



CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

VOLUME 31, NO. 2

SUMMER 2019



Summertime Fun!

Summertime is one of our favorite seasons at Chambliss Center for Children because our campus is filled with fun and laughter during our summer program. Around 100 school-aged children enrolled in our summer program 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. Because of the support we receive from the community, our kids enjoy activities such as dance, art, STEM, swimming, tennis, soccer, field trips, bike rides, and other fun experiences during the summer months. THANK YOU for your generosity!



TVA NUCLEAR – OUR PARTNER IN EDUCATION

Welcome New Staff



Dana Jones



Janelle Martin



Oriental Stallion



Johnetta Mathis

We want to welcome some of our new administrative staff to the Chambliss Center for Children family. Due to growth at our off-site centers, we've placed a director at each site, and we are happy to have three new site directors on board. **Dana Jones**, **Janelle Martin**, and **Oriental Stallion** will oversee the day-to-day operations over Red Bank Early Learning Center, Maurice Kirby Child Care Center, and Pro Re Bona Early Learning Center, respectively. Additionally, we want to congratulate **Johnetta Mathis** on her promotion to Kitchen Supervisor on our main campus. Johnetta has been cooking delicious meals for our children for the past 17 years, and we are excited to have her manage our kitchen and this very important part of our children's day!

Easter at EMJ

EMJ Corporation and its family of companies hosted an Easter egg hunt and party at their headquarters near Hamilton Place Mall for our Pre-K children in April. Once again, they outdid themselves with creativity and tons of surprises for our kids. The children were 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!



Alyssa loved getting to meet the Easter Bunny.



Bella was excited to make an Easter picture frame with her new EMJ friend Megan Cutshaw.



From left to right, **Elizabeth** and **London** were ready to start collecting Easter eggs.



EMJ Staff (from left to right) **Adam Graves**, **Jeff Brewer**, **Tina Brogdon (Easter Bunny)**, **John Kinard**, **Jason Mitchell**, and **Chapman Odom** were excited to greet the kids and start the egg hunt.

Bunny Hop!

2019



The 19th annual Bunny Hop! took place on Friday, May 3rd at the First Tennessee Pavilion. This fun, family event included a silent auction for the adults and a full lineup of exciting activities for children including arts and crafts, a bunny petting station, baby lambs and goats, balloon artists, a magician, inflatables, a photo booth, a sports zone, Chattanooga Aerials, kids' karaoke, and more! Board member **Julie Stowe** and her husband **Patrick**, served as Chairmen for this year's event and, along with their dedicated committee, helped coordinate this special evening. We greatly appreciate our Grand Bunnies, **CHI Memorial** and **Chattanooga Times Free Press**, along with all of the sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who made this such a successful Bunny Hop! We had nearly 650 people in attendance and ended up with more than \$62,500 to help us continue serving children and families in this community!



Jaelyn enjoyed her delicious cotton candy treat.



Pictured here are President/CEO **Phil Acord**, Vice President **Katie Harbison**, and Board Chairman **Paul Fitzgerald**.

Carr excitedly waited to see if he got a hole in one.



This family loved getting to hold the bunnies.



Karaoke is always a huge hit!



Helen had a blast cuddling the bunnies.

Bunny Hop! event Chairmen **Julie & Patrick Stowe** did a wonderful job leading this event.

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 February 16 – June 30, 2019. Thank you!



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SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE



New Transitional Living apartment building under construction.

In an effort to reduce our waiting list and provide more families with quality childcare, one of the initiatives from our most recent capital campaign was to expand our program to serve an additional 100 children. We are excited to be moving forward with the expansion of the Early Childhood Education program on our main campus. It was determined that the best space to renovate into classrooms is our current maintenance and storage area in the basement of our gym building. Therefore, we will be relocating our maintenance shop to another part of campus and then renovating their current space into fun, functional classrooms. We hope to have all renovations complete by Summer 2020.

Another exciting project we are working on is expansion of our Transitional Living program. This program is designed to assist youth "aging out" of the foster care system. We provide housing, counseling, and training in basic life skills. An anonymous donor who has a heart for young adults in this situation recently made a very generous donation to help increase the number we serve in this program. After a short search, we found a six-unit apartment building under construction that will perfectly serve our needs. We have already started accepting applications from youth for these new apartments and hope to begin moving residents in by mid-October.



Chase (left) and Jensen (right) had a blast at the SoakYa water park!



Laila (left) and Olivia (right) chose the elephants as their first ride.

Sparkle McConnell and her children, from left to right, Jada, Joshua, and their friend Jordan were ready for a fun day at the park.



Fun at



We are so grateful for the generosity of the Lake Winnie family for hosting our kids. Pictured here are Sustaining Board Member and former Board Chairman **Tennyson Dickinson** (left) and Director of Special Projects & Events **Lesley Berryhill** (right).



Paris and Lyrik were excited for the ride to start.



Pictured here are **Ericca Novene** and her daughter **Leah**, **Madison**, and her aunt **Precious Miller**.



Teacher **Ja'Quishia Knowles** was happy to spend the day at the park with her daughter **Ja'Iyah**.



Kaitlyn loved riding the carousel!

We Love Our Volunteers!

We couldn't do everything that we do without the help of our faithful friends and volunteers! In honor of National Volunteer Month in April, we hosted our annual Friends Luncheon to thank them for their generosity. Attendees were treated to lunch and a special musical performance by the adorable Pre-K 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 2019 honorees included **Heritage High School** as School Volunteer Group of the Year; **Allan Dunlay**, as College Volunteer of the Year; **Calvary Chapel** as New Volunteer Group of the Year; **TVA Nuclear** as Business Partner of the Year; and **Toni Grant** as Adult Volunteer of the Year. We would like to sincerely thank the hundreds of volunteers who contribute thousands of hours to our agency every year!



This year's Youth Volunteer of the Year, **Allan Dunlay**, was honored for his weekly time spent with the Pre-K classrooms. Pictured here to congratulate him are Pre-K teacher **Tia Hunt**, Director of Volunteer Services **Emily Barrow**, **Allan Dunlay**, Pre-K teacher **Angelia Todd**, and President/CEO **Phil Acord**.

Each volunteer signed a piece of our Chambliss Center for Children puzzle, because they are each an essential piece to our success!



Former Director of Volunteer Services for 35 years **Paulette Acord** is pictured here with the current Director of Volunteer Services, **Emily Barrow**.

Board member **Cindy Wilkerson** catches up with two of her past students **Lillie** (left) and **Ellie** (right) who now volunteer at Chambliss Center for Children.



Students from **Heritage High School** happily accepted an award for their continued support.



Pictured here are Board Chairman **Paul Fitzgerald**, Board member **Teddi Mendel**, and Development Officer **Racie Hoffman**.

Financial Donations This list of financial contributions is from February 16 – June 30, 2019. 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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Since our founding in 1872, Chambliss Center for Children has been blessed with the opportunity to shape the lives of many generations of Chattanoogaans. As we look ahead, we invite you to help us impact the future of our community by joining the 1872 Society. By including us in your estate plans, you will help ensure that Chattanooga will always be known as a place that cares for its most vulnerable citizens. One 1872 Society member shares why she chose to include Chambliss Center for Children in her estate plans: *"Over the years, I have been involved with Chambliss Center for Children on the board and with various projects, and I continue to be amazed. By investing in them, we invest in improving our community and the hope for the future. I made a planned gift because not only do I believe so passionately in what Chambliss does, but also that, as an organization, it is continuing to work to be better—to serve more people and make a greater impact. Not resting on its laurels of past and present accomplishments—it shows an enduring quality and sustainability in its programs for the future."* —Catharine Daniels



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Named after our President/CEO of 47 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 700 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!

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Visit chamblisscenter.org to join today!

Tennessee American Water staff, **Kathryn Robinson**, and summer camper **Mia** enjoyed some sweet treats after the pool.



splish splash!

All the children were excited to get summer started with a splash. Pictured here are, from left to right, **Ti'Jerria, Taylor, and Laila.**



Brileigh showed off one of the cool new beach balls that **Tennessee American Water** provided for the party.

Tennessee American Water once again helped us kick-off the summer season with a pool party for the children participating in our summer program on May 24th. Dozens of our school-aged children participated in this year's event and received a beach ball, popsicles, and cookies. 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!



This little cutie was very happy with her samples.



Lync Logistics volunteers (from left to right) **Justin Badgett, Lauren Hunt, Cindy Lee, Hannah Soloff,** and **Matt Soloff** were a tremendous help during the event.

Last year's reigning champs, **Milk & Honey**, won the "Best Flavor with Mix-ins" award for their Peanut Butter Oreo. Representative **Cheyenne Butler** showed off the new trophy.



The 15th Annual Ice Cream Social at the **Chattanooga Market** was a tremendous success! Five local creameries, including **Baskin-Robbins, Clumpies Ice Cream Co., Milk & Honey, Sweet Cream Ice Cream,** and **The Ice Cream Show**, provided cool treats on a warm June day to attendees who purchased tickets.



Clumpies Ice Cream Co. staff (from left to right), **Diana Coronado, Mary Veal, Bailey Osgood,** and **Dylan McIntosh**, celebrated winning the "Best Flavor with Fruit" award for their Raspberry Sorbet.

After testing 10 different flavors, participants voted for their favorites in two categories, "Best Flavor with Fruit" and "Best Flavor with Mix-ins." As always, the competition was tight, however, coming out on top was Clumpies Ice Cream Co. and Milk & Honey. Clumpies Ice Cream Co. received the honors of "Best Flavor with Fruit" for their Raspberry Sorbet, and Milk & Honey took home the award for "Best Flavor with Mix-ins" for their Peanut Butter Oreo.

The event was a complete sellout! We sold 1,200 tickets, resulting in more than \$6,600 being raised for the agency!! Thank you to all the generous vendors who donated their products and time.



Agency friend **Traci Moore** enjoyed spending the day sampling ice cream with her daughter **Brileigh.**



This family made sure to vote for their favorites.



Pre-K teacher **Kisha Fifer** handed a diploma to graduate **Kha'reena**.



Elizabeth and **Zayden** are pictured here from left to right with Grandmother **Alminia Wheeler**, Moms **Venedra Green** and **Shaniqua Wheeler**, and Great-grandmother **Alma Wheeler**.



Mayor **Andy Berke** congratulated **Elizabeth, Aiden, Canin, Layla, and Isabella** before they walked into the graduation ceremony.



Buddies **Zayden** and **Maxwell** were excited to graduate.

Ready for Kindergarten

One of the most exciting days of the year at our agency is Pre-K Graduation. Our teachers work every day to make sure our preschoolers are Kindergarten-ready, and this special event gives them a chance to show off all they have learned. Family members and friends, including City of Chattanooga **Mayor Andy Berke**, joined us to celebrate the day. Dressed in blue caps and gowns, our graduates marched in to the ceremony and stated their letters, numbers, colors, months, and more. Each child also received a diploma to mark the day and their accomplishments. We are honored to play a part in the future success of our students!



Keller Williams RED Day

More than 100 **Keller Williams** agents and staff showed up on our main campus bright and early on May 9th for their annual RED Day, a day set aside by Keller Williams offices nationwide for employees to spend time giving back to the community. We are so grateful to this group, who has chosen to help our agency for the past eight years. This year they tackled interior projects such as cleaning, painting, and organizing. Exterior projects included pressure washing, painting, mulching playgrounds, trimming hedges, and more. This is always a tremendous help in getting us ready for summer. Thank you to our wonderful Keller Williams friends for your continued support!

We want to send a huge thank you to this wonderful group for their generosity and hard work!



Beth White spent the morning pressure washing around our buildings and sidewalks.



Mark Hite (left) and **Jason Pryor Carr** (right) scrubbed down the walls in our main hallway.

Friends and fellow agents with **Keller Williams Realty East Brainerd** (from left to right) **Nancy Ellis, Jay Craig, Lyndsey Bowman, Vivian Powell**, and **Jessica Nowakowski** always have a fun time volunteering together.



We always have lots of landscaping to do! From left to right, **Lauren Fussell, Krystal Wilds**, and **Bethany Scott** spent the morning trimming hedges.

AROUND THE CENTER

Every year we have several community partners visit the children in our summer program. Some of our guests this year included **Tobe Taylor**, owner of **T2 Fitness**, **Humane Educational Society** volunteer **Kathy Mindel** and her therapy dog **Maggie**, the **Chattanooga Fire Department**, **Chattanooga Zoo**, and the **Tennessee Aquarium**. Thank you for visiting and teaching our kids more about what you do!



This summer, **Publix** visited our main campus to host Publix Fun Day for our summer campers. The day included lots of treats, outdoor games, face painting, and of course, a visit from **Plato**

the **Publixaurus!** Plato is pictured here with summer campers in our Group 1 Classroom.

Every Spring we celebrate our wonderful teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. We treated our teachers to surprises throughout the week and finished the week with a catered lunch. And, although the celebration is held to a week, we appreciate all they do throughout the year! Pictured here, from left to right, are Associate Director of Extended Early Childhood Program **Sumer Arispe**, **Chandra Crook**, Executive Director of Extended Early Childhood Program **Kim Borrego**, and **Lavasia Campbell** on a team leader appreciation trip to Rock City.



Our friends at Unum are making a big impact on our children's lives as part of the Classroom Sponsorship Program. In addition to their financial contribution to sponsor two classrooms, they are volunteering with our children in those classes. **Miles Huff** and **Rachel Hargis** are pictured here alongside the children in their sponsored Tumblers classroom. If you would like to learn more about becoming a classroom sponsor, please call Racie Hoffman at 423-468-1139.



In April, our President/CEO **Phil Acord** took his advocacy and leadership international at the 2019 World Forum on Early Care and Education. After applying for a passport and a 28-hour-flight, Mr. Phil spent a week in Macao, China representing Chambliss Center for Children. We sincerely appreciate his leadership and willingness to advocate for our children on both a national and international level. Pictured here, from left to right, are **Guillaume Valle**, **Vivian Wang**, President/CEO **Phil Acord**, **Maree Stewart**, **Christine Legg**, and **Lily Chen**.

Our summer wouldn't be complete without the pool for our summer campers to swim in! Luckily for us, we have wonderful partners like **McGriff Insurance**,



who help us get the pool ready for the summer. Pictured here, from right to left, are **Kim Daugherty**, **Priscilla McLaughlin**, **Julie Brandao**, **Tonya Hathorne**, and **Stephanie Ransom** after a morning spent painting our pool. This project was part of McGriff Insurance's Lighthouse Project, and we are so excited to be their chosen agency for the project this year.



We are always happy to have members of the **Rotaract Club of Chattanooga** come by to spend time with our children. This year, we were their chosen non-profit partner, and we are so grateful for their constant support, generosity, and volunteer time with our children! Our little ones always look forward to their visit each month. Pictured here is Rotaract President-

Elect **Amy Donahue** coloring with two of our school-aged children, **Makayla** (back) and **Serenity** (front).

Each year the **Chattanooga Tennis Foundation** pays for a tennis coach to teach the game to the children in our summer program. The coach works with our kids on basic skills, rules and sportsmanship. Coach **Carl Phillips** is pictured here with **Jada** (left) and **Levi** (right).





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www.chamblisscenter.org
423-698-2456



23rd Annual Chambliss Center for Children



THE THRIFT STORE
CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

We just celebrated milestones for each of our thrift stores! The Thrift Store – Red Bank just celebrated their second anniversary, and The Thrift Store – Brainerd has been a great source of income for our agency for 13 years!

We invite you to shop and/or donate at either of our convenient locations. If you have larger items to donate, like furniture, please call us for a pick-up.

The Thrift Store – Brainerd

3723 Brainerd Road
423-698-3730 (Mon, Wed, or Fri pickup)

The Thrift Store – Red Bank

1936 Dayton Boulevard
423-498-2101 (Tue or Thurs pickup)

In addition to our in-store products, we list some of our higher-end and unique items on eBay. If you have an item you think would do well in an online auction, please contact **Cheryl Hooks** at our Brainerd store (423-698-3730) or **Amanda Claiborne** at our Red Bank store (423-498-2101). Your support is greatly appreciated!



Tuesday, September 17, 2019
Council Fire Golf Club

For more information, contact Lesley Berryhill at lrberryhill@chamblisscenter.org or 423-468-1130.