



CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

VOLUME 35, NO. 2

SUMMER 2023

Summertime Fun!

Chambliss Center for Children does a lot of things well, and Summer Camp is one of them! Our campus was filled with children ranging from ages five to twelve years old this summer. They spent time enjoying outreach days with the Tennessee Aquarium and Chattanooga Zoo, learning to play tennis, fishing at Fowler Farm, making luminous arts and crafts, learning about flowers, pollination, and seeds at Crabtree Farms, and much more. Some of the children are in our care before and after school throughout the year, and some come only for the summer. They are all deserving of an exceptional summer experience, and we are honored to provide it to so many young people. Summer Camp '23 would not have been possible without our community's support. We'd like to thank our *Play All Day* sponsor **Service Electric** and our *Soak up the Sun* sponsor **CBL Properties**, and all those who donated in support of this program. We greatly appreciate your continued generosity!



TVA NUCLEAR – OUR PARTNER IN EDUCATION



Peyton gears up for some fun with the toys provided by Tennessee American Water.

Zaiden takes a much-needed break before getting back to some fun in the sun.



Zariyah is all smiles after being asked how she felt about what's to come for Summer Camp 2023!



Pool Party!

What a great way to kick off Summer Camp 2023! Tennessee American Water helped kick off summertime by hosting a successful pool party for the school-age children participating in the summer program and by filling up our 35,000-gallon pool at no cost to us. This highly-anticipated event did not disappoint as the volunteers brought dozens of towels and squirt toys. Did we mention the delicious cupcakes that they provided? Our children had some much-needed fun in the sun, and we are grateful for the generosity of Tennessee American Water.



Ja'Leann is happy lounging on a pool noodle.



Kennidi shows off the squirt bottle provided by Tennessee American Water.



The children enjoy pool accessories provided by Tennessee American Water, including squirt toys and beach towels.



Darrien and his friends enjoy games with the pool balls provided by Tennessee American Water.

Bunny Hop!

2023



The 22nd annual Bunny Hop! took place on Friday, May 5, at the **First Horizon Pavilion**. This evening of family fun included a large variety of food and snacks, a silent auction for adults, and an abundance of activities for the children to enjoy. Some of the activities for this year's Bunny Hop! event included a petting station, a sports zone, corn hole, face painting, kids karaoke, and more! In addition to the activities, all of the children in attendance received a Peter Rabbit coloring book to take home with them.

Heidi and Adam Caputo served as this year's Chairmen. With the help of their exceptional committee, the Caputos helped to organize a wonderful event. We greatly appreciate our Presenting Bunny **Schillhahn-Huskey Foundation**, our Local Bunnies **The Mark Hite Team** and **Warren & Griffin**, our Grand Bunnies **Chattanooga Times Free Press** and **Seed Biotech**, all of our sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who made this year's Bunny Hop! successful. Together, we raised nearly \$66,000 to help us continue serving children and families in this community.



Bunny Hop! 2023 Chairmen **Heidi and Adam Caputo** with their children.

Thanks to all the donors who helped make this year's McGregor's Garden Silent Auction the best yet!



It's LEGO TIME for **James** (left) and **Ezra** (right). These Bunny Hop! attendees are all smiles as they decide how tall to build their Lego tower.



Turner holds a special furry friend at Bunny Hop! 2023.



Will gets his face painted by **Shell Hunt** at Bunny Hop! 2023, before he continues to enjoy the festivities.



A beautifully decorated entrance welcomed Bunny Hop! guests.

(Left to Right) **CaliAnna** and **Isabel** show off their custom balloon animals.



Guy and **Millie Dement** enjoying some hula-hoops in the Quiet Zone at Bunny Hop!

Volunteers & In-Kind Donations

We want to thank all of you for your help in making Chambliss Center for Children the best place for the children in our community. This list acknowledges those who donated time, talents, and services from March 1, 2023 – June 15, 2023. Thank you!



BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee sponsored a wonderful in-house field trip in June with **Love on a Leash** and their sweet certified pet therapy dogs, Obi and Winter. They also worked with the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** to design a coloring book to help children better understand emotions.



Chatt Elite rising 9th grade basketball team joined us to show our summer campers some fun drills on their way to a tournament in Tampa.



Volunteers from **Elliott Davis** came to Chambliss Center for Children in May for their Elliott Davis Cares Service Day. They helped us plant flowers and spread mulch alongside the entrance of the Administrative Building.

Crosspoint Community Church from Hattiesburg, MS visited us for three days in June while they attended Generate Serve camp. They helped with weeding, mulching, and moving projects around campus.



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Our school-age children and their chaperones couldn't have been happier to touch down at Lake Winnepesaukah.

Fun at Lake Winnie

Each year, the amazing people at Lake Winnepesaukah invite the children in our Summer Camp program to enjoy a day at their exceptional amusement park. Joined by members of our staff and some parents, the kids had a blast enjoying the rides and swimming at the SoakYa water park. We would like to thank Sustaining Board Member and former Board Chairman **Tennyson Dickinson**, her sister **Talley Green**, and the entire Lake Winnie family for allowing us to continue this tradition.

"This is my absolute favorite ride at Lake Winnie, and I couldn't be happier to share this day with the kids!" says Executive Director of Extended Early Childhood Education **Sumer Arispe**.



STAFF UPDATES

We want to welcome some new faces to the Chambliss Center for Children family, and congratulate them on their new journey. We are excited to see these dedicated staff flourish in their new roles. **Jasmine Render Padgal** (top right) joined us in April as our Communications Coordinator. **John Hunter** (middle right) joined us in May as the Isaiah 117 House Program Coordinator at Chambliss Center for Children. **Libby Gillies** (bottom right) joined us in May as the Office Manager.



Ready for Kindergarten



Our Pre-K Graduation is one of the most cherished times at Chambliss Center for Children, not just to the children, but also to the adults that work every day to ensure that they are ready to continue on to Kindergarten. We were joined by Chambliss Center for Children Board Chairman **Mark Hite**, **Jaleesa Brumfield** from the City of Chattanooga, and **Jennifer Pukenas** from the Hamilton County Mayor's Office, who all gave encouraging remarks to the graduates and their families. Family members, friends, staff, and classmates celebrated the accomplishments of 66 children. Our graduates marched in wearing their caps and gowns, and received their certificate to mark the day and their accomplishments.



The graduates wait to receive their diplomas from their teachers.



Mom **Sligh Storm** and sister **Madison** celebrate **Makayla**.



Auriyanna holding her diploma after the ceremony



(Left to Right) **Cornarius, Jahiem, Ryan, and Zaiden** in the preparation room before the ceremony



Adrian (left) and **Ryan** (right) were excited for the ceremony to start.



Alivia (left) and **Raven** (right) were happy to see their family arrive for the ceremony.

We couldn't be more grateful for our amazing Caregivers! They have been hard at work this summer in getting trained for Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children to open this Fall.



Isaiah 117
AT
CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN



We have been busy preparing for the opening of the Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children. In May, we worked alongside Tennessee Kids Belong's Community Engagement Manager **Emily Graffius** to host the Foster Care Awareness Proclamation Day. This event was a huge success, with a special visit from Special Advisor to the Mayor **David Roddy**, who spoke on the mayor's behalf on the importance of Foster Care in the community.

In early June, some special friends of Isaiah 117 House hosted two open house events and a lemonade stand to bring awareness to our foster care program. **J103** came out to give live, on-air announcements during the events.

READING CENTER OPENING

A volunteer at heart, Linda Cooper had a vision when she started decorating the Chambliss Center for Children Reading Center. She stated, "I envisioned the way my grandchildren gravitated towards children's reading sections in popular bookstores. The time and effort that is put into creating an environment that a young person would want to read was evident in those spaces." Alongside some additional volunteers, Cooper worked hard to create a one-of-a-kind Reading Center for the children - one that they could always feel inspired to visit. The decorations, and the extravagant light up tree in the middle of the center surely makes people take a second look when passing by.



Linda Cooper (above and at right) reads "Knuffle Bunny" to an eccentric Runabouts class.



Once the space was complete, it wasn't long before Cooper started hosting weekly drop-in reading sessions for the children. Additionally, her sister **Susan Blalock**, came in weekly to help children bring some of the stories to life with fun art projects. Cooper will continue to read to school-age, Pre-K and Runabout children throughout the school year.

Tennessee Kids Belong Community Engagement Manager **Emily Graffius** welcomes attendees to the Foster Care Awareness Day celebration at Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children in May 2023.



Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children Program Coordinator **John Hunter** and East Tennessee Regional Coordinator **Renee Curry** visit The Macil Duncan Show to discuss Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children, and the impact that it will have on families and children in the community.



The annual Lemonade Stand Challenge was a hit this summer, with stands placed throughout Hamilton County. Friends, families, Church groups, and more participated in this anticipated weekend, showing their support and dedication to seeing the Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children have a strong start.

Financial Donations

This list of financial contributions is from March 1 – June 15, 2023. 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 holiday 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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T 1872 Society is a group of individuals who have chosen to leave Chambliss Center for Children in their estate plans. Because of this thoughtful gift, we can continue to care for children and families long into the future.

To learn more about joining our planned giving circle, the 1872 Society, visit chamblisscenter.org/planned-giving or contact Emily Barrow at 423.468.1139 or esbarrow@chamblisscenter.org.



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Around the Center



The **Chattanooga Theatre Centre** presented their Theatre for the Very Young production of "Plant, Grow, Pick!" in April at Chambliss Center for Children. The show and its professional actors were very interactive, encouraging children in attendance to be plants in the garden. Thank you to this fun group!

While visiting **Crabtree Farms**, the children learned about pollination by looking at some honeycomb, explored different kinds of seeds and what they grow into, and went on a scavenger hunt to find some beautiful flowers. Thanks, Crabtree Farms!



We celebrated **Teacher Appreciation Week** in style from May 8-12. We showered Tumblers teacher **Adrienne Hall** and many other teachers with an array of love and gratitude with homemade treats, personalized cards, a catered luncheon and much more. Thank you, teachers!



We are so grateful that the Tennessee Valley Authority decided to celebrate their 90th Anniversary Day of Service with us. Multiple groups from **TVA**, including their management team, worked hard throughout our campus by taking care of some electrical maintenance, mulching playgrounds, building furniture, setting up for our Pre-K Graduation, and so much more. As always, thank you for everything that you do, TVA!

Our Pre-K children experimented with STEM Shoebox Kits donated by **Priscilla Placencia** with **Together We Rise**.



Our Summer Camp kiddos had a blast at **Booker T. Washington State Park**. They learned about the park's history from **Ranger Robert Thomas** (pictured, at



right), hiked the trail to learn about the animals in the park with **Seasonal Logan**, and played some fun games including giant Jenga and corn hole. Thank you, Booker T. Washington State Park Rangers!



We were so grateful that we could welcome our longtime supporters to a "Super-Friends" Luncheon on campus in April. This superhero-themed event hosted board members and cherished volunteers in appreciation of their efforts to help Chambliss Center for Children. Attendees enjoyed lunch and took home some custom gifts.

Residential Services staff members at Chambliss Center for Children prepare and deliver baskets to foster families each year during May for **National Foster Care Awareness Month**.



We are so grateful for the **Houston Museum of Decorative Art's** visit to campus in June. Operations Director **Pam Reed** and Education and Outreach Coordinator **Timothy Barnett** gave a wonderful presentation on Anne Safely Houston's life and her most cherished collectibles. The children had the chance to create some custom fans and magnets inspired by her work.

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"Needs of Chambliss Center for Children don't just happen at certain times of the year – they happen every single day. David and I wanted to become one of Mr. Phil's Friends, so that we can help sustain these amazing programs every month. Plus, it's easier to set up a monthly donation – sometimes I get busy and forget to help – so having it already set up makes it so easy for us!" – Gloria Miller and David Bowman



Mr. Phil's Friends is a group of donors who join forces with us by giving Chambliss Center for Children a monthly donation. This group of donors helps provide consistent funding to assist our organization in serving over 900 children per day. Members receive insider updates, are listed in our three annual newsletters, and receive a pair of the limited-edition Mr. Phil socks. Yes, these socks are awesome!

Making a monthly gift as a part of Mr. Phil's Friends is easy, economical, and impactful! Become a member of this dedicated group by visiting Chamblisscenter.org/mrphilfriends. Make your monthly gift today!

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 Caroline Walker
 Debbie & Jay Walling
 Leroy Walls
 Bethany Waters
 Kristin Watts
 Laura Wayne
 Zachary Wilson
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Wiren
 Julie Wood

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 Regina Burson & Marvin Thompson Jr.
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 Rachel & Zach Carroll
 Jeri Coleman
 Kelly Dibrell

Ashley Dowell
 Scottie Duffey
 Khadija Ellis
 Sarah Filep
 Lori Fisher
 Stephanie & Bob Foster
 Jackie Govan
 Angie Green
 Tammy Hirth
 Stacy Hogan
 Tara Huskey
 Melody Irias-Hyde
 Chevante' Johnson
 Ashley Lane
 Marsha Ledford
 Brooklyn Phillips
 Deborah Stanley
 Chelsea Stoker
 Audrey Thefdord
 Total Quality Logistics Matching
 Derrick Walters
 Nicole & Marcus Willis

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 Katie & Wes Thompson
Barry Bogo
 Rosalee Bogo
Jody Clark
 Ann & Ted Hope
Monica Cook
 Sandy Cook
Ann Gauntt
 Marianne Justin
Luca Johnson
 Caitlin McMullan
Adria Murphy
 Marcella Murphy
Fay Robinson
 Cathy Scott Giving Fund
Carol & Jack Stephenson
 Jeannie & David Henry
Maxim Yeoh
 Anne Curtis

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Martha Anderson

Ann W. Beard

N. Lamar Beard

Matt Brant

Gwen & John Garrity

Alan Bullard

Elizabeth Pelton

Brice Burbank

Sonia & Christian Allan

Liston Bishop, III

Johanna Byrnes

Talley & Daniel Carroll

Anne & Lephiew Dennington

Kyle Eiselstein

Joan & Dan Frierson

Ellen Gallant

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Lynn & Paul Jacobs

Dawn & Jay Jumper

Valerie & Ed King

Sandy & Morris Kizer

M. J. Levine

Stefanie Mansueto

Alison Martin

Gloria Miller

Kristina & Tom Montague

Mary Moore

Shauna Lorenzo Rivero

Thomas Robinson

Mitzi & Scott Ruth and Cole,

Audrey, & Nissa

Spears, Moore, Rebman & Williams, PC

Mike Taylor

The Chattanooga Heart Institute
Physicians & Staff

University Surgical Associates,
P.L.L.C.

Taylor Vinson

Kristin Watts

Arthur L. Burns, Jr.

Graham Burns

Louise Currey

Emily Wright

Margaret England

Melissa Campbell

Jane & Jim Ensign

Tim Ensign

Edna Headrick

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Gloria Miller

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Berlene Ribbins Spears

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Jen Maiden

Nori & Scramby Wood

Danna & Robert Bowden

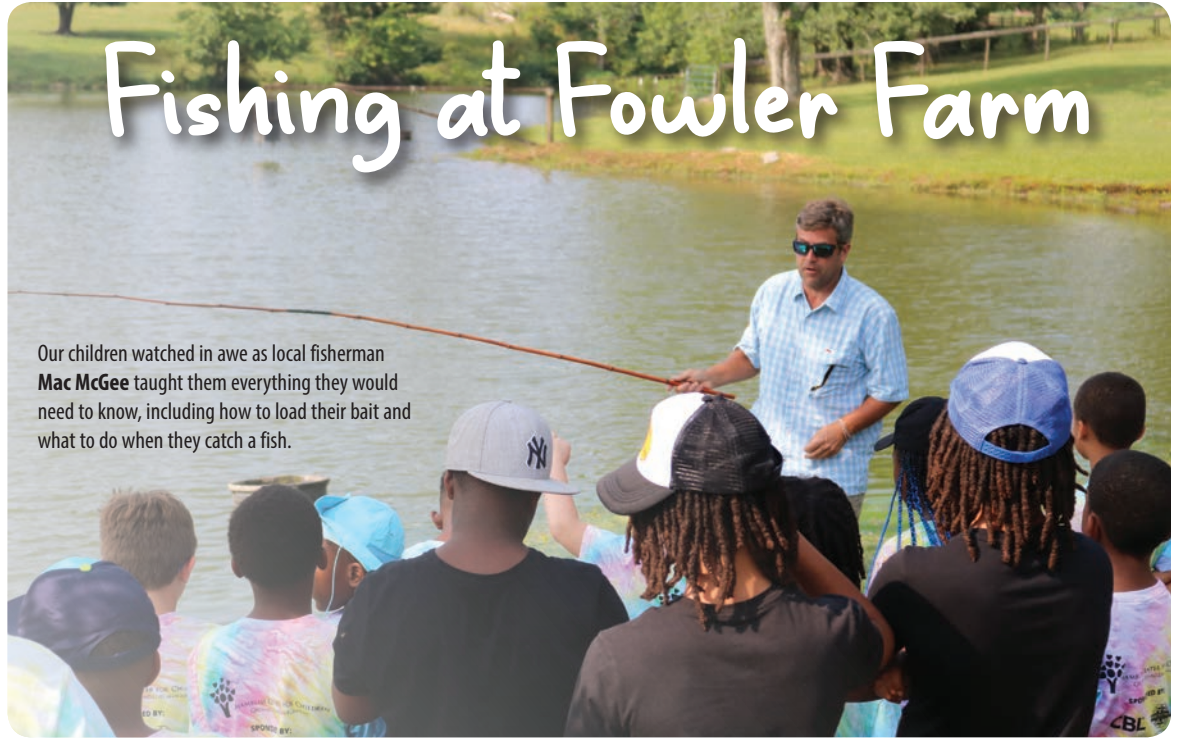
Karen York

Ronetta LaGuardia

Fay & Ward Ziegler

Dayna & Tom Eddy

We were thrilled to continue our annual tradition of our summer campers visiting the Fowler family's farm for a morning of fun and fishing. The day began with a safety and instruction lesson from fisherman **Mac McGee** on Lookout Mountain prior to the children gathering their fishing equipment. We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day, and the children enjoyed every moment of it. We'd love to thank the **Fowler family, Gwin Tugman**, and the other volunteers for hosting such a great day outdoors for our kids.



Our children watched in awe as local fisherman **Mac McGee** taught them everything they would need to know, including how to load their bait and what to do when they catch a fish.

Jarrold watches **Andy Fowler** teach him how to unhook his catch from the rod once it's caught. It's all about catch and release at Fowler Farm!



Kamron couldn't be happier to catch his first fish of the day at Fowler Farm.

Whoa! Look at that! **Zy'Khail** and Board Member **Wes Bonds** pose for the cameras with the largest catch of the day!





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Happy Anniversary to our Thrift Stores!

The Thrift Store – Red Bank just celebrated their sixth anniversary, and The Thrift Store – Brainerd has been a great source of income for our agency for 17 years. We invite you to shop and/or donate at either of our convenient locations.

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We'd like to thank **National Junior Tennis & Learning** for continuing to visit campus multiple days throughout the year to offer support for our children through sports-related activities, including tennis. The teens in the NJTL program continue to form special bonds with our kiddos, and we couldn't be more grateful for the dedication and commitment of these volunteers. **Amy Gibson** and her amazing volunteers not only provided tennis rackets to each of the school-age children, but they also spent time cleaning up the tennis court on campus. The youth in the program continue to form special bonds with our kiddos, and we couldn't be more grateful for the dedication and commitment of Amy and her volunteers. Thank you for everything that you do for Chambliss Center for Children.