



Annual Report 2017-2018



A note from the President and Executive Director



Jennifer R. Spencer
Board President

Anniversaries are a time of celebration and reflection. As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of The Children's Center, I think of the many children who have come through The Children's Center's doors over the last 35 years – many of whom now have families of their own.

I also reflect on the current impact of The Children's Center:

- Children who are prepared for school and will eventually become the local workforce and community leaders

- Families who have hope because their children have erased a developmental delay through Early Intervention
- Families who are able to work or continue their education because they know their children are safe and learning in our Head Start, Early Head Start, and Community Childcare programs
- Communities that are strengthened by jobs that fuel the local economy

I am excited about the success stories in this annual report. They encourage the Board to keep working hard for the children in Western Tidewater. Thanks for your support!

We nurture and educate children and their families

Every child begins the world again.

- Henry David Thoreau

The wonderful celebration of 35 years is the opportunity to begin over and over again. The joy of experiencing a baby's smile is beyond delight. Watching a little one emerge with personality, friendships, and independence is the thrill of hope for our community and our world. The optimism of our children is also the culmination of 35 years of partnering with our community. We could not do what we do without our collaborations and generous friends, foundations, donors, Board, and staff.



Rosalind Cutchins
Executive Director

Thank you for helping provide 35 years of belief in all children's abilities to succeed!



Lila and Lily are thriving

Talk about a harrowing experience.

Identical twins Lila and Lily Clark were born prematurely at 25 weeks and transferred to Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Norfolk. The babies shared a placenta and mom, Lisa Clark, was expecting to give birth at 35 weeks because of the deterioration of the placenta.

Lila had a two vessel umbilical cord (as opposed to the usual three vessel cord) and did not have a good nutrition supply. Also, the babies had twin to twin transfusion syndrome. The transfusion causes the donor twin to have decreased blood volume.

Lisa went into pre-term labor at 24 weeks and they were born at 25 weeks. Lila was having heart rate issues and eventually "crashed." Lisa was rushed to the operating room and both babies were born within seven minutes.

Lila's daily schedule on the wall of the Clark home.

Lily was born at two pounds and spent the next 121 days in the hospital. Lila was born at one pound eight ounces and spent 400 days in the hospital. Both children had breathing issues and brain bleeds.

When the family moved from Virginia Beach to Suffolk, the Children's Center entered the picture. The twins began receiving speech therapy from Anne Langer and service coordination.

"The Children's Center has been pretty amazing," Lisa said. "Lily has done amazing with physical therapy. Lila will keep going with PT after age three when she ages out of Early Intervention."

Speech therapy was crucial for Lila.

"Lila had a severe oral aversion because of being intubated most of her infant life. We have worked and worked and worked and now she will tolerate things being near and in her mouth when before she wouldn't," Lisa said. "She has also done well with physical therapy. Before she would not sit up and just lay there all day. Her goal now is to sit up unassisted."

Lily has also thrived with speech therapy.

"Lily is up to 30 to 35 words and is making sentences. She will continue with speech therapy after she ages out of Early Intervention. She used to not say anything. Now she is just a little delayed," Lisa said.

Lisa works part time and also is a student at Tidewater Community College. With her busy schedule, having therapists come to



Lila (l) and Lily Clark

the home was a blessing.

"It was so easy because they both saw the same therapists and saw them back to back," she said.

The Children's Center is honored to serve this family and Lisa is proud of her children.

"I have two amazing kids. I love them both very dearly."

"The Children's Center has been pretty amazing."

- Lisa Clark

EHS and EI have benefited Isaiah and Tameka

Isaiah Lawrence is a fifth grader in the Gifted and Talented Program in the Portsmouth school system. Last spring, he scored a perfect 600 on the 4th grade math Standards of Learning exam and missed a perfect score on the Virginia Social Studies SOL exam by one point. But for many months he could not speak.

Isaiah started out in the Early Head Start program at the Pruden Center. It was through the EHS program and his pediatrician that it was determined he was behind in his speech.

“At his 15 month appointment, he wasn’t speaking. His comprehension was at an 18 month level, but he just wasn’t speaking at the rate he should have been,” said Isaiah’s mother, Tameka. “He was able to get his needs met without verbalizing.”

He began speech therapy through the Early Intervention program at age two and ended therapy at age three. Along with therapy, Tameka said they worked on speech in the home, making Isaiah verbalize what he wanted.

“He hasn’t stopped talking since!”, Tameka said.

Isaiah also attended Head Start before starting kindergarten.

According to Tameka, through all of the programs – Early Head Start, Head Start, and Early Intervention – Isaiah was ready for kindergarten.



Tameka and Isaiah Lawrence

“It was a combination of all of those programs. They helped support him so he was where he should be,” she said.

Tameka is also back with the Children’s Center in the Early Head Start program receiving services as a pregnant mother. She expects her newborn child will also enter EHS.

“I really want to make sure I am on top of the baby’s screenings and early education. I want to make sure I am linked into that,” she said.

Summary of the 2018-2019 Western Tidewater Community Assessment

- Continued population growth in Suffolk and Isle of Wight.
- An increase in population of children under age 5 in Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Suffolk.
- An increase in number of Hispanic children in all localities.
- The continued difference in household income between Caucasians and African-Americans.
- Median household income has improved in all localities except Southampton. Median household income in Franklin is well behind other localities.
- Poverty has decreased or leveled off in all communities. Isle of Wight is below the state average. Franklin has improved, but is still over 5 percentage points above the state average.
- Childhood poverty has decreased with the exception of Franklin.
- Health outcomes have improved in Isle of Wight and Suffolk.
- All Western Tidewater localities are above the state average in births to single mothers.
- Southampton, Franklin, and Suffolk continue to be above the state average in low birth-weight babies.
- All Western Tidewater localities are above the state average for teen pregnancy.
- Franklin and Suffolk have shown improvement in pregnant mothers seeking prenatal care beginning in the first trimester.
- The infant mortality rate is above the state average in Franklin, Southampton, and Suffolk.
- The emergency room department visit rate due to opioids is on the rise in all communities.
- The child food insecurity rate in Franklin improved in 2016.
- Unemployment continues to improve locally.
- Average weekly wage has increased in all localities.
- 3rd grade SOL English test scores dropped in Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Southampton. Franklin’s pass rate is 31 percentage points lower than the state average.
- 5th grade SOL Math test scores are all near the state average. Franklin has improved from 26 percent passing in 2013-2014 to 86 percent passing in 2017-2018.
- Accessibility of public transportation in Franklin, Southampton, and Isle of Wight is still poor.

Kendall and Helena are ready for school

The Burgess family of Suffolk has been a blessing to the Children's Center. And, through two programs, the Center has helped them reach their goal of having their children prepared for kindergarten.

Kendall is a first grader and Helena is a kindergartner at Oakland Elementary School in Suffolk. Both began their journey with the Children's Center with significant delays.

"When we first became a family through foster care, the children came to us with pretty significant developmental delays," Connie said. "We were able to connect with the Children's Center with early intervention and community childcare services. That made a huge impact on their development and our development as a family. It provided us with the skills and background we needed to help them develop to their fullest potential."

Both children had speech and language delays and some developmental delays. This included things that many families take for granted, like learning how to get

"The Children's Center came to us highly recommended, and within the first week we knew exactly why."

- Connie Burgess

dressed, brushing teeth, and using utensils for eating.

Helena, in particular, was having a hard time with speech.

"Helena didn't start talking until the age of four," Connie said. "Most of her language development took place here."

Connie noted the Children's Center felt like a home away from home for her children.

"We checked out the program ahead of time and our social worker was able to come and check things out. The Children's Center came to us highly recommended, and within the first week we knew exactly why," Connie said. "It felt like home immediately."

Anne Langer, speech therapist, and Debbie Jones, special educator, not only helped the children with development, but also helped Connie and her husband Jesse through communication.

"We had ongoing support each day with communication and extended activities they would send home with us," Connie said. "There was a wonderful notebook that came home after every session that let us know what they were working on and let us understand what we needed to do to support that. That was an amazing benefit."

Despite the slow start, Connie said both her children were ready for kindergarten through the Children's Center and the Early



The Burgess family - Helena and Kendall and Jesse and Connie.

Start Pre-K program with the Suffolk Public Schools. Both are typically developing children. Kendall is an eager reader and likes math. He loves to play with Hot Wheels and Legos. Helena plays with dolls, and her smart watch, and likes to dance. She also loves to do homework.

"Oh yes, they were prepared for kindergarten," she said. "Their recognition of shapes and colors, and their language was where it needed to be. It was amazing when they transformed to the public school system. Both of them are right on track for their grade level."

Ellis family continues to inspire

It has been almost 10 years since one of the Ellis children attended the Children's Center, but lessons they learned have helped them continue to be successful.

Bailey, 19, recently graduated with honors from Lakeland High School and also earned a certificate in computer technology from the Pruden Center. He is currently a student at Tidewater Community College.

His path to success wasn't always so easy. Bailey started at the Texie Camp Marks Center in Franklin in the Community Childcare program and also received speech therapy through the Early Intervention program.

"We found out he had sensory issues," said Kristen Ellis, Bailey's mom.

Bailey worked hard with his teacher, Dorothy Bryant, who taught him coping skills he could use when he became overwhelmed.

"She was really key in getting him ready for being out and about and especially for kindergarten. He really struggled and I was glad he started with the Children's Center and received that personal attention."

Bailey continues to use those techniques today.

"He learned techniques that he has used all the way through school," Kristen said. "He relies on the things he was taught when he was little."

Claudia, now 15, attended the Suffolk Children's Center from 2006-2009. She is a focused 10th grader at Nansemond River

High School who enjoys biology and hopes to be a nurse someday. She also enjoys painting. After returning to the Suffolk Children's Center for the first time since 2009, Claudia remembered the "big back deck", Pre-K graduation, and her teacher, Lillie Drewitt, who is still at the Center. While enjoying her time at the Center, she was also preparing for school. Kristen, who also served as a member of the Center's Board of Directors, said both of her children were ready for kindergarten when they left the Children's Center.

"For both of my kids, they didn't really learn or do anything new in kindergarten until well after Christmas," she said. "They came in writing their names and knew their colors and letters and were very far ahead



Claudia and Kristen Ellis

and well prepared for when they got to school."

It was a privilege for the Children's Center to serve this family.

Program Statistics

	Total	Suffolk	Franklin	Isle of Wight	Southampton	Other
Early Intervention	504	337	48	93	25	1
Pediatric Therapy	301	204	30	53	14	0
Franklin Childcare	88	5	56	4	13	10
Suffolk Childcare	88	73	1	3	1	10
Early Head Start	315	160	69	32	54	0
Head Start	330	198	42	38	51	1
Total Participating*	1,626	977	246	223	158	22

* Some children were enrolled in more than one program.

Early Head Start & Head Start

Kindergarten Readiness

The Children's Center has school readiness goals across five key domains: social and emotional development, language development and literacy, approaches toward learning, cognition and general knowledge, and physical well-being and motor development.

The Center uses ongoing assessment through Teaching Strategies Gold to monitor all children's progress and to individualize lesson planning.

Teachers enter data on each child's progress at three check-points each year.

The Center assesses phonological awareness three times a year by administering Pre-K PALS screening to those 4-year olds who will be rising to kindergarten. Data from the 2017-2018 school year showed positive progress from fall to spring across developmental domains.

The Children's Center uses Creative Curriculum in all of its classrooms. Creative Curriculum is a comprehensive curriculum with a clear organizational structure and a particular focus on interest areas.

The Children's Center Early Head Start and Head Start programs ensure that all children have required immunizations, social security cards, birth certificates, primary care physicians, dental screenings, and health insurance before they leave the program.

Percentage of eligible children served in Western Tidewater

The Children's Center estimates that 1,010 children were eligible for Early Head Start services in Western Tidewater. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Center served 31 percent of those eligible children (315 of 1,010).

The Children's Center estimates that 758 children were eligible for Head Start services in Western Tidewater. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Center served 44 percent of those eligible children (330 of 758).

Parent Involvement

100 percent of families served by Early Head Start and 100 percent of Head Start families participated in education activities designed to develop knowledge and skills that encourage self-sufficiency and improve interaction with children.

Health Insurance

- Ninety-nine percent of children in the Early Head Start program had health insurance.
- Ninety-eight percent of children in the Head Start program had health insurance.



Head Start Review

The Office of Head Start conducted a Focus Area One (FA1) Review during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The results of these FA1 pilot reviews were used to improve the FA1 process and overall monitoring data collection process for Fiscal Year 2019. All grantees participating in the reviews were listed as compliant for Fiscal Year 2018 FA1 review event and did not receive a final report.

Previously, the Administration for Children and Families conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Children's Center's Head Start programs from November 4 through November 7, 2014; January 26 through January 30, 2015; and March 30 through April 3, 2015. The Head Start Review Reports contained no deficiencies as a result of the review. The report included areas of strength as well as areas of non-compliance, which were corrected within the designated Federal timeline. A full report is posted at each Head Start center.

Dental and Medical Exams

- 99% of children in the Early Head Start program received dental screenings.
- 100% of children in the Early Head Start program received medical exams.
- 100% of children in the Head Start program received dental screenings.
- 100% of children in the Head Start program received medical exams.

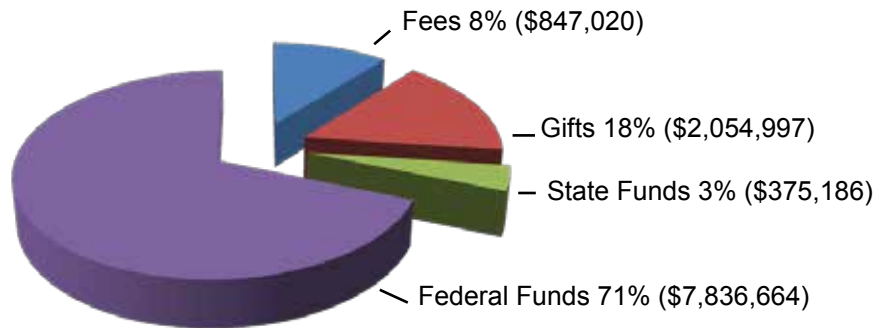
Average EHS Monthly Enrollment for 2017-2018 as percentage of funded Enrollment: 98% (251 of 256). Average HS Monthly Enrollment for 2017-2018 as percentage of funded enrollment: 98% (294 of 300).

Financials

Revenue and Expenditures

2017-2018 Actual – \$11,113,867

Revenue by Source

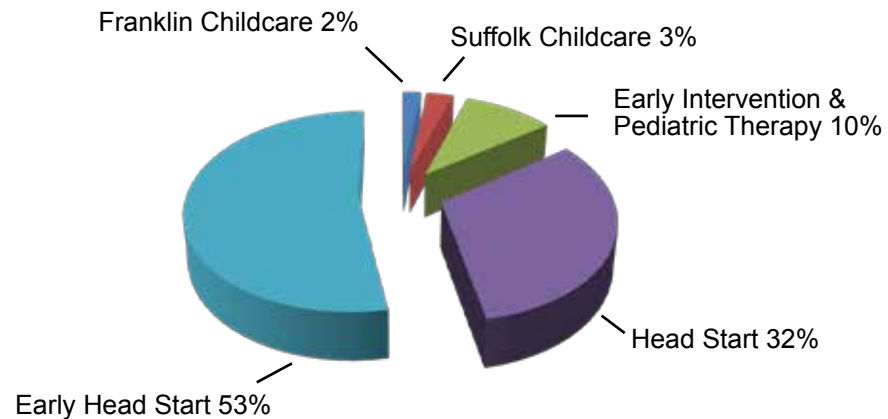


Audit Results

The independent auditors' report expressed a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the Children's Center for the fiscal year 2017-2018. The qualification is based on the financial statements, which show fixed assets purchased with Head Start funds as fully depreciated in the year of acquisition. Property and equipment acquired for the Head Start programs are fully expensed in the year acquired, in accordance with Federal regulation 2 CFR 225, Appendix B(15)(b)(4).

We are pleased to report the auditors' report on compliance for the Children's Center had no findings or areas of non-compliance for the Early Head Start and Head Start programs for the fiscal year 2017-2018. A copy of the Children's Center's audit is available upon request.

Expenditures by Program



Early Head Start & Head Start Revenues & Expenses

2018-2019 Early Head Start Budget

EHS Revenues

Source	Budget
EHS Federal Funds	\$8,068,785
In-Kind Contributions	\$1,643,794
USDA	\$ 216,960
Local Tax	\$ 13,000
United Way	\$ 17,866
Contributions	\$ 176,219
TOTAL	\$10,136,624

EHS Expenses

Source	Budget
Salaries	\$3,487,572
Other	\$2,402,747
Construction	\$2,385,290
Fringe	\$ 626,740
Supplies	\$ 677,584
Equipment	\$ 372,489
Contractual	\$ 177,202
Travel	\$ 7,000
TOTAL	\$10,136,624

2018-2019 Head Start Budget

HS Revenues

Source	Budget
HS Federal Funds	\$2,830,479
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 658,630
USDA	\$ 210,480
Local Tax	\$ 13,000
United Way	\$ 12,229
Contributions	\$ 5,386
TOTAL	\$3,730,204

HS Expenses

Source	Budget
Salaries	\$1,839,277
Other	\$1,110,947
Fringe	\$ 367,922
Supplies	\$ 319,935
Equipment	\$ 89,123
Travel	\$ 3,000
Contractual	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$3,730,204

2017-2018 EHS Revenues and Expenses

Revenues

		%
EHS Federal Funds	\$4,583,504	77
In-Kind Contributions	\$1,082,663	18
USDA	\$ 165,140	3
Contributions	\$ 66,018	1
Local Tax	\$ 13,000	0
United Way	\$ 17,752	1
TOTAL	\$5,928,077	

Expenses

		%
Salaries	\$2,539,326	43
Other	\$1,814,720	31
Fringe	\$ 513,406	9
Supplies	\$ 533,946	9
Equipment	\$ 499,127	8
Travel	\$ 6,199	0
Contractual	\$ 18,853	0
Construction	\$ 2,500	0
TOTAL	\$5,928,077	

2017-2018 HS Revenues and Expenses

Revenues

		%
HS Federal Funds	\$2,631,928	74
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 640,609	18
USDA	\$ 234,506	7
Contributions	\$ 6,257	0
United Way	\$ 10,554	0
Local Tax	\$ 13,000	1
TOTAL	\$3,536,854	

Expenses

		%
Salaries	\$1,581,073	45
Other	\$1,155,440	33
Supplies	\$ 416,339	12
Fringe	\$ 329,340	9
Equipment	\$ 52,152	1
Travel	\$ 2,510	0
TOTAL	\$3,536,854	

In honor, memory & gratitude

In Memory

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Barbara Mease & Randy Betz

Mildred P. Babb

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Many of our friends offer the Children's Center gifts made in honor, in memory, or in gratitude of someone special. Those being honored or remembered are printed in bold italicized print followed by the donors' names. These tributes were given between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

Jeff Joyner

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Honor

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In Honor

Baby Beard

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

David Betz

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

See HONOR, page 11



We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.
Please contact us if your listing does not appear as you wish.

Honor

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Teresa Buhls

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bunn

Peter M. Vick

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We embrace the community as our partner in serving children. Donations help make our programs stronger. The Children's Center extends many thanks to the good friends who have made donations between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Some donors give more than once but are only listed once.

Carrollton Elementary School

Rhonda L. Chambliss

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Madison Ebel

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edwards

See DONORS, page 12



Donors

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Marsha Winslow
Sarah Barlow Wright
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How you can help

Donate

You can donate directly to the Children's Center through our website (www.childrenscenterva.com and look for the yellow donation button), or by mail at 700 Campbell Avenue, Franklin, VA 23851. Your donation can be made in memory or honor of a loved one or friend and designated to a particular building or program.

Volunteer

The Children's Center has many volunteer opportunities from reading to children and sharing a skill or a hobby to painting or helping with the annual report mailing. Contact Jeff Zeigler at 562-6806 on how to get started.

Guest Speakers

The Children's Center can provide a guest speaker for your club, church group, or organization. Topics range from early childhood development and behavioral health to disabilities and bereavement.

In-Kind Gifts

The Children's Center accepts in-kind gifts including classroom art supplies, educational toys, recreational toys, and general supplies. For a comprehensive list, go to www.childrenscenterva.com/page/wish-list.

NAP Tax Credits

The Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) provides tax incentives for individuals who donate \$500 or more to the Children's Center in a six month period.



United Way and CVC Campaigns

The Children's Center is a partner with the United Way of South Hampton Roads and the Franklin Southampton Area United Way. You can designate your United Way or Combined Virginia Campaign to the Children's Center (Agency #5076)

Planned Giving

You can make an impact on children for many years to come through planned giving. Planned gifts also give back - and can help you prepare for your future. They allow you to take sizeable tax deductions, and provide favorable capital gains tax treatment. Planned gifts allow you to leave a legacy that fits your philanthropic goals.



**Franklin-Southampton
Area United Way**

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Suffolk

Donald T. Robertson, Vice President
Isle of Wight County

Gail Harrison, Vice President
Suffolk

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Suffolk

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Southampton County

Lorraine Greene-Whitehead
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Franklin

Kirsten S. Ericksen
Isle of Wight County

Pam Vaughan
Isle of Wight County

Bernard Kee
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Lauren Harper
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Executive Director

Janet Owen
Finance & Operations Director

Tamie Rittenhouse
Head Start Director

Anne Bruehl
Health Director

G. Lee Taylor
Early Childhood Education Director

Annual Report Editor

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Community Relations Coordinator

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Texie Camp Marks Children's Center

700 Campbell Avenue
Franklin, VA 23851
(757) 562-6806



Suffolk Children's Center

300 Executive Court
Suffolk, VA 23434
(757) 538-2523



Barbara S. Mease Children's Center at the Jones House

507 Third Avenue
Franklin, VA 23851
(757) 516-2722



Suffolk Head Start Center

860 Davis Boulevard
Suffolk, VA 23434
(757) 809-5557



The Children's Center at Pruden

4169 Pruden Boulevard
Suffolk, VA 23434
(757) 538-3513



Southampton Head Start Center

22015 Aurora Street
Courtland, VA 23837
(757) 653-9792



Smithfield Children's Center

240 James Street
Smithfield, VA 23430
(757) 356-1004



Smithfield Head Start Center

236 Washington Street
Smithfield, VA 23430
(757) 357-7177



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