



GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24 • 7 • 365

VOLUME 32, NO. 3

WINTER 2020

A Letter from Mr. Phil

Tremember about 20 years ago, during a really difficult year financially, we sent a Christmas card out to all of our friends and supporters with a picture of Santa, in his sleigh full of gifts, being pulled by a diverse group of people with the caption,

"We Couldn't Make It Happen Without The Help Of Our Friends!"

Well, I don't remember the particular circumstances of what was going on that year, but I'm pretty sure it pales in comparison to the COVID-19 pandemic year we call 2020.

WOW! What a crazy year this has been for Chambliss Center for Children, for our families, and for our community. Who would have predicted at the beginning of 2020 that Chambliss Center for Children would have to close its doors to almost all of our families except for the children of essential workers? While our Residential Program continued to forge ahead and care for children and young adults, we had to limit services in our Extended Childcare

Program on March 20th and didn't resume operations until May 22nd. To my knowledge, this is the only time we have not been operating 24-7-365 since the start of our agency (with the exception of a fire in 1961).

We had to send home the teaching staff, kitchen staff, administrative staff, and maintenance staff. The administrative staff were provided the necessary equipment and connections to work from home. Some of them volunteered to come in to keep the front office open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to answer phone calls and accept deliveries. We had teachers volunteer to come on-campus and provide care to the children of the essential workers. It was amazing how everyone worked together (some from home and some from the campus) to keep Chambliss Center for Children providing

necessary services to children and families!

I do not have the words to tell you how impressed and overwhelmed I am when I think about everyone who worked with us, supported us, and helped us navigate all the issues related to the pandemic's impact on our agency and its programs. During such an uncertain time, we continued to pay our staff and all of our bills because of the support we received from all of our partners, the help we got from the Payroll Protection Program, and a lot of individuals who sent us donations with little notes saying



things like, "We know you all are struggling. Here is a little support to help you in these difficult times!" The phrase from our newsletter from decades ago comes to mind because it's just as applicable today. We really couldn't have made it without the help of our friends. We are genuinely ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

While this challenging time is far from over and the future looks a little uncertain, we continue doing what we need to do to care for children and support families. We honestly and most certainly couldn't make this happen now and in 2021 WITHOUT THE HELP OF FRIENDS LIKE YOU!



Congrats Grads!



Proud family members and friends celebrated our Pre-K graduates with a drive-by graduation this summer, complete with caps, gowns, and tassels. Each rising Kindergartener came by our campus to receive a special bag of graduation goodies, a farewell from their teachers, and many warm wishes as they began the school year. In years past, we have had a big ceremony for our Pre-K graduates, and we didn't want the class of 2032 to miss out on the fun!

The Collins Family celebrated **Faith** as she received her Pre-K diploma outside our main center (below).



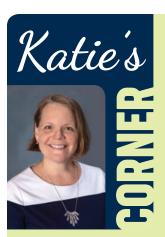
We're so proud of **Kaleb** and the rest of his classmates as they begin their first year of elementary school.

The Holland-Holiday Family poses for a picture with their Pre-K graduate **Dereon**.



(above inset) Our Pre-K teachers were so happy to see all their sweet students graduating and preparing for the school year. Pictured here is teacher **Naquita Lester** congratulating one of her students.

Egypt is ready for Kindergarten!





Started by **Cara Hicks**, the organization exists to support and help single moms finish their college education. Cara's vision was to provide a place for moms and their children to live, to create a sense of community among them, and to support them along their journey. In October, her vision became a reality when Scholar Village officially opened. We will be providing childcare at Scholar Village for these moms, some alums, and maybe even some MOMentum staff members, and we are thrilled to be able to help and support their mission.

We have a few more exciting partnerships in the works, but I can't spill the beans just yet! Once they are finalized, we will make the announcements. Watch our social media and our spring newsletter for the BIG news!

'm excited to tell you about some new partnerships that we have in the works.

Chambliss Center already supports and/or manages childcare centers and classrooms throughout the community, but we are working on a few more to add to our network of partners.

One new project is with another amazing nonprofit organization called **MOMentum Network**.



Unum Back to School **BASH**

The start of school wouldn't be complete without our friends from **Unum!** Unum hosts an annual Back to School Bash to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a brandnew school year. Volunteers from Unum also donated and assembled the required school supplies for 100 children in our program to help them get the year started. While the 2020 Back to School Bash looked a little different, we are still so thankful for our wonderful friends at Unum for their continued support of our agency and the children we serve.



One hundred plastic tote bags were filled to the brim with school supplies for our kids, thanks to the continuous support of our friends at **Unum**.



The miniature mule from Noah's Little Ark petting zoo was





There was no better way to end a day of fun than with a refreshing treat from Kona Ice!



Unum volunteers Rachel Hargis and Jeana Lee helped our rising Kindergarteners get ready for school by preparing bags of school essentials!

Our school-age children enjoyed inflatable water slides in the afternoon.



Shiloh was all smiles as he met a duck at the Back to School Bash petting zoo.

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 July 1 – October 15, 2020. Thank you!

Cicely Abernathy Amy Autry Helene Azar Lisa Bohme Alisia Brown Greyson Brown Irene Chapman Lisi Chavarri

Circle of Friends Silverdale Cumberland Presbyterian Church Jennifer Davis and Family Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dickinson

David Eisenstadt Elder's Ace Hardware Rachel Hargis Treasure Garside

Beegie Garvich Girl Scout Troop 40424 Tayana Green

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Unum
Unwanted Motorcycle Club

Urban Story Ventures
Asia Waldrop
Bethany Waters
Clare Webb

New Staff

We are happy to welcome Brittani Stephenson to our Residential Services team as a Transitional Living Specialist. Brittani received her Bachelor's of Social Work degree from Auburn University and her Master's of Social Work from Southern Adventist University. She has been

working in the social work field for almost eight years. Her passion is empowering the younger generation and building community with those around her.

Brittani will be working alongside **Jon Berestecky** who was recently promoted to Director of Transitional Living. We're excited to see what this team can do for young adults aging out of foster care in our community.



Volunteers Needed!

Over the years, we've been fortunate to have thousands of volunteers support us through their hard work. As we establish a "new normal", we've adjusted the volunteer opportunities offered, and we need your help! If you would like to volunteer for one of our many safe, socially-distanced projects, please visit our volunteer page by scanning the QR code to your smart phone's camera

or visiting our website.
Together, we can make
a difference!





One of our school-age teachers, **Ms. Nita**, was nervous to get her shot. Thanks to our skilled flu shot administrator, she didn't feel a thing!



Leah is setting a great example for her daughter **Camille** by getting her flu shot early.

We were so happy to see parents like **Tiffany** at our main center coming by to get their flu shot free-of-charge.



Flu Shot Clinic

Thanks to a grant from **The UNFoundation**, we were able to set up a free flu shot clinic for families, children, and staff. Fighting the flu is so important to staying healthy this fall and winter. Throughout the day, families and staff could sign up for a short time slot or drop by and receive their flu shot free-of-charge. This simple and painless flu shot clinic is just another way we're keeping everyone safe at Chambliss Center for Children.

As you may recall, an anonymous donor purchased a brand new six-unit apartment building for us this past summer to help grow our transitional living program. This program is designed to assist youth "aging out" of the foster care system. We provide housing, support, and training in basic life skills to young adults aged 18 to 21. We worked with another local nonprofit, **Homes & Havens**, to provide trauma-informed design and furnishings for the units. The completion of that project brought our capacity in the program up to 19. The donor was so happy with the building, and so drawn to the work we are doing with young adults, that they are now purchasing another six-unit complex for us! We look forward to expanding yet again to help these teens navigate their transition into adulthood.

We also recently began renovations on our main campus to expand our Early Childhood Education Program. The space previously occupied by our maintenance shop will be transformed into beautiful new classrooms, allowing us to serve around 70 more children. Completion is expected by June 2021. The maintenance shop has moved to a location on Brainerd Road and will continue to serve our main campus, six off-site childcare centers, two thrift stores, and many Transitional Living dwellings.

Here We GROW Again!



Holiday Wish List

Early Childhood Education Program

Baby doll clothes

Baby wipes (non-scented)

Band Aids: all sizes

Batteries: all sizes

Bean bag chairs

Blank CD's

Didlik CD 3

Board games

Bottles of glue

Bouncy balls

Bouncy seats for infants

Cardboard blocks

Cardstock: various colors

CD players for classrooms

Child-friendly pillows for cozy areas

Clear contact paper

Clear plastic storage bins (small)

Clorox wipes

Command hooks

Construction paper

Construction Trucks (3 years and under)

Cotton balls

Craft supplies (pipe cleaners, googly eyes, pompoms, craft sticks, feathers, beads)

Crayola fingerpaint

Disinfectant spray

Disposable masks (adult & child)

Drawing paper

Dress up clothes (especially for little boys)

Duct tape: multiple colors

Extra changes of clothing & shoes

for ages 6 weeks to 12 years old

Fabric markers & paint

Finger paint

Foam board

Gift cards: Amazon, Walmart or Target

(to purchase items for our education

programs)

Glitter: all colors

Glue sticks

Hand sanitizer

Kleenex (non-lotion)

Laminator (small size)

Latex gloves

Leap Frog maracas

(Spanish/English – if possible)

Lincoln Logs

Liquid hand soap

Little People playsets

Little Tykes Playsets

Lysol wipes

Magazines (for collages)

Markers

Masking tape

Model Magic

Multi-color sharpie markers

Multicultural books and dolls

Musical instruments

Outdoor balls (soccer, kickball, basketball)

Pacifiers

Plastic farm & zoo animals

(3 years and under)

Plastic sheet protectors

Play dishes and play food

r lay distres and play 100

Play Dough

Play telephones

Posterboard

Potting soil

Puzzles: Large knob-type

Reusable water bottles

Riding toys (ages 2-4 years)

Rubber stamps

Scotch tape

Scrapbook paper, stickers, and books

See N' Say toys

Snap and Lock beads

Stamp pads

Tempura paint- all colors

Tie-dye kits

Tissue paper

Touch and feel books

Toy Housekeeping items (toy iron,

telephone, ironing board, etc.)

Tree blocks

Tri-Fold projects boards: various sizes

Watercolor kits

White t-shirts (youth sizes small-large)

Wide ribbons: any color

wide fibbolis, ally col

Ziploc bags: all sizes

Residential Program

Weighted blankets (weights between 5-9 lbs)

Sensory toys

Pots & pans sets

Silverware

Lysol wipes

Swiffer wet pads

Multi-purpose cleaner

Gift cards to any food establishment

Gift cards for Uber, Walmart, Amazon,

and Target

Gas gift cards

Many of these items can be purchased through our AmazonSmile Charity Wish Lists, which can be found at www.ChamblissCenter.org. Or, you may drop your donations off at our main campus during normal business hours, 315 Gillespie Road, Chattanooga, TN 37411.

It's Time to Do Some Holiday Shopping!

Sign up for AmazonSmile so that a percentage of every purchase comes directly back to us! Simply start at **www.smile.amazon.com**, search for "Chambliss Center for Children" to connect your account with us, and shop from that same site every time.

Help us stock our classrooms by purchasing muchneeded items for our **Early Childhood Education** classrooms from our AmazonSmile Charity List. You can scan this QR code or find the link on our website.





Make Christmas a special time for the children and youth in our **Foster Care** and **Transitional Living** programs by purchasing items on their AmazonSmile Charity List. To view the Transitional Living Wish List, scan the code to the left. To view the Foster Care Wish List, scan the code to the right.



amazonsmile

Chambliss Center for Children



t was a warm and beautiful day for our 24th
Annual Chambliss Center for Children Golf
Tournament at Council Fire Golf Club, sponsored
by Hamico. Golfers and volunteers had a great
time, and we raised more than \$53,000. We also
introduced our first Ladies' 9-Hole round this year.
We are so grateful to all who sponsored, played,
and donated, as well as our wonderful committee
members Barry Bogo, Greg Cullum, Mark
Degler, Greg McGuire, Scott Parrish, Dan
Pratt, Dale Tuder, and Everett Warren for
helping put this event together.



Team members **Wyatt Hogue**, **Rob Gentry**, **Willy Hamilton**, and **Clint Wolford** (left to right) enjoyed the beautiful weather before they took their turns at the putting contest.



Pictured here from left to right are **Marcus Lyons**, **Brandon Born**, committee member **Barry Bogo**, and **Mitch Brock**. Marcus won our Longest Drive Contest, and Brandon took home the award for Closest to the Hole.



fun day of golf.

Committee members **Greg McGuire** and **Everett Warren** (left) were happy to get a team together with

Deak Harting and Chuck Jackson (right) for a nice,

The team from **Urban Story Ventures** posed for a socially-distanced picture on the putting green. Pictured here from left to right are team members **Shaan Desai, Mikey Feher, Jimmy White,** and **Andrew Holt**.



We're so thankful for the support of **First Horizon Bank** again as this year's Lunch Sponsor. The First Horizon Team included committee member **Greg Cullum**, **Stewart Smith**, **Taylor Lewis**, and **Matt Mathis** (from left to right).



Ann Geraci (back left), Melissa Hennessy (back right), Sarah Robbins (front left), and Sarah Haren (front right) drove off to their first hole for our ladies 9-hold round.

Moving out to the soccer field on campus was a great way to keep the TVA Halloween tradition alive while taking health and safety precautions.

Trick-or-freating with TVA!

rick-or-treating with **TVA** is one of our favorite events of the

rick-or-treating with **TVA** is one of our favorite events of the year, and our children always look forward to it. We couldn't go to their offices this year, so they came to us! More than 50 children dressed up in adorable Halloween costumes, were greeted with guests from TVA and given candy as they paraded through the grounds of our main campus. We want to thank TVA

for continuing this fun tradition, now in its 24th year. We always have a great time, and we know our friends at TVA do as well!



Italia, Ayden, and Kasidi (left to right) are pictured here showing off their princess and superhero costumes.



TVA Employee **Madison Headrick** was the first stop on the soccer field!





In addition to candy, the trick-or-treaters were given TVA superhero-themed coloring books thanks to TVA employee **Missy Hedgecoth** (right).

SAVE THE DATE!



Join us for the Mardi Gras Masked Parade sponsored by The Mark Hite Team on Saturday, February 6, 2020!

This year, our annual gala is transforming into an outdoor parade at First Horizon Pavilion, complete with music, food, drinks, a silent auction, and more. So, plan to join the fun and laissez le bon temps rouler! Contact Lesley Berryhill at 423-468-1130 or Irberryhill@chamblisscenter.org to purchase a table or for more information.

Driven By Generosity

If you have a vehicle in good working condition that you would like to see put to good use, we hope you'll consider donating it to us. We have young adults in our Transitional Living Program and parents utilizing our Extended Childcare Program who are in need of reliable transportation to help them get to school and work. Please contact Racie Hoffman at 423-468-1139 or rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org for more information.





Store Hours (both): Monday - Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM Sundays - 1 PM to 6 PM





Follow us on Facebook!

@The Thrift Store – Brainerd Road and

@The Thrift Store – Red Bank

Shop for a cause!

This year has been tough, and it's time for a fresh start! Our thrift stores on Brainerd Road and Dayton Boulevard are the perfect places to get everything you need to finish your holiday shopping list and start the new year. Remember, when you shop at one of our thrift stores, your purchase supports families and children in our community.

Two convenient locations to donate or shop!

THE THRIFT STORE - BRAINERD

3723 Brainerd Road • 423-698-3730

THE THRIFT STORE – RED BANK

1936 Dayton Boulevard • 423-498-2101

Please call the Red Bank store to schedule a pick-up for large item donations.



Financial Donations This list of financial contributions is from July 1 - October 15, 2020. 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 spring 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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1872 SOCIETY

Patricia Maynor

rince our founding in 1872, Chambliss Center for Children has been blessed with the Opportunity to shape the lives of many generations of Chattanoogans. As we look ahead, we invite you to help us impact the future of our community and join the 1872 Society. By including Chambliss Center for Children in your estate plans, you will help ensure that Chattanooga will always be known as a place that cares about its most vulnerable citizens. Below, 1872 Society members Judy and Mike St. Charles share why they chose to include Chambliss Center for Children in their estate plans.

"We believe in the mission of Chambliss Center for Children. Our support of the 1872 Society helps to assure the organization will have a solid foundation that will allow it to continue improving the lives of countless children and families for generations. " - Judy and Mike St. Charles

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James K. White, Sr.

Cheryl Robinson



CEO, **Phil Acord**, was happy to pass out sweet treats to a classroom in honor of his birthday month.



n August, we welcomed 13 new member to Mr. Phil's Friends as we kicked off Mr. Phil's birthday month with a special challenge. We encouraged friends of the agency to start a monthly donation in honor of Mr. Phil. We were happy to see so many people willing to step up and support children and families in our community with their gift. At the end of the month, we celebrated by giving out sweet treats to every child at our main center! One class even got a special visitor, as Mr. Phil himself passed out cupcakes to each child in our night dismissal classroom. We want to say "thank you" to everyone who joined Mr. Phil's Friends with their monthly donation.

Mr. Phil's Friends

Named in honor of our CEO of 49 years, Mr. Phil's Friends is a group of special donors who link arms with us by giving to Chambliss Center for Children on a monthly basis.

By joining, your monthly gift provides reliable, consistent funding to help us continue serving more than 750 children a day. Members enjoy insider updates from Mr. Phil himself, are listed in our newsletters, and receive a special gift – a pair of limited-edition Mr. Phil socks!

Anonymous x 4 **Emily & Brian Barrow** Jon Berestecky Lesley & Shane Berryhill Cam & Brandon Born Tracy & Ben Bradley Jeff Brewer Dr. & Mrs. Tommy Brown Dr. & Mrs. Roger Brown Katherine & Rig Burger Kristy & Richard Carruba

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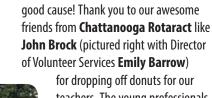
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Visit chamblisscenter.org/mrphilsfriends to join today!

AROUND THE CENTER

In October, we held our internal United Way campaign lunch. Our staff is honored to support our agency and other local nonprofits through **The United Way of Greater Chattanooga.** Staff members came by the administration building on campus, made their donations, grabbed some lunch from **Jersey Mike's**, and received a brand-new

agency t-shirt and face mask from us to say thanks! Pictured here is Director of Human Resources, Elena Quintiana passing out lunch from Jersey Mike's Subs.



Calories don't count when they're for a

for dropping off donuts for our teachers. The young professionals in Rotaract participated in the Purple Pinkie fundraiser to end childhood Polio worldwide and donated the donuts they purchased to our agency.



President, **Katie Harbison**, shows off her new Chambliss Center for Children shirt at the t-shirt and face mask table.

Congratulations to **The McIvor Family** on their

adoption of siblings Charles, Nevaeh, and Brianna! This happy

group of 11 has been a foster family with Chambliss Center for Children for several years, and we love to see them grow.



This year's **United Way of Greater Chattanooga** Day of Caring grew into a full week of caring. Our friends at **First Horizon Bank** put together 14 birthday boxes for children in foster care as part of their



Week of Caring project.
Birthdays can be hard
on foster children, and
thanks to First Horizon
Bank, they will get a
special treat on their
special day!

In honor of National
Estate Planning
Awareness Month in
October, our Development
Officer, Racie Hoffman, sat
down with Board Member
and Estate Planning
Attorney with Chambliss



Law Greg Willett to talk all about wills on Facebook Live. Greg gave some great tips and insight into the estate planning process.

As the cool air blows in and the leaves fall, there's nothing better than a friendly game of football! The children at our agency love getting together to play sports and build teamworking skills. We're so proud of these young men for encouraging healthy competition and sportsmanship in all they do.



Thank you to everyone who voted for us to win *Chattanooga Times Free Press'*Best of the Best Nonprofit for this year.
We were honored to be a top-three finalist in the 2020 competition. Our thrift stores were also nominated this year for Best Thrift Store.



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!













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www.chamblisscenter.org 423-698-2456



Delivering Holiday Cheer

Send some cheer to your family and friends with a holiday card designed by one of

the children in our Early Childhood
Education Program. This year, we have
three designs to choose from, "Merry
Christmas", "Let It Snow", and "Happy
Holidays." If you would like us to mail
these special greetings for you, simply
send in a donation, along with a list of
names and addresses, and we'll handaddress and post them. The wording inside
the card can reflect that your donation
was given in lieu of a gift or in honor of
the recipient.





Merry Christmas!