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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Chattanooga, TN . . .** Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children, a Tennessee based organization that cares for children awaiting foster placement, will officially open its doors with a special ribbon cutting event on Monday, October 16th at 11:00 AM.

The ribbon cutting event will officially kick-off the opening of the Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children to serve the children in Hamilton County and will feature several local speakers as well as Isaiah 117 House officials, including Founder Ronda Paulson.

“We are thrilled to be opening the first Isaiah 117 House in Hamilton County in partnership with another amazing organization that shares our desire to care for the children and youth of our community.” says Chambliss Center for Children President and CEO Katie Harbison. “We began working with Isaiah 117 House in early 2020, so this ribbon cutting will be the result of several years of effort on the part of both of our organizations. We couldn’t have asked for better partners! The work is only just beginning, as we will begin welcoming children on one of the hardest days of their lives.”

The partnership between Chambliss Center for Children and Isaiah 117 House will offer children in Hamilton County who enter state care a welcoming and loving environment while they await placement in a foster home.

“The heart of Isaiah 117 House is to reduce the trauma for children on removal day, come alongside DCS, and help ease the transition for future foster families! Isaiah 117 House is changing the way foster care begins,” says Program Coordinator John Hunter. “Isaiah 117 provides a comforting home where children can be brought to wait instead of an office – it is a place that is safe with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys, and snugly blankets.”

All who have supported or are interested in partnering with Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children are welcome to attend the event, located at 315 Gillespie Road in Chattanooga. Parking for this event is located between Rogers Road and Gillespie Road on the North side of the campus. For more information, please contact Program Coordinator John Hunter at [john.hunter@isaiah117house.com](mailto:john.hunter@isaiah117house.com) or (423) 320-2679.

#### **About Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children**

Chambliss Center for Children and Isaiah 117 House have partnered to bring the first Isaiah 117 House to Hamilton County to provide physical and emotional support in a safe and loving home for children awaiting foster care placement. Currently, when a child is removed in a county without an Isaiah 117 House, the child must wait in the child welfare services office. Instead, Isaiah 117 House allows children to come to a home with loving volunteers to care for them.

Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children will provide for that child's needs, whatever they may be, in these critical moments between removal and placement. To learn more about Isaiah 117 House at Chambliss Center for Children, visit [www.chamblisscenter.org/isaiah117house](http://www.chamblisscenter.org/isaiah117house) or call 423-698-2456.

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