted for their favorites in two categories, "Best Pure Flavor" and "Best Flavor with Inclusions". The competition was very tight, however, coming out on top for "Best Pure Flavor" was Milk & Honey with their Summer Strawberry. The Ice Cream Show took home the trophy for "Best Flavor with Inclusions" for their Peanut Delight.

The event was a complete sellout! More than 1,200 tickets were purchased, resulting in over \$7,600 being raised for the agency!! Thank you to all the generous vendors who donated their products and time.



The **Ice Cream Show** took home first place in the "Best Flavor with Inclusions" category with their Peanut Delight. Pictured here with their trophy are, from left to right, **Adam Anderson**, **Hannah Gifford**, **Ryder Pierce**, **Yanni Killebrew**, **Larry Hendrix**, and **Lynda Curtis**.



Milk & Honey won the "Best Pure Flavor" again this year with their Summer Strawberry. Representatives **Scott Hutchinson** and **Jessi Faircloth** show off their newest trophy.



Cold Stone Creamery's Founder's Favorite and Cake Batter provided cool relief on a beautiful day. Pictured here, **Rita McCay** (left) and volunteer **Chris Martin** (right).



Clumpie's Ice Cream flavors Peach Cobbler and Cherry Lime Sorbet, served by **Coby Lane**, **Doug Chapin** and **Scout Parker**, were a hit!



Volunteers **Lynn Vandergriff** and Board Chairman **Paul Fitzgerald** served up samples of Homemade Vanilla and Lemon Ice Box Pie from **Mayfield**.

Jermaine's first catch was by far the biggest of the day, a 6 ½ pound Largemouth Bass. Mac McGee (right) helped him pull the big guy in.

Fishing at Fowler Farm

Every year, the older children in our summer program are invited to **Fowler Farm** on Lookout Mountain for a day of fishing. The day begins with a safety lesson and instructions from area fisherman **Mac McGee** and his volunteers, prior to the kids picking up their cane poles and worms. This year was particularly exciting, as one of our youth caught a 6 ½ pound Largemouth Bass! The weather was perfect and the children had a great time. We thank Sustaining Board member, **Gwin Tugman**, Mr. McGee, Sustaining Board Member **Frank Fowler** and his family, our Board members and volunteers for providing such a great day outdoors for our kids!



Board member **Jeannine Alday Grogg** and her husband **Gary Grogg** came out to help with the event.



Trinity was proud to show off her catch.



Board Chairman **Paul Fitzgerald** helped **Tristin** bait his hook.



(left to right) **Brooklyn, Lydia** and **Ava** enjoyed lunch provided by **2 Sons Kitchen and Market**.



Sustaining Board member **Gwin Tugman** and volunteer **Mac McGee** are instrumental in putting this event together every year.



Nathan Brown with **Keller Williams Greater Downtown Realty** is pictured here with **Katie Harbison**, Vice President of **Chambliss Center for Children**.



It's amazing the difference a coat of paint can make! **Nicole Anthony** (left), **Ricardo Leveron** (center), and **Mandi Kaye** (right) gave this office a whole new look.

Thomas Mitchell and **Amanda Young** trimmed hedges around our Tumbler and Nursery playgrounds.



Christina Lane took a brief break from working to have her picture made with **Naomi** and **Emoree**.



KELLER WILLIAMS RED DAY

We are so grateful that **Keller Williams** agents and friends have come to our campus for the past six years for their annual **RED Day**, a day set aside by Keller Williams offices nationwide for employees to spend time giving back to the community. More than 115 employees showed up bright and early on May 11th to tackle indoor and outdoor projects including cleaning, painting, replacing ceiling tiles, organizing files, pressure washing, mulching playgrounds, trimming hedges, cleaning the pool, and more. This was a tremendous help in getting us ready for a big summer. By lunchtime, this group was ready for the grilled hamburgers and hot dogs provided by **Arrow Exterminating**. Thank you to our wonderful Keller Williams friends for your continued partnership!



Ziyah (left) and Kayleigh (right) were excited to get their goody bags and pool noodles from Tennessee American Water.

Making a Splash!

In what has become a tradition, Tennessee American Water helped us kick-off the summer season with a pool party on May 30th for the children participating in our summer program. Nearly 50 of our school-aged children participated in this year's event and received goody bags, a beach towel, popsicles and cake in celebration of Tennessee American Water's 130th Anniversary. In addition to speaking to the children and handing out gifts, Tennessee American Water also filled up our 35,000-gallon pool at no cost to us, which is a big help to our budget! Thank you, TAWC!



Nehemiah (left) and Trent (right) couldn't wait to get in to the pool!

AROUND THE CENTER

(at right) Every summer we host a career week for the children in our summer program. The **Chattanooga Police Department** and **Chattanooga Fire Department** are always popular guests. Officer **Gary Frisbee** let **Lowell** try on some of his gear. And, Firefighter **Chase Jones** had the children captivated as he suited up in less than 2 minutes!



(below) As a follow up to National Foster Care Month in May, we hosted a Foster Care Info Night in early June. If you would like information on becoming a foster parent, please call us at 423-693-2580 or email fostercare@chamblisscenter.org.



(at left) President & CEO **Phil Acord** hand delivered milk and cookies to all our classroom staff during Teacher Appreciation Week in May. He is pictured here with Infant teacher **Gayle Scott**.



(at left) The downtown location of **Ben & Jerry's** chose to support our agency during Free Cone Day in April. We collected nearly \$1,250 and made a lot of new friends! Customer **Glenn Felton** is pictured here with staff member **Rachel Geiger**.

(at right) Chambliss Center for Children manages five child care centers in addition to our main campus. We recently had a highly-skilled group from EMJ Special dProjects volunteer at one of those sites, Pro Re Bona Early Learning Center. They built a ramp, mulched the playground, cut limbs, replaced ceiling tiles and completed several other projects on our to-do list. Pictured here, from left to right are **Jennifer McCosby**, **Sam Marks**, **Jared Erwin**, **Jon-Michael Davis**, **Rob Lamb** (front center), **Brian Pemberton** (back center), **Jerry Campbell**, **Devin Munczenski**, and **Kelly Brown**. Thanks so much to this fantastic crew for their hard work!



(at left) The **Chattanooga Theatre Centre's Theater for the Very Young** treated our Runabouts and Pre-K children to a wonderful performance about life on the farm.

Financial Donations This list of financial contributions is from March 1–June 30, 2017. If we have omitted your name, please accept our apologies and let us know so that we may correct our records and acknowledge you in our summer newsletter. Thanks to each of you for helping us continue our mission of working with our community's families and children.



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WELCOME NEW STAFF

Our agency has added several new staff recently. Through a grant with the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**, we hired four new staff members. **Rachel Geiger** and **Monica Rucker** are our new Child Care Coaches. They are working with local home-based child care centers to provide curriculum, assessments, and support to ensure all Hamilton County children are Kindergarten-ready. **Shwana Heard** and **Beth Irwin** have been hired through this grant

to serve as Parent Resource Advocates. They are working with parents at our main campus and our off-site centers to help them identify and utilize local resources to benefit themselves and their families.

Taylor Sims is our newest Director of Off-Site Centers. She oversees the day-to-day operations of Volunteer Community Preschool and our new Chambliss Center for Children Early Learning Center in Red Bank.

Jerry Hamill has joined the maintenance department of Chambliss Center for Children. Jerry assists our Maintenance Supervisor with the upkeep of our main campus and the off-site centers.

And, most recently, **Racie Hoffman** came on board as our new Director of Development. Racie is working with our Vice President Katie Harbison on fundraising, donor engagement, event management, and more.



Rachel Geiger



Jerry Hamill



Shwana Heard



Racie Hoffman



Beth Irwin



Monica Rucker



Taylor Sims



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RACIE HOFFMAN
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VIRGINIA RUSHTON
Director of Volunteer Services

www.chamblisscenter.org
423-698-2456



Golf Tournament Change of Date!

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

21st Annual Chambliss Center for Children Golf Tournament
Council Fire Golf Club



For more information,
contact Katie Harbison at
kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org
or 423-468-1122.

On July 1st, we opened **The Thrift Store - Red Bank**, our second thrift store location. The new 8,000-square-foot store is located at 1936 Dayton Boulevard in the building formerly occupied by the Girl Scouts of the Southern Appalachians. Store hours are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Saturday. The first store opened 11 years ago in Brainerd and has contributed significantly throughout the years to the programs of the agency. Both stores stock a wide variety of merchandise, including furniture, appliances, home décor, clothing, accessories and more. We invite you to shop and/or donate at either of our convenient locations. If you have larger items, like furniture, to donate, please call us for a pick-up.

THE THRIFT STORE

3723 Brainerd Road
423-698-3730
(call for Monday, Wednesday
or Friday pickup)

1936 Dayton Boulevard
423-498-2101
(call for Tuesday or
Thursday pickup)



Chambliss Center for Children Early Learning Center – Red Bank

The remaining 5,000+ square feet of the 1936 Dayton Boulevard building will house an early learning center, set to open in early September. The center will serve 62 children, ages 6 weeks to Pre-K. For enrollment information, contact Taylor Sims at 423-443-7817 or tmsims@chamblisscenter.org.



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