



CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

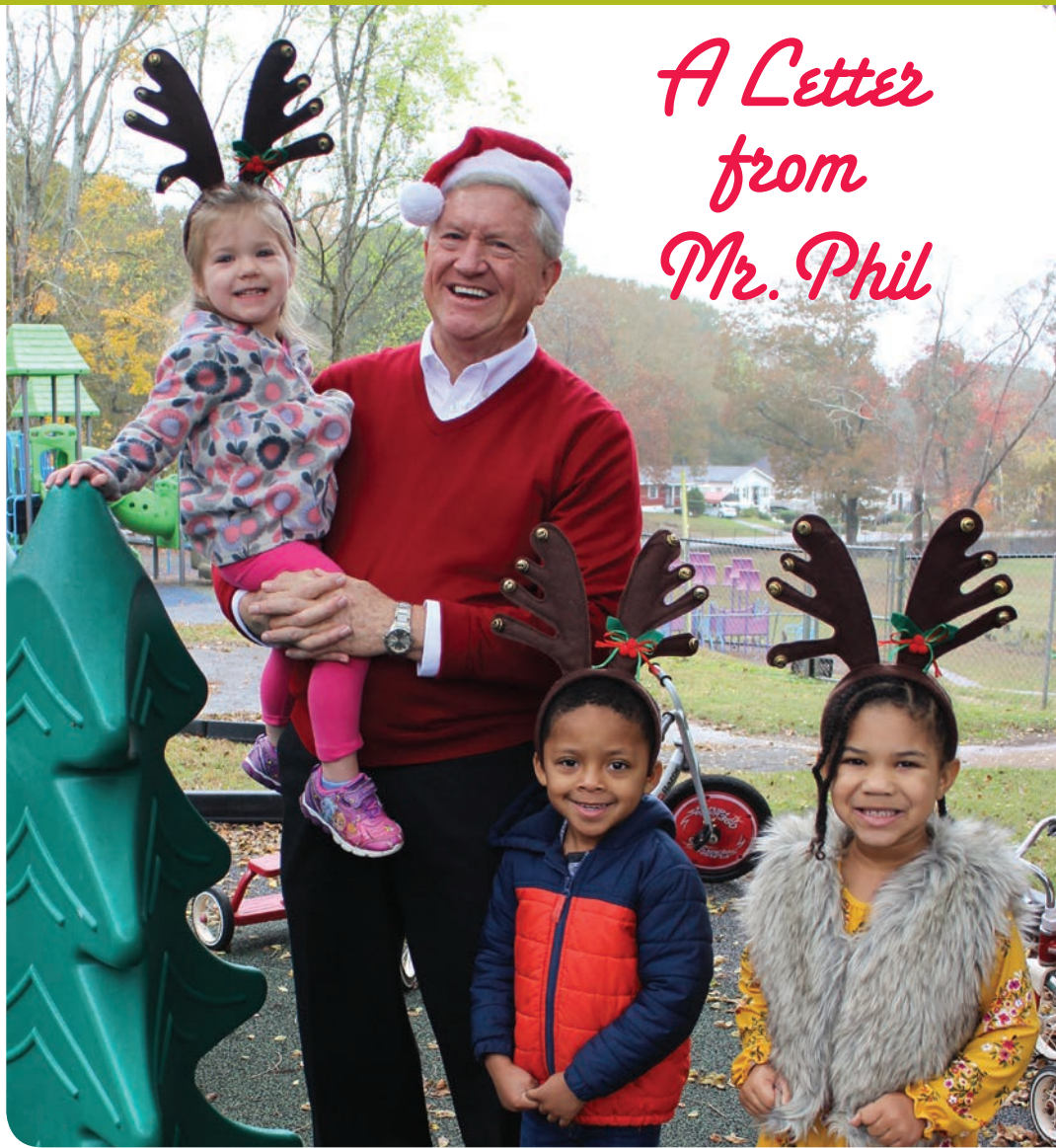
GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

VOLUME 30, NO. 3 WINTER 2018

What another exciting year 2018 has been here at the Chambliss Center for Children! I truly believe that God blesses this agency because of its mission and faithful service we have provided to the children and families of our community for 146 years! Having an outstanding year doesn't happen automatically. It takes a lot of effort on the part of many people, such as a dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors, a skilled and equally dedicated staff, loyal and committed community partners, and the **investment** in our programs by our friends and supporters. No one of these groups can effectively provide quality services to our clients and move the program forward; it takes us all working together.

As I look at the four groups of people that work to make the Chambliss Center for Children successful, the key word that applies to all of them is **"invest."** The Board members **invest** their time, the staff **invest** their talents, our community partners **invest** trust, and our friends and supporters **invest** their resources!

When you support the Chambliss Center for Children you are **investing** in the lives of 700 to 800 children/youth and their families! Each day our staff are working with children and youth from 6 weeks to 21 years of age – caring for them, nurturing them, educating them – which prepares them to be successful in school and in life. At the same time your **investment** helps over 500 families go to work knowing their child(ren) are safe and in a quality early education environment! Because of our extended hours and affordable scholarship fees, many of our families are able to continue their education to improve themselves and hopefully gain better jobs with better wages and benefits. In our residential program your **investment** helps us provide those children/youth stability in a foster home, the opportunity to be adopted, or return to their parents or a relative when appropriate. Your **investment** offers our transitional living youth the opportunity to continue their education, work a part-time job and acquire life skills needed to help them become successful, contributing members of our community.



A Letter from Mr. Phil

When you **invest** in the Chambliss Center for Children, the return on your **investment** is children/youth better prepared to succeed in life, which contributes to the over-all quality of life for our community! Please consider investing in the Chambliss Center for Children's programs today!

May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!



22 Years of Golf with TVA



David Weaver was happy to meet some of the children in our program. He is pictured here with **Maxwell** (left) and **Truly** (right).

For the 22nd year, **TVA Nuclear** has organized a successful tournament for our benefit. The two-day event took place in October at **Windstone Golf Club** and **Council Fire Golf Club**. TVA employees, led by **Jennifer Affolder**, spent countless hours organizing the event and encouraging the support of our wonderful sponsors. This tournament makes a tremendous difference in our ability to continue caring for this community's most at-risk children and youth.



This tournament could not happen without this great group. Pictured here are: (back row, left to right) **Lucia Harvey, William Washington, Shawn Affolder, Jennifer Affolder, Ginger Holland, Linda Tonya, and Michelle Floyd**. On the front row, from left to right, are **Kim Jones, Stephanie Winn, Linda Moore, Chris Willingham, Jeanine May, and Elaine Steele**.

President & CEO **Phil Acord** expressed his gratitude to retiring TVA Chief Nuclear Officer **Mike Balduzzi** for his years of support.



Pictured here with our kids **Truly** and **Maxwell** are, from left to right, TVA executives **Steve Douglas, Todd Noe, Kevin Walsh, Greg Boerschig, Walt Trombley, David Czufin, and Brian Wood**.



John Garrity, Ryan Jones, and Kent Forrester were happy to take home 1st place in the tournament.



W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION GRANT UPDATE

The Parent Resource Advocates hired through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant have been very busy this year. They have assisted over 700 families this year with resources. They held nine Parent Resource Days, which allowed parents to sign up for many free services in the community. They partnered with the Hunter Museum of American Art and hosted two Chambliss Center for Children Days at the Hunter. Over 300 families attended these free days at the museum this year. They have also found numerous ways to communicate important information to families, including creating a private Facebook page for parents and sending eblasts about community events and job openings.

Recently, our Parent Resource Advocates helped a family to gain reliable transportation, which is a necessity when you have six children and two jobs!

Coordinating rides back and forth to pick up the children from child care and paying astronomical fees for cab fare really taxed this family and caused major financial setbacks. Missing appointments, being late for work, and paying others for transportation, led to overspending and being unfairly labeled as irresponsible. This is a devastating truth for many families living paycheck to paycheck. The bills pile up, and the collection calls begin. With one-on-one confidential meetings with a parent advocate, this family has received a list of resources, including the **SMART Steps** program to help pay for and lower their childcare fees, set up goals, and created a family budget. Families in our program who need information about resources and community events may contact Beth Irwin, Samantha Crisp and Mary Edwards by calling 423-698-2456.

Alice Probasco Lupton Building Dedication

In honor of her years of dedication to and support of our agency, we dedicated the main building on our campus in memory of Alice Probasco Lupton. A ceremony, which included Mrs. Lupton's daughter Alice Smith and our current board members, was held in October.

Alice Lupton served on our Board of Directors from 1959 until 1976, holding the position of Board President from 1966 to 1967. She also served on the Board and was a long-time supporter of Children's Academy for Education & Learning, one of the off-campus sites managed by our agency. Her love of children and her desire to invest in their future were evident in her generous contributions to this community. With her final bequest to Chambliss Center for Children, we have created the Alice P. Lupton Sustainability Fund, a 100-year fund that will help support the sustainability of our agency. For more information on this fund, and how you can invest in the future of our agency, please contact Racie Hoffman at 423-468-1139 or rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org.



President/CEO **Phil Acord** is pictured here with Alice Lupton's daughter **Alice Smith**.

Unum Back to School Bash

Every year **Unum** hosts a big Back to School Bash to celebrate the end of summer camp and the beginning of a brand new school year. The day includes inflatable slides, games, popcorn, face painting, pizza, and snow cones. Volunteers also stuffed more than 125 backpacks full of required school supplies, which were given to some of the children in our program to help get the school year started. It's a busy, fun day, and we appreciate our friends at Unum for their continued support of our agency and the children we serve.



Volunteer **Kristina Nelson** spent the day painting beautiful designs on the faces of children like **Ja'Liyah**.

The inflatables were **Scooter's** favorite part of the event.

Amanda Whittington, Andy Massey, and Rachel Wittmer helped monitor the bounce house.



We were so happy to have so many great volunteers from Unum. Pictured here, from left to right, are **Elaine Malone, Taniqua Grier, Miles Huff, Kelsey Swann, and Erika Cleaver**.



Alyssa cooled off with a snow cone.



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 31, 2018. Thank you!



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Courtney Altfillisch
Laneisha Anthony
Kallista Arbuckle
Courtney and Bryan Arrington
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Amy Kyriakidis
Cassandra Lame
Heather & Trevor Lanier
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Marcy Ledford
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Zoe Solomon

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TVA
TVA - Transmission Operations &
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Unum
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Karen Walker
Vicki Whitmire
Whole Foods
Jayla Williams
Briena Windrow
Wine Down Ooltewah
Elizabeth Witty
Megan Witty
Talene Yacoubian

TVA Day of Serving

TVA recently held their 23rd Annual Day of Serving with our agency! With a campus consisting of 17 acres and more than 90,000 square feet of building space, as well as multiple off-site locations, we depend on volunteers to help us with projects throughout the year. It was a cool, rainy day, for the 75 highly-skilled volunteers, who completed more than 50 tasks on our wish list. Volunteers tackled interior projects such as cleaning, painting, replacing bathroom fixtures, and organizing closets. Exterior projects included trimming trees, pressure washing, and landscaping. They get a year's worth of projects done in one day, and we are truly thankful!

TVA brought out a bucket truck to take care of some overgrown trees at our new Transitional Living duplexes.



TVA volunteer **Erin Landstrom** put a bright coat of paint on some of our cubbies.



Shyanne Collins (left) and **Nina Turney** (right) tested their painting skills.

Even our elevator got a good cleaning, thanks to **Taylor Cardin**.





Sustaining Board member and golf tournament committee member **Barry Bogo** (second from left) is pictured here with his team, which includes **Marcus Lyons** (far left), **Chuck Fisher** (second from right), and **George Lewallen** (right).



We had several great volunteers at this year's tournament, including, from left to right, Board members **Patsi Walker** and **Alexis Probasco**, **Michelle Ruest**, and Board member **Natalie Huffaker**.

Board members **Brenda Benford** (left) and **Diana Miller** (right) helped serve lunch to all our players.



22ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

We were very happy to have great weather for our 22nd Annual Chambliss Center for Children Golf Tournament at **Council Fire** in October. Golfers and volunteers had a great time, and we raised over \$52,000. We are so grateful to our committee members **Barry Bogo**, **Mark Degler**, **Jonathan Frost**, **Greg McGuire**, **Scott Parrish**, **Dan Pratt**, **Everett Warren**, and **Justin White** for helping put this event together. And, thanks to all who sponsored, played, and donated!

Our golfers loved the dinner provided by **Chuy's Chattanooga**. Pictured at left are Chuy's staff members **Corbin Castor**, **Victoria Vallierre**, and **Mike Tuffs**.

Pictured here are, from left to right, **Clint Wolford**, golf committee member **Justin White**, **Rob Gentry**, and **Wyatt Hogue**.

PlayCore always supports our tournament. Pictured here are, from left to right, **Justin Killingsworth**, **Shawn Ryan**, **Bob Farnsworth**, and **John Conely**.



Welcome New Staff

Alissa Miller joined the Chambliss Center for Children team as Communications Coordinator. She has a passion for non-profit work and will be working diligently to spread the word about the work we do throughout the community. **Antole Thelwell** and **Zykeia Lee** recently came on board as Case Managers in our Residential Program. Antole will be working with children in our foster homes and group home, while

Zykeia will work with foster families, as well as the young adults in our Transitional Living Program. We are happy to welcome them all to our team!



Alissa Miller



Antole Thelwell



Zykeia Lee



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 red and gold 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!

Chattanooga City Mayor **Andy Berke** congratulated all of our graduates.



Ki'Mya, Parker, Mia, and Jakarri (pictured forward to fun in Kindergarten).



Marc Feinberg, Rob Tidy, Cassi Lelco, and Jay Judowski were ready for a great day of golf!



First place went to, left to right, **Ron Mudd, Tim Hensley, Billy McGinty and Scott Parrott.**



Joe Romanelli, Todd Regnitz, Patrick Smith, and Hal Slackway always have a fun time at this tournament.

19TH ANNUAL TIOGA Golf TOURNAMENT



We are beyond grateful to **Tioga** for organizing this event every year. Pictured here, from left to right, **Harrison Keiser (Tioga), Andy Keiser (Tioga), David Keiser (Tioga), Don Gregory (Tioga), Katie Harbison (agency staff), and Phil Acord (agency staff), and Greg Stevens (Tioga).**

For the 19th year in a row, **Tioga** hosted a very successful golf tournament benefiting our agency. The event, held at **Windstone Golf Club**, raised approximately \$25,000, which will go to support our programs. Thank you to our friends at Tioga, especially **Don Gregory, Don Carver**, and the entire **Keiser family**, for their continued support.



Second place winners were, from left to right, **Marty Venzin, Richard Clack, Keith Killough, and George Duckworth.**



from left to right) are looking



Our little graduate **Liam** is pictured here with his parents, **Kristin** and **Jonathan Brennen**, and his sister **Sophia**, who also graduated from our program a few years ago.



Kyndall, is pictured here with her mom **Cassandra Hayes** (left) and Godmother **Erica Walker** (right).



Pictured here are Board members **Teddi Mendel** (left) and **Cindy Wilkerson** (right).



Egypt, pictured here with her mom **Darian Fluellen**, came dressed in her favorite costume.



Teacher **Alecia Miree** looked on as **Maxwell** picked his apple from her station.



James Pullom enjoyed dinner with his daughter **Uilani**.



Destiny tried her luck at tossing a ring on the pumpkins.

Fall Festival

Every year, we host an Open House in an effort to keep our parents involved in their child's Education. This year, we decided to evolve the event into a Fall Festival, and it was a huge hit! The evening, which included games, face painting, door prizes, and a delicious chili supper, provided loads of fun for children and parents. Parents also had an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher, fill out parent surveys, and learn about resources available to them. It was a wonderful event, and we look forward to hosting it again next year.



Board member **Tonia Cox** (left), along with staff members **Shwanna Heard** (center) and **Mary Edwards** (right), conducted parent surveys, discussed resources, and gave out door prizes to attendees.



Nursery teacher **Keelah Jackson** is also a talented face painter. She is pictured here with **Ti'Jerria**.



Miriam James (right) met with her child's teacher **Cindy Payne** (left).



Board members **Patsi Walker** (left) and **Carolyn Brock** (right) served dinner to all our families.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are excited to let you know that we have completed 11 units for transitional living, exceeding our goal of eight! Each year, there are approximately 70 youth in the Tennessee Valley area who, at age 18, “age out” of the foster care system. Our program helps these young adults by providing housing and support. All participants must be enrolled in an educational program and working part-time. Our goal is to get them ready to be contributing adults to our community.

Our Red Bank early learning center is doing well, and we are working towards opening another center for 120 children located in the Eastgate area, by the beginning of school 2019. We continue to try to identify the best area on our main campus for on-site expansion, while weighing concerns such as playgrounds, capacity of the kitchen to serve another 100+ children, parking, etc. It’s certainly more complex than we imagined when we started this campaign a few years ago! But, we are committed to working through these challenges in order to serve more children and youth in our community, as promised.

Because of your tremendous support, we have made great progress and will be able to complete our goals. Our sincere thanks to each of you who contributed, whether financially or in-kind, to our ability to move forward with our Capital Campaign initiatives in serving more children and youth.



Zayden happily accepted treats from TVA employee **Mary Loftin**.

London, Emmanuel, Maxwell, and Camryn could hardly contain their excitement!



Our Pre-K children enjoyed the pizza party **TVA Nuclear** hosted for us.

President & CEO **Phil Acord** gave a special treat to **Christopher**.

The Runabouts had a great time trick-or-treating on campus. Pictured here with teachers **Chandra Crook** (left) and **Stephanie Mosier** (right) are, back row, **Naomi, Kaide, Egypt, Morgan, Emoree, Kelan, and DeJuan**. On the front row, from left to right, are **Jayceon, Mason, Jaiden, Dereon, and Karter**.



No Tricks, Just Treats!

Every year, our children look forward to trick-or-treating at **TVA**. For the 22nd year in a row, more than 30 Pre-K children, ages four and five, decked out in adorable Halloween costumes, circled through one floor of the TVA Chattanooga office complex where employees, many who were also dressed in costumes, gave out candy. Following the trick-or-treating, **TVA Nuclear** hosted a pizza party for the children. That afternoon, a separate group of TVA employees came to our campus to give out treats to the little ones who did not go on the field trip. We always have a great time, and we know our friends at TVA do as well!



TVA employee **Vanessa Thomason** is pictured here with our little fire fighter **Tru**.



Financial Donations This list of financial contributions is from July 1 - October 31, 2018. 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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Holiday Wish List



Early Childhood Education Program

Baby dolls & clothes
 Baby wipes (non-scented)
 Band Aids: all sizes
 Batteries: all sizes
 Bean bag chairs
 Blank CD's
 Board books
 Board games
 Bouncy seats for infants
 Cardstock: various colors
 CD players for classrooms
 Child-friendly pillows for cozy areas
 Clear contact paper
 Clear plastic storage bins (small)
 Clorox/Lysol 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

Diaper Genie refill bags
 Diapers – all sizes
 Disinfectant spray
 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
 Finger paint
 Foam board
 Gift cards: Walmart or Target (to purchase items for our education programs)
 Kleenex (non-lotion)
 Laminator (small size)
 Latex gloves
 Laundry detergent – Fragrance-free powdered or liquid
 Leap Frog maracas (Spanish/English – if possible)
 Liquid hand soap
 Little People playsets
 Little Tikes Playsets
 Masking tape
 Multi-color sharpie markers
 Multicultural books and dolls

Markers and construction paper
 Musical instruments
 Outdoor balls (soccer, kickball, basketball)
 Pacifiers: all age groups
 Plastic farm & zoo animals (3 years and under)
 Plastic sheet protectors
 Play dishes and play food
 Play Dough
 Play telephones
 Posterboard: white or other colors
 Puzzles: Large knob-type
 Riding toys (ages 2-4 years)
 Scotch tape (regular and double-sided)
 Scrapbook paper, stickers, and books
 See N' Say toys
 Snap and Lock beads
 Tempura paint- all colors
 Tissue paper
 Touch and feel books
 Toy Housekeeping items (toy iron, telephone, ironing board, etc.)
 Tree blocks
 Velcro dots
 Watercolor kits

Wide ribbons: any color
 Wooden rulers
 Ziploc bags: all sizes

Group Home

Bed pillows
 Cereal bowls
 Cooking utensils
 Dish towels and clothes
 Duffel bags / Gym bags
 Laundry baskets
 Men's boxers (sizes L and XL)
 Men's leather belts
 Men's undershirts (size L and XL)
 Men's wallets
 Plain hoodies (size L and XL) in grey, navy or black
 Plastic drinking glasses
 Pot/Pans set
 Pot holders
 Silverware set
 Towel (with wash cloth) sets
 Twin size sheet sets

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

Give while you shop!

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, 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 for our **early childhood education** classrooms from our wish list. You can scan this QR code or find the link on our website.



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 use this QR code or find the link on our website.



Whether you want to shop for gifts and décor, or clean your home out to make room for all the presents you'll be receiving over the holidays, shop or donate today while supporting a wonderful agency.

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Monday–Saturday:
 10am–6pm
 Sunday: 1–6pm

Please call either store to schedule a pick-up for large items.

Car for a Cause

If you have a vehicle in 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 families in our Extended Childcare Program in need of reliable transportation. Please contact Racie Hoffman at 423-468-1139 or rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org for more information.

Congratulations Mr. Phil!

Our President & CEO Phil Acord was recently presented with the TACEE Janet Camp Award, at the TACEE State conference in Jackson, Tennessee, for his dedication and service that has impacted the advancements in early education. This award was especially meaningful to Phil because he knew and worked closely with Janet Camp. The children and families of this community are truly lucky to have such an advocate!

President & CEO **Phil Acord** is pictured here with **Kathy Ennis**



AGENCY HAPPENINGS

We had two great groups help us during the **United Way of Greater Chattanooga Day of Caring**. **Regions Bank** employees volunteered at our property in Red Bank by cleaning up the playground at the early learning center and mulching the landscaping in the parking lot at **The Thrift Store - Red Bank**. Volunteers from **Elder's Ace Hardware** spent the day making repairs and painting the exterior of **Volunteer Community Preschool**. We are so thankful for the support we get from this wonderful community!



The Mark Hite Team | Keller Williams Realty Downtown Chattanooga is empowering the next generation by becoming our latest classroom sponsor. **Mark Hite** is pictured here with his new friend **Aaron**. Join Mark and his team by investing in our program! To learn more, email Racie Hoffman at rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org.



Southern Adventist University School of Nursing students come out every year to do check-ups on our children. They spend the morning doing physical assessments, calculating height and weight growth chart percentiles, checking vital signs, and conducting basic vision and hearing screenings. Nursing Student **Cecily Hawsey** is pictured here with **Daniel**.



Our wonderful friends at **JHM Certified Public Accountants** recently came out to volunteer with our Transitional Living program. It was rainy, so they spent their time cleaning two of our recently renovated units from top to bottom. Pictured here, from left to right, are **Julie Davis, Laura Pierce, and Diana Bolen**.

Some Alumnae with **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** came by our agency to "share some love" during UTC's Homecoming Weekend. **Destiny Richardson, agency staff Keelah Jackson, Necole Jones and Tiffany Hendricks** delivered goodies to our teachers and staff to show their appreciation for all they do.



Michael Lovelace is pictured here with his daughter **Morgan** enjoying Donuts with Dad, a special treat for the families in our Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms. We were happy to have several fathers come spend some sweet time with their little ones.



This year has been incredibly special for one of our children. She was not only adopted a few months ago, but she also beat cancer and completed chemo! We are so proud of her courage and strength through this long journey!



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

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EMILY BARROW
Director of Volunteer Services

RACIE HOFFMAN
Development Officer

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 or Residential Program. This year, we have two designs to choose from, "Merry Christmas" 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 hand-address 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. Please contact Racie Hoffman (423-468-1139 or rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org) or Katie Harbison (423-468-1122 or kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org) for more information.



Follow Chambliss Center for Children on all these sites!



Save the date for the seventh annual **Mardi Gras Gala on March 1, 2019 at Bessie Smith Hall at 7pm.** This event sells out faster every year, 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 Racie Hoffman now at 423-468-1139 or rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org for more information.