



# CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

VOLUME 28, NO. 3

WINTER 2016

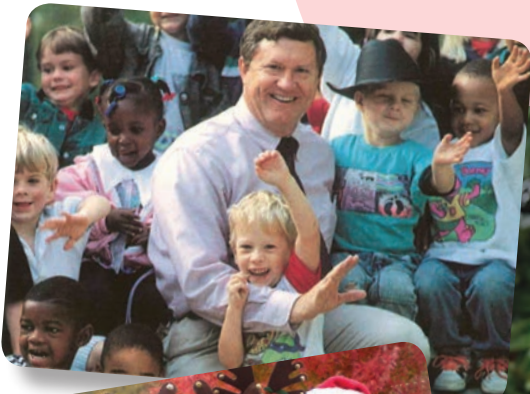
## Mr. Phil Celebrates 45 Years

In the Fall of 1971, a young man named Phil Acord came to the campus of the Children's Home to interview for the position of Assistant Director. He had spent several years working as a probation officer through the juvenile court system, but was looking for a career that would allow him to make a difference in the lives of young children, to help prevent them from becoming part of the "system". He immediately knew on his first day, November 11th, that this was the place for him.

Fast forward 45 years, and Mr. Phil is continuing to lead this agency in its mission to prevent the dependency, neglect, abuse and delinquency of children by responding to the community's childcare needs. His leadership, experience, advocacy, and passion for the work he does, is an inspiration to his staff and our community at large. He has dedicated his life to his work and this agency, and his innovative spirit has made it what it is today, an institution revered for its success in Early Childhood Education and Childcare; as well as Residential Care.

And, even after four and a half decades, Phil continues to keep the agency moving forward. However, with all the great things we have accomplished, and current projects in the works, we still have more to do! The waiting list for our Early Childhood Education and Extended Childcare Program is nearing 550. That is an incredible number of children and families in our community in need of quality, accessible, affordable childcare. We continue to struggle with generating the funds we need to provide these services. When you provide quality services to low-income children, at a fee their families can afford, there is quite a gap between those fees and the costs. We also need more foster homes to care for the hundreds of children in this community who have been removed from their homes because of abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect. That means we continue to need your help!

Thank you in advance for whatever you are able to do to help the Chambliss Center for Children continue to care for the children in our community. May you have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed Holiday Season and New Year!



TVA NUCLEAR - OUR PARTNER IN EDUCATION



# Unum's BACK-TO-SCHOOL *Bash*

The end of summer break is not something most kids look forward to, however, having a big party to celebrate the return to the classroom makes the transition a whole lot more fun! Thanks to our friends at **Unum**, the children in our program get to close out summer with a special event called the Back-to-School Bash. This year's Bash included inflatable slides, games, snow cones, face painting, burgers, hot dogs, and more. Unum staff also stuffed more than 100 backpacks full of the required school supplies, which were given to some of the children in our program to help them get started with the new school year. As an added bonus for the agency, Unum also used this day as a Day of Caring, with employees tackling several projects on our to-do list including painting, cleaning and organizing several areas on our campus. It was a busy, fun-filled day, and we appreciate Unum's continued support of our agency and concern for our children.

**Mike Chalverus, Chris Ogle, Phillip Quist and Paul Brinkmann** helped prepare lunch for the children and volunteers.



**Makayla, Lydia, Samara and Quentin** let their creative juices flow.

Unum employees **Babette Raines and Taylor Kinser** helped coordinate the day's craft activities.



**Mario** shows off his temporary tattoo and painted face.



Volunteers stuffed more than 100 backpacks full of school supplies.



**Ava and Rakayla** posed for a picture before taking their turn on the inflatables.

## Thrift Store UPDATE



We're so happy to have our new sign at The Thrift Store on Brainerd Road. Our thanks goes out to **TVA** and **INVIEWgraphics**.

We recently celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Thrift Store on Brainerd Road. Since its opening, The Thrift Store has served as a great source of revenue for our programs. It has also served as a convenient, cost-effective shopping destination. As we are in the midst of the holiday season, please keep this location in mind for your holiday shopping, and for donations as you make room for your new treasures.

A second location at 1936 Dayton Boulevard will open in January 2017! Visit our website and follow us on social media for more information.

### Did You Know?

We have a sensory room in our Residential Program that is used by the children when they need a safe, therapeutic, calming atmosphere. This helps them deal with trauma, relax, prevent outbursts, deal with crises, and become more self-aware.



# A Search for PERMANENCY

In Hamilton and the surrounding counties, there are more than 800 children in state custody at any given time. These children have been removed from their homes because of abuse, abandonment, neglect, or they have come through the juvenile court system. Chambliss Center for Children contracts with the state to find loving, stable foster homes for these youth. Finding a permanent home for these children is the ultimate goal, whether with their biological parents - if the parents can complete the steps needed to regain custody of their children - or with other family members. However, approximately 20% of these youth end up becoming available for adoption. These children are in need of permanent, lifelong connections.

We are currently trying to find an adoptive home for a sibling group of three who are now in the care of one of our foster homes. Stephanie, Dewayne and Rebecca, ages 14, 12 and 9 respectively, have come from a very traumatic situation, so our goal is to find an adoptive family that can support their educational growth and provide the individual attention each child needs.



Stephanie



Dewayne



Rebecca

It will be important for the family to have a good support system and flexibility, as Rebecca has medical needs and is on a journey to becoming healthy again. If you are willing to provide a loving, stable, supportive forever family for these children, please contact Kauri Tallant at 423-693-2580 or [krtallant@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:krtallant@chamblisscenter.org).



# Parent Open House & Chili Supper

A parent's involvement in their child's education is crucial. Their support and reinforcement of the lessons taught by our teachers is essential in providing a solid foundation for learning. One way we like to keep our parents involved is by holding an open house early in the school year. This provides parents an opportunity to see their child's classroom and visit with teachers. This year's open house was held in October and included a chili supper prepared by our kitchen staff. It was a great night, and we appreciate the parents who attended and the staff who helped.



Dayna enjoyed dinner while her son Aaron napped.

We couldn't help but snap a picture of adorable Emiya and her dad Edwin.



We were happy to have staff from Stellar Therapy on site to talk with our families about their services.



## Holiday Wish List



### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Artificial flowers (for art projects)  
 Multicultural Baby Dolls & Clothes  
 Baby wipes (non-scented)  
 Band Aids: all sizes  
 Batteries: all sizes  
 Bean bag chairs  
 Blank CD's  
 Board books  
 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)  
 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  
 Crib-size plastic sheet protectors

Disinfectant spray  
 Drawing paper  
 Dress up clothes (for little boys)  
 Duct tape: multiple colors  
 Duplo blocks  
 Extra changes of clothing & shoes for ages 6 weeks to 12 years old  
 Fabric Markers & Paint  
 Finger paint  
 Foam board  
 Gift cards: Walmart or Target (to purchase items for our education programs)  
 Glitter: all colors  
 Glue sticks  
 Hand sanitizer  
 Housekeeping items (toy iron, ironing board, etc.)  
 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  
 Magazines (for collages)

Masking tape  
 Model Magic  
 Multi-color sharpie markers  
 Multicultural Books  
 Markers  
 Musical Instruments  
 Outdoor balls (soccer, kickball, basketball)  
 Pacifiers: all age groups  
 Plastic farm & zoo animals (3 years and under)  
 Play dishes and play food  
 Play Dough  
 Play Telephones  
 Posterboard: white or other colors  
 Potting soil  
 Puzzles: Large knob-type  
 Reusable water bottles  
 Riding toys (ages 2-4 years)  
 Scotch tape  
 Scrapbook paper, stickers, and books  
 See N' Say Toys  
 Snap and Lock Beads  
 Tempra paint- all colors  
 Tie-Dye kits  
 Tissue paper  
 Touch and Feel books  
 Tri-Fold Projects Boards: various sizes

Watercolor paints  
 White solo cups  
 White t-shirts (youth sizes small-large)  
 Wide ribbons: any color  
 Wooden rulers  
 Ziploc bags: all sizes

### GROUP HOME

Twin size sheet sets  
 New pots and pans set  
 Cookie sheets  
 Luggage or large duffel bags  
 Mesh backpacks  
 Flip flops/shower shoes (various sizes)  
 Ipod Nanos (8) & iTunes Gift Card  
 Flag Football set  
 Xbox 360 system  
 Cornhole set  
 Stereo (boom box type)  
 Headphones (noise cancelling type)  
 Gift cards for activities (Sir Gooneys, Jump Park, Pinstrikes, High Point, Movie Theater, Aquarium)  
 Gift cards for stores (Walmart, Target, Petsmart, Amazon)  
 Gift cards for food (fast food or local restaurants)



**SAVE THE DATE!** Mark your calendar to attend the **fifth annual Mardi Gras Gala** at Bessie Smith Hall on **Saturday, February 24, 2017**, at 7 PM! This event continues to outgrow locations, so make plans now to join the fun. Watch our Facebook page and our website for information on how you can purchase tickets and/or sponsor this event. Or, contact Katie Harbison now at 423-468-1122 or [kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org) for more information.



Pictured here with our cute kids, from left to right, are **Nate McInnes**, **Greg Rivera** and **Russell Voigt**.

## 20 YEARS OF GOLF WITH TVA

For 20 years, the dedicated employees of **TVA Nuclear** have organized a very successful tournament for our benefit. The two-day event took place in September at **Council Fire Golf Club** and **Windstone Golf Club**. The tremendous support of sponsors was topped only by the dedication and hours volunteered by TVA employees, especially **Linda Tonya** and **Barbara Suarez**. This tournament makes a tremendous difference in our ability to care for this community's most at-risk children, and we can't thank this fantastic group enough!

This tournament could not happen without this great group. Pictured here are: (front row, left to right) **Linda Tonya** with **Emiliano**, **Chris Willingham** and **Barbara Suarez** with **Taylor**.

On the back row are **Jeannine May**, **Shawn Affolder**, **Jennifer Affolder**, **Michele Floyd**, **Angela Smith**, **Linda Moore**, **Yahya Sadre-Orafai**, **Ginger Holland**, **Gloria Miller** (agency staff), **Carolyn Creek**, **Lesley Berryhill** (agency staff), **Katie Harbison** (agency staff), **Sumer Arispe** (agency staff) and **Angela Peacock**.



Although Sustaining Board member **Frank Alford** (center) is retired from TVA, he comes back every year to play in this tournament benefiting our agency. He is pictured here with **Andrew Murr** (left) and **Randy Ferguson** (right).



**Sean Wells** (left) and **Brandon Dambach** (right) were all smiles with Taylor and Emiliano before hitting the course.



A special thanks goes out to **Linda Tonya** and **Mike Balduzzi** for making this tournament happen each year.



# Ready for Kindergarten

One of the best days of the year is Pre-K Graduation Day. Our teachers spend months making sure our preschoolers are Kindergarten-ready, and this special day provides them an opportunity to show off their knowledge. Dressed in red caps and gowns, our graduates marched slowly in to their ceremony and sang their numbers, letters, colors, months and more. They were each then given a diploma to mark the occasion and their accomplishments. We were happy to have so many family members and friends, including Mayor **Andy Berke** and City Councilman **Yusef Hakeem**, join us for this very special day. We are proud to know these children leave our Pre-K program ready for success in elementary school.



The little graduates waited patiently to show off all they have learned in preparation for Kindergarten.

**Presley, Adalyn, McKenzie, Lucas, and Victoria** were excited to march in to the ceremony.



Graduate **Sophia** was happy to have her parents **Kristin** and **Jonathan** here for this special day.



Mom **Holly** and sister **Correy** couldn't be prouder of **Aubrey** and all that she accomplished in Pre-K.



President and CEO **Phil Acord** addressed the friends and family who came out for the big day.

Chattanooga Mayor **Andy Berke** (center) and City Councilman **Yusuf Hakeem** (right) stopped for a picture with some of our school-aged kids before they headed in to the graduation ceremony.



**Brooklyn** gets lots of love from her mom **Jameekah** and brothers **Charles** and **Michael**.



Volunteers **Laura McDade, Ben Wildman** and **Gary Mazo** paused for only a moment to take a picture.



We caught volunteers **Breanna Bethel** and **Serlena Martin** on their way to their next project.

Board member and TVA employee **Dan Pratt** (right) is pictured here with fellow employee **Jamie Bach**.



(left to right) TVA employees **Laura Dutton, Jay Stowe** and **Robert Newell** completed several tasks at our thrift store.



## TVA/CFC Day of Caring

With over 90,000 square feet and 17 acres making up our main campus, we depend a great deal on volunteers helping us with projects throughout the year. Thank goodness for the annual **TVA/CFC Day of Caring**! It was a beautiful day for the 150 highly-skilled volunteers to complete nearly all 75 tasks on the agency's wish list. Volunteers tackled interior projects such as cleaning, painting, replacing ceiling tiles and organizing closets. Exterior projects included cleaning and carpeting steps, mulching, pressure washing, construction projects and clearing trees. We greatly appreciate our friends at TVA for helping us in so many ways throughout the year!



# A Spooktacular Day

For the 20<sup>th</sup> year in a row, more than 30 trick-or-treaters from Chambliss Center for Children visited **TVA** on Halloween. Pre-K children, ages four and five, dressed in their adorable Halloween costumes, circled through one floor of the TVA Chattanooga office complex where employees gave out candy. Following the trick-or-treating, the children were provided a pizza party before heading back to the center. As an extra treat this year, a separate group of TVA employees came to our campus in the afternoon to give out candy to the younger children who did not go on the field trip. Each classroom paraded down the sidewalk to collect goodies from several costumed guests. We appreciate all that our TVA friends do in order to make sure our young ones are having fun. The day was definitely full of treats!

Toddler friends **Maxwell** and **Taliyah** held hands while collecting treats from TVA employees



Our Runabouts were ready to fill their buckets full of treats!



Dad **Edward** came by to trick-or-treat with his boys **Kelan**, dressed as Luigi, and **Kauri**, dressed as Super Mario.



**Aniya** and **Jasmine** anxiously awaited the trick-or-treating fun at TVA.



TVA employees **Ginger Brasher** and **Gwen Barnes** showed off their creativity with the cat lady costumes.



**Timothy**, dressed as celebrity Steve Harvey, was a crowd favorite.



Mom **Laneisha** made these adorable costumes for herself and her daughter **Dekyla**.



**Azalia** stopped to show TVA employees **Melissa Diamond** and **Karen Gandy** her beautiful princess costume.



Our little superheroes **Braxton**, **Michael** and **Khristopher** happily accepted treats from our TVA friends.

**Financial Donations** This list of financial contributions is from July 1 through September 30, 2016. 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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Julie & Patrick Stowe  
Jean Tipton (bequest)  
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**Wanda Wright**  
Marianne Justin  
Carla Lewis  
Kathy & Bob Todd



**Economists estimate that for every \$1 invested in quality early childhood education, you will see a \$17 return over the life of the child.**



# Tioga Golf Tournament



For the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row **Tioga** hosted a very successful golf outing to benefit our agency. The event, held at **Windstone Golf Club**, grossed more than \$25,000 this year, which will go to support our programs. We are grateful to our friends at Tioga, especially **Don Gregory, Don Carver,** and the **Keiser family**, who keep this event and their support of our organization going each year.

Pictured here, from left to right, are **Steve Bujnowski, Mike Donovan, and Steve Sorokanych.**



We are so grateful to Tioga for organizing this tremendous fundraiser for us every year. Pictured from left to right are **Katie Harbison** (agency staff), **Harrison Keiser** (Tioga), **Andy Keiser** (Tioga), **Don Gregory** (Tioga), **David Keiser** (Tioga) and **Phil Acord** (agency staff).



First place winners were, from left to right, **Ken Rowley, Keith Killough, Don Burns** and **Dick Clayden** (not pictured).



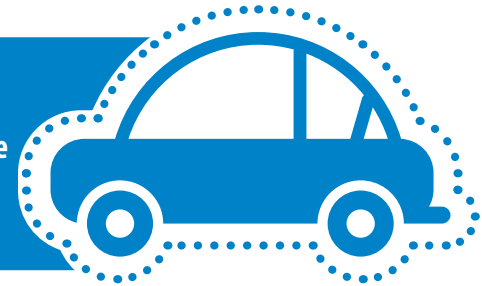
**Frank Gutierrez, Larry McClure, Bob Catanzariti** and **Jeff Shaw** were ready for a great day of golf.



**Jeff Ruser, Dan Kirkland, Dave Hucekba** and **Ted Farnen** had a great round.

## Don't Park It, Donate It!

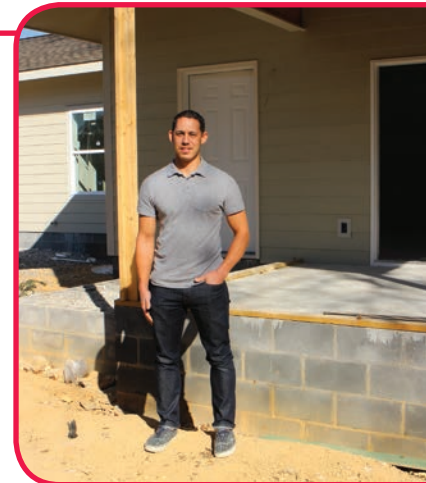
Many of our families struggle with access to reliable transportation. If you have a vehicle in working condition that you would like to see put to good use by a family in need, please contact Katie Harbison at 423-468-1122 or [kcharbison@chambliscenter.org](mailto:kcharbison@chambliscenter.org).



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to the generous donors in our Capital Campaign, we have been able to initiate several projects identified in our strategic plan. We are currently in the process of building transitional housing across the street from our main campus to provide a place for youth aging out of state custody to live. We have also purchased a duplex close by for other young adults in this program. We purchased and are renovating a property in Red Bank that will house both a second thrift store, and a separate Early Childhood Education program, providing service in an area that has great need. We are continuing to open more ECE classrooms in Hamilton County Schools to serve the children of teachers, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to better serve low-income families in our community.

Jon Berestecky, pictured here on the construction site of our new duplexes, was recently hired as our Transitional Living Specialist and will oversee the young adults in our Transitional Living Program.





# Volunteers, Donations & Happenings!

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 – September 30, 2016. Thank You!

Pattie Anderson and family  
 Ashley Atkins  
 Bed Bath & Beyond – Good 360  
 Jane Bissonette  
 Briarlake Baptist Church  
 Ted and Donna Broyles  
 Kathryn Casteel  
 Carter's  
 Jack Chambers  
 Irene Chapman  
 Chattanooga Christian School  
 Chattanooga Golf Club, PGA, Chattanooga Chapter  
 Church of the Good Shepherd  
 Rick Davis  
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 Shawn and Resa Wildermuth  
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 Yacoubian Tailors  
 Jill Yarbrough  
 YM360  
 Young Ladies Destined For Greatness  
 Youth Leadership Chattanooga



Pictured here, from left to right, are **Jonathan Frost**, 20-year sponsor **Zan Guerry**, golf tournament committee Chair **Barry Bogo** and **Clint Wolford**.

## 20th Annual Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament was moved to October this year, and we were lucky to have perfect weather for this 20th annual event! Golfers and volunteers had a great time at Council Fire Golf Club, and over \$46,000 was netted for our programs. **Barry Bogo** once again chaired the event with the help of his committee members **John Coffelt, Mark Degler, Greg McGuire, Scott Parrish, Dan Pratt, Everett Warren, Leigh Ann Yates** and **Chris Young**. Thank you to all who sponsored, played and donated!



Pictured from left to right are the 1st place winners in the **PlayCore Flight**, **Fred Weichmann, Roger Posacki, Jeff Geismar** and **Matt Mitchell**.



1st Place winners in the **Johnson Hickey Murchison Flight** were **Brad Davis, Charlie Mason, Neil Brunetz** and **Tim Mannon**.



(left to right) **Brent Wick**, Board member **Russ Blakely, Jeff Zabo** and **Todd Copic** took home 1st place in the **Raymond James Flight**.



Low Gross winners were, from left to right, **Mike Hawkins, Tom Norquist, John Conely** and **Clint Whiteside**.



**Katie Harbison** (agency staff) is pictured here with **Everett Warren** who has played in the tournament all 20 years!



# Around the center



We recently unveiled a bronze plaque honoring the late **Marshall Bright**, former Board member. Her husband, **Fletcher Bright** (center), was joined by children, from left to right, **George Bright, Lizzer Graham, Ann Monk and Lucy Griffin.**



We recently filmed a commercial for our Residential Program. It will be shown prior to all movies through January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Rave Movie Theater, Carmike Cinemas Northgate and Bradley Square Carmike Cinemas. Visit our channel on YouTube to see the 15-second spot. Thank you to **6 Strong Media** for producing this great spot!

More than 70 employees of **True North Custom** came out to do some projects around our campus and have some fun with our kids. The kids were treated to bounce houses, cupcakes and even Yoga!



Board members **Natalie Huffaker, Patsi Walker, Alexis Probasco** and Sustaining Board member **Susan Stein** hosted a wonderful Ladies' Night Out to benefit our agency. More than 40 women gathered to learn more about what we are doing in the community and to offer their support. We were fortunate to receive more than \$4,000 for our programs and to make many new friends!



Chuy's Chattanooga recently presented a donation to the agency. Owner/operator **Christine Bailey** is pictured here with restaurant manager **Michael Martin**. On hand to give a big thank you were some of our Pre-K children.



We are happy to have members of the **Chattanooga Downtown Rotary Club** here in November for Rotary Reads. Pictured here is Rotary member **Don McDowell** reading to some of our Pre-K children.



8<sup>th</sup> grade students from **Silverdale Baptist Academy** have been volunteering throughout the center this fall. Volunteer Reagan is pictured here with preschoolers **Rakiyah** (left) and **Kylin** (right).





CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

(Formerly Children's Home/Chambliss Shelter)  
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CHATTANOOGA, TN 37411

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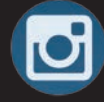
VIRGINIA RUSHTON  
*Director of Volunteer Services*

[www.chamblisscenter.org](http://www.chamblisscenter.org)  
423-698-2456



## Holiday Greetings

This year the children in our Early Childhood Education Program and our Residential Program designed holiday cards that are sure to bring cheer to your family and friends. We have two designs to choose from, "Merry Christmas" and "Let It Snow". Simply send in a donation, along with a list of names and addresses, and we'll hand-address and mail your holiday greetings. The wording inside the card can reflect that your donation was given in lieu of a gift or in honor of the recipient. To make us a part of your holiday, please contact Katie Harbison (423-468-1122 or [kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org)) or Lesley Berryhill (423-468-1130 or [lrberryhill@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:lrberryhill@chamblisscenter.org))



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## Don't forget us when holiday shopping!

1. Sign up for Amazon Smile so that a percentage of every purchase comes directly back to us! Simply start at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), search for "Chambliss Center for Children" to connect your account with us, and shop from that same site every time.



2. Help us stock our classrooms by purchasing much-needed items from our wish list for our **early childhood education** classrooms. You can either scan this QR code or find the link on our website – [www.chamblisscenter.org](http://www.chamblisscenter.org).



3. Make Christmas a special time for the children and youth living in our **group home** by purchasing items off their Amazon wish list. Again, you can either scan this QR code or find the link on our website.

