

# ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

*Growing!*



# Notes from our leaders

As I begin my second year as President of the Children's Center Board of Directors, I am proud to say the Center had another successful year serving children and families in Western Tidewater.

Reading the stories in this annual report makes me smile because it reminds me of the impact the Children's Center has had over the years and how it continues to serve families today. We salute the past with stories about the renaming of the Children's Center's first building to the Barbara S. Mease Children's Center at the Jones House, and Rebecca Stephenson Harper, a successful young lady who attended the Children's Center many years ago. From the past, we connect with the present as we learn about the

Wilson family in our Early Head Start and Early Intervention programs, and Rekitia Ricks-Jordan, a Head Start success story who is now teaching in our Head Start program.

Your children are our future success stories!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank all of the families who participated in our programs during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and those who donated your time and resources during that same time period. We thank you for your continued support!



Bob Petty,  
President,  
Board of Directors

hope, joy, laughter, energy, growing minds and bodies bless our community through the miracles of our children. As children and their families walk through the doors of our communities, let us support their growth and honor them for the miracles they represent. May we all grow together.



Rosalind Cutchins,  
Executive Director

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

It is an honor to have the Children's Center's team planting seeds every day. Our mission reflects those seeds through the children we nurture and educate. It is indeed a miracle to watch a tiny seed go into the ground and emerge a beautiful creation. Seeds of

## On the Cover

Kids attending the Suffolk Children's Center pose in front of the Center's vegetable garden.



## Our Mission

We nurture and educate children and their families.

## Our Shared Values

Because children deserve our best efforts . . .

We serve children of all levels of ability, including children with disabilities.

We celebrate diversity in all our programs.

We recognize the family as the best teacher and decision maker for their children.

We embrace the community as our partner in serving children.



## Children's Center Directors Team

Rosalind Cutchins, M.S.  
*Executive Director*

Janet Owen, B.S.  
*Finance Director*

Tamie Rittenhouse, M.S.  
*Head Start/Early Head Start Director*

Anne Bruehl, Ph.D.  
*Mental Health Director*

G. Lee Taylor, B.A.  
*Early Childhood Education Director*

## Annual Report Editor

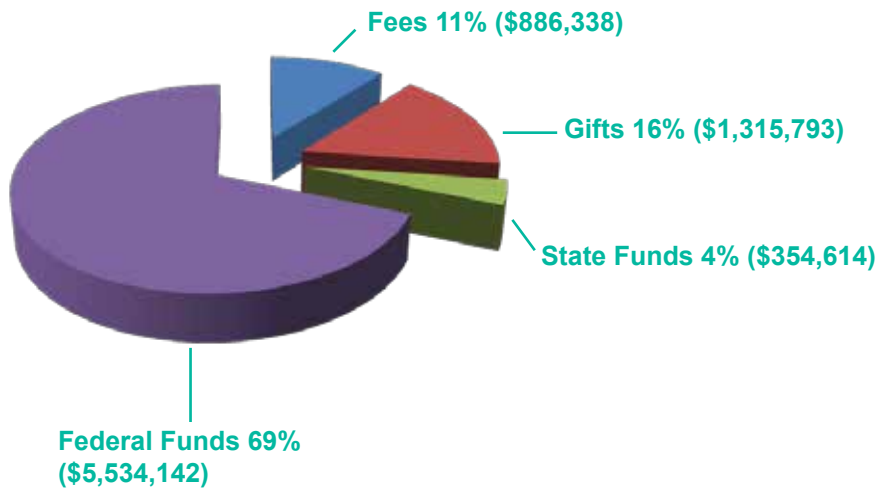
Jeffrey J. Zeigler, B.A.  
*Community Relations Coordinator*

# Financials

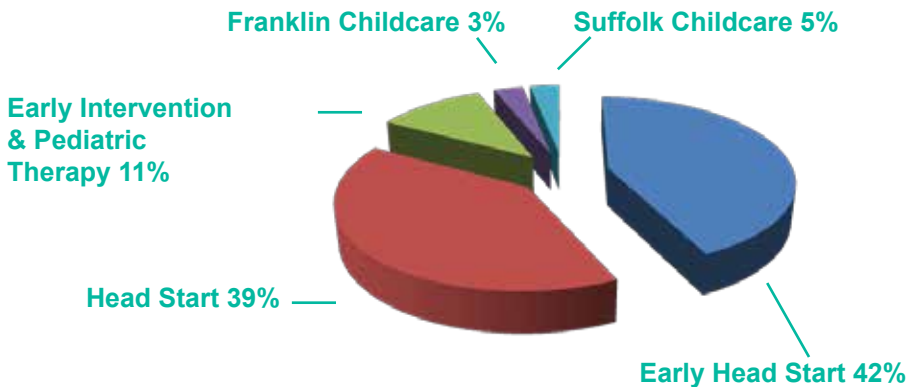
## Revenue and Expenditures

2015-2016 Actual – \$8,090,887

### Revenue by Source



### Expenditures by Program



### Audit Results

The independent auditors' report expressed a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the Children's Center for the fiscal year 2015-2016. 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 may be 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 2015-2016. A copy of the Children's Center's audit is available upon request.

# Early Head Start & Head Start Revenues & Expenses

## 2016-2017 Early Head Start Budget

### EHS Revenues

Source	Budget
EHS Federal Funds	\$2,663,498
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 574,802
USDA	\$ 119,139
Local Tax	\$ 13,000
United Way	\$ 19,012
Contributions	\$ 56,250
TOTAL	\$3,445,701

### EHS Expenses

Source	Budget
Salaries	\$1,890,714
Other	\$ 927,915
Fringe	\$ 356,284
Supplies	\$ 254,288
Equipment	\$ 10,000
Contractural	\$ 3,500
Travel	\$ 3,000
TOTAL	\$3,445,701

## 2015-2016 EHS

### Revenues and Expenses

#### Revenues

		%
EHS Federal Funds	\$2,629,548	77
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 504,556	15
USDA	\$ 115,834	3
Contributions	\$ 112,846	3
Local Tax	\$ 17,395	1
United Way	\$ 16,820	1
TOTAL	\$3,396,999	

#### Expenses

		%
Salaries	\$1,874,374	55
Other	\$ 880,265	26
Fringe	\$ 306,943	9
Supplies	\$ 302,143	9
Equipment	\$ 26,510	1
Travel	\$ 6,290	0
Contractural	\$ 473	0
Construction	\$ 0	0
TOTAL	\$3,396,999	

## 2016-2017 Head Start Budget

### Head Start Revenues

Source	Budget
HS Federal Funds	\$2,423,314
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 576,856
USDA	\$ 214,778
Local Tax	\$ 13,000
United Way	\$ 13,375
Contributions	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$3,241,323

### Head Start Expenses

Source	Budget
Salaries	\$1,544,565
Other	\$1,071,792
Fringe	\$ 310,369
Supplies	\$ 300,597
Equipment	\$ 10,000
Travel	\$ 1,500
Contractural	\$ 2,500
Construction	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$3,241,323

## 2015-2016 HS

### Revenues and Expenses

#### Revenues

		%
HS Federal Funds	\$2,360,336	75
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 530,951	17
USDA	\$ 221,628	7
Contributions	\$ 41,943	1
United Way	\$ 11,183	0
Local Tax	\$ 8,605	0
TOTAL	\$3,174,646	

#### Expenses

		%
Salaries	\$1,468,680	46
Other	\$1,035,881	33
Supplies	\$ 354,050	11
Fringe	\$ 244,066	8
Equipment	\$ 68,081	2
Travel	\$ 3,415	0
Contractural	\$ 473	0
TOTAL	\$3,174,646	

# Early Head Start & Head Start Facts



## 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 checkpoints each year.

The Center administers Pre-K Pals screening to all 4-year olds in the fall and spring to assess their phonological awareness.

Data from the 2015-2016 school year showed positive progress from fall to spring across developmental domains.

Families in the Children's Center's Head Start programs participate in the Raising-A-Reader (RAR) program. The RAR program encourages parents to read with their children by providing literacy tools and books on a rotating basis.

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 assure that all children have required immunizations, social security cards, birth certificates, primary care physicians, dental screenings, and health insurance before they leave the program.

## Parent Involvement

98.75 percent of families served by Early Head Start and 94.9 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-five percent of children in the Early Head Start program had health insurance.
- One hundred percent of children in the Head Start program had health insurance.

## Dental and Medical Exams

- 79.8% of children in the Early Head Start program received dental screenings.
- 84.6% of children in the Early Head Start program received medical exams.
- 70.0% of children in the Head Start program received dental screenings.
- 86.4% of children in the Head Start program received medical exams.

## Head Start Review

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 Early Head Start center.

## Percentage of eligible children served in Western Tidewater

The Children's Center estimates that 661 children are eligible for Early Head Start services in Western Tidewater. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Center served 57 percent of those eligible children (379 of 661).

The Children's Center estimates that 718 children are eligible for Head Start services in Western Tidewater. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Center served 46.8 percent of those eligible children (336 of 718).

**Average EHS Monthly Enrollment for 2015-2016 as percentage of funded Enrollment: 100% (256 of 256). Average HS Monthly Enrollment for 2015-2016 as percentage of funded enrollment: 99% (297 of 300).**



## Rekitia is a Head Start success story

**R**ekitia Ricks-Jordan, a resident of Sedley, is a Head Start success story from her first days in the program up to her current employment as a Head Start teacher at the Children’s Center.

Rekitia attended Head Start in Courtland as a child and admits she was “one of those babies that cried all day.”

“At first my grandma stayed with me in Head Start the entire day,” Rekitia said. “But I saw the patience that my teachers took with me. I owe a lot to them. If it wasn’t for them, I don’t think I would be the person I am today. They took a child that was spoiled rotten and got me used to being around others than my grandmother. As the year went on, I came to school by myself and didn’t rely on her as much.”

Rekitia went on to graduate from Southampton High

School. She started working at the Children’s Center as a substitute teacher. She attended Paul D. Camp Community College in Franklin and earned an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. She then was hired to teach in the classroom she had been substituting in.

Recently, Rekitia was promoted to Head Start teacher.

“That is something I really wanted to do. My whole goal was to be a Head Start teacher,” she said.

Rekitia has started classes at Ashford University to earn her Bachelors degree, all while working two jobs. Meanwhile, she will use what she experienced in Head Start to teach her new classroom.

“Nurturing love is very important for them. You never know what a child has been through. When they come to school they feel that love

from that teacher,” she said. “From an educational standpoint, I want to make sure they have those skills that get them ready for the school system.”



### Did you know?

**For every \$1 invested in early childhood education, there is a \$7 return on investment.**

# Rebecca recalls her days at the Children's Center

For Rebecca Stephenson Harper, a trip back to the Children's Center brought back good memories. She talked about her experiences while visiting the Texie Camp Marks Center in Franklin.

"Overall, I remember it being a loving, caring place with lots of happy people," she said. "I saw one of my old teachers (Janice Brown) at the Southampton County Fair recently. "It was fun. My childhood was spent here."

Rebecca attended the community childcare program in the 1990s. She attended from ages three to five and also attended the before and after school program as she grew. Rebecca moved on to the Franklin Public Schools and graduated from Franklin High School. She graduated from Meredith College in 2011 and is now a fifth grade teacher at Southampton Academy.

Her interaction with other kids at the Children's Center

shaped her future profession.

"Even when I was seven, I was playing teacher to the little ones, and playing with them out on the playground," she noted. "We saw children with all types of ability ranges – children with special needs, children in wheel chairs, and different strengths and all different backgrounds. It made me more open to others

and their abilities, and more aware of helping others.

"One of my friends has told me that I had taught her to read while we were at the Children's Center. That was my first teaching experience!" she noted.

Rebecca said she was ready for school when she left the community childcare program.

"I started kindergarten early, at age four. I'm sure it goes

back to a lot of the things I learned here," she said. "My parents would have enriched my educational experience, but so much of education is learning to be around other people – learning how to listen



Rebecca Stephenson Harper attended the Children's Center in the 1990s. She is now a fifth grade teacher at Southampton Academy.

and follow directions and get along with other classmates."

This past year, Rebecca spoke passionately at the dedication of the Barbara S. Mease Children's Center at the Jones House. We are proud of Rebecca for what she has accomplished and her willingness to share the gift of education with others.



Rebecca Stephenson Harper points to a picture of herself as a child. The photo shows a group of children who attended the Texie Camp Marks Children's Center in the 1990s.



# The Wilsons are recovering

**A** Friday morning in March turned the Wilson family of Smithfield's world upside down. An early morning house fire startled the family out of bed. Fortunately nobody was hurt. But, all they could do was stand and watch the fire consume their house and everything in it.

The fire did more than destroy the building and its contents. It also left a negative impression on one of the Wilson's youngest children, Alvin III, who was in the house asleep when the fire started.

Alvin was originally referred to the Children's Center for concerns with self help skills and language delays. Later, it became evident to Felecia Wilson that Alvin was having problems coping with the fire.

"I thought it was something

he would get over," she said, "but he kept on saying that he was scared of the fire and was having nightmares at night. He has had attachment issues. He has been crying a lot when I leave him. He was talking about the fire constantly."

Felecia said she expressed these concerns to Alvin's service coordinator, Darlene Dillard.

"When I told them I had concerns, they jumped right on it," Felecia said. "The teachers have been helping to get him adjusted.

The teachers reassure him that

mama is coming back to pick him up," Felecia said. "I can call with concerns or issues and they have been helpful in trying to help me to help him get through this transition. I have met with Darlene and Kristie (Dailey) and they are working on attachment issues with him since the fire."

Darlene said "the Center added developmental services onto Alvin's plan to assist with transitions; a picture schedule for home and in the EHS classroom; and understanding that he will be fine in the care of others and



*Jeremiah Wilson, Felecia Wilson, and Alvin Wilson III at the Smithfield Children's Center. The Wilson family is coping with the tragedy of a household fire with the help of the Early Intervention and Early Head Start programs.*

## The Children's Center's programs

**Early Intervention** – Serves children birth to three who reside in Western Tidewater and have developmental delays or disabilities. The program provides families with the information, support, and services they need to encourage their child's development.

**Early Head Start** – The program provides early childhood education, family, and health services to low-income pregnant women and families with children under the age of three living in Western Tidewater.

**Head Start** - The program promotes school readiness through enhanced health, nutritional, cognitive, and social services to enrolled children ages 3 through 5 and their families living in Western Tidewater.

**Community Childcare** - This program provides licensed child care and early childhood development services for children. Centers provide care for children with and without disabilities in an inclusive learning environment.



*A devastating house fire in the turned the Wilson's world upside WTKR-TV,*



# ing from a family tragedy

that his mom will be back to pick him up. We are also working to get Alvin transportation. It will be an ongoing process.”

The Wilson’s youngest son, Jeremiah, is also in the Early Intervention and Early Head Start programs. He has been working on tongue movement, especially when he eats.

Felecia said the Children’s Center has helped her family get through a traumatic experience.

Darlene Dillard noted that her, Kristie Dailey and therapist Margaret Bachman recommended that Alvin and Jeremiah enter the Early Head Start program at the time of the fire. This helped assist the Wilsons with childcare while they dealt with the aftermath of the fire.

“People have donated things to help us and have

counseled us. The Children’s Center has been very patient with us during the transition when we were staying in a hotel in Suffolk,” Felecia said. “They were really caring.”

The Children’s Center loves helping families and is excited that the Wilsons are getting back on their feet after such a tragic event!



Alvin Wilson III on the playground at the Smithfield Children’s Center

“  
**The Children’s Center has been very patient with us during the transition, Felecia said. They were really caring.**  
 ”



morning of March 25, 2016  
 le down. Photo courtesy of

## Program Statistics

	Total	Suffolk	Franklin	Isle of Wight	Southampton	Other
Early Intervention	323	209	24	60	29	1
Pediatric Therapy	400	245	64	55	23	13
Franklin Childcare	93	3	56	3	29	2
Suffolk Childcare	103	84	0	4	0	15
Early Head Start	396	196	110	40	50	0
Head Start	388	243	62	35	47	1
<b>Total Participating</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total Children (Unduplicated)</b>	<b>1,424</b>					

**Check us out on Facebook at the Children’s Center OFFICIAL PAGE**

# How you can help . . .

## Donate

You can donate directly to the Children's Center through our website ([www.childrenscenterva.com](http://www.childrenscenterva.com)), 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 a newsletter mailing.

## 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/](http://www.childrenscenterva.com/page/wish-list/).

*Students and staff from Mayville State University in Mayville, ND volunteered at the Southampton Head Start Center in March. The group spent several hours organizing a storage room.*



## NAP Tax Credits

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

## United Way, CVC, and CFC 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, Combined Virginia Campaign, or Combined Federal 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 can allow you to take sizeable income, gift, and estate tax deductions, and provide favorable capital gains tax treatment. Planned Gifts allow you to leave a legacy that fits your philanthropic goals.

**To get involved in these activities, contact Jeff Zeigler at 562-6806 or [jzeigler@childrenscenterva.com](mailto:jzeigler@childrenscenterva.com)**

# In honor, memory & gratitude

## In Memory

**Robert Alwood**

Mr. & Mrs. William K. Barlow

**Bernice Beale**

Jessie T. Cobb

**Lizzie Mae Billups**

Jessie T. Cobb

**August & Lillie Bradshaw**

Ed & Irene Raiford

**Al & Beverly Briggs**

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**John Carlton Butler**

Louise B. Noles

**Roger Lee Butler**

Louise B. Noles

**Doug Casey**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

**Keith Cobb**

Jacqueline Bly

Jessie T. Cobb

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

Edward & Pat Hatfield

Celeste Kelly

**Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Crenshaw**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins



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, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

**Charles Cutchins**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

Mike & Boo Van Straten

**Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Cutchins**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

**Bill & Marguerite Cutchins**

Mike and Boo Van Straten

**Marguerite Cutchins**

Nancy & Bryon Arnone

Kelsey & Andrew Beard

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Mike & Boo Van Straten

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Peggy Darden

**Dude & Scout DeWitt**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

**Drew Dixon**

Peggy Darden

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**Gregory Bryant Gillette**

J.L. & Darlene Dunlow

Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Gillette

**Billy Harrison**

Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Gillette



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

continued from page 10

**Larry Hatfield**

Jessie T. Cobb

**Mille B. Hotchkiss**

Dorothy C. Beale

**Bob Joyner**

Peggy Darden

Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Gillette

**Melvin Mann**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

**Texie Camp Marks**

R. Marks Arnold

Ruth Bible Class

**Memory of Angels**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

**Fred "Joe" Mitchell**

Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Gillette

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**Vergil Wall**

Jessie T. Cobb

**Lucy Howell Waters**

Charles Waters

**Gerald Williams**

Peter M. Vick

**John C. Zeigler**

Jeff & Diane Zeigler

## In Honor

**The Alwood Great**

**Granddaughters**

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Jack & Hannah Bain

**Beverly & Al Briggs**

Peter M. Vick

**Amy Britt**

Jack & Hannah Bain

**Carol Burke**

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

**Nancy & Charles Bunn**

Peter M. Vick

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**Marshall & Bonnie Rabil**

Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Gillette

**Margaret Ann Simms**

Betsey Kello

**Louise & Virginia Lee Story**

Peter M. Vick

**G. Lee Taylor**

Katherine Rawls

**Maggie L. Vaughan**

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Updike

**Linda Vick**

Peter M. Vick

**Diane & Jeff Zeigler**

Louise B. Noles



# Donors

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, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Some donors give more than once but are only listed once.

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Anonymous (3)  
Muriel & Bruce Artis  
Lisa Babb  
Margaret Bachman  
Bank of America  
Marie Baker  
Martha Barnes  
Diane Barrington  
Bayview Physicians  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
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Velma Falkins  
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JaQuana Lewis  
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Nancy Lowe  
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to the Children's Center  
electronically!**

**Go to [www.childrenscenterva.com](http://www.childrenscenterva.com) and look for the "donate" button. Click the button and follow the directions to donate using a credit card or Paypal.**

**See DONORS, page 13**

# Donors

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## Original Franklin center named for founding executive director, donors of building

On April 14, the Children's Center dedicated its original home and named it after its original executive director and those who donated the structure back in 1983. The building at 507 Third Avenue in Franklin, which now houses Early Head Start classrooms, became the "Barbara S. Mease Children's Center at the Jones House".

The Children's Center was incorporated in 1983 with a rich history of twists and turns through the years. Leading the organization was Founding Director, Barbara S. Mease. Early in the life of the agency, her path crossed a family of philanthropists that moved the organization from a Suffolk Sunday School classroom to the first of eight buildings occupied today.

The original Children's Center home is located at 507 Third Avenue in Franklin. A gift of Dr. Darden Jones, his brother, William T. Jones and their families, the house gave the Center its first roots.

Following renovation, the Chil-

dren's Center moved into its new home in November 1984. As the business center of the agency, it remained as such until the Texie Camp Marks Center was completed in January 1996. The 507 Third Avenue building remains vibrant as an Early Head Start facility, serving children and families.

Barbara Mease retired in October 2013 following 30 years of service to the organization. The Children's Center Board of Directors decided to honor Barb and the original philanthropists by naming the 507 Third Avenue building in their honor.



*The Children's Center building at 507 Third Avenue in Franklin was re-named the Barbara S. Mease Children's Center at the Jones House on Thursday, April 14. Pictured is Jewel Goodman-Shepherd, a member of the Board of Directors, giving Barbara Mease a bouquet of roses after telling the crowd how much Mease and the Children's Center meant to her family. Mease is the founding executive director of the Children's Center, and served the agency for 30 years.*

# Vital Information

## The Children's Center 2015-2016 Board Officers

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Franklin

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Franklin

Kirsten S. Erickson  
Smithfield, VA

## Center Locations

Texie Camp Marks Children's Center  
700 Campbell Avenue - Central Office  
Franklin, VA 23851  
(757) 562-6806

Suffolk Children's Center  
300 Executive Court  
Suffolk, VA 23434

Barbara S. Mease Children's Center  
at the Jones House  
507 Third Avenue  
Franklin, VA 23851

The Children's Center at Pruden  
4169 Pruden Boulevard  
Suffolk, VA 23434

Suffolk Head Start Center  
860 Davis Boulevard  
Suffolk, VA 23434

Smithfield Children's Center  
240 James Street  
Smithfield, VA 23430

Smithfield Head Start Center  
236 Washington Street  
Smithfield, VA 23430

Southampton Head Start Center  
22015 Aurora Street  
Courtland, VA 23837



Franklin-Southampton  
Area United Way

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Donations are tax deductible.  
The Children's Center is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

