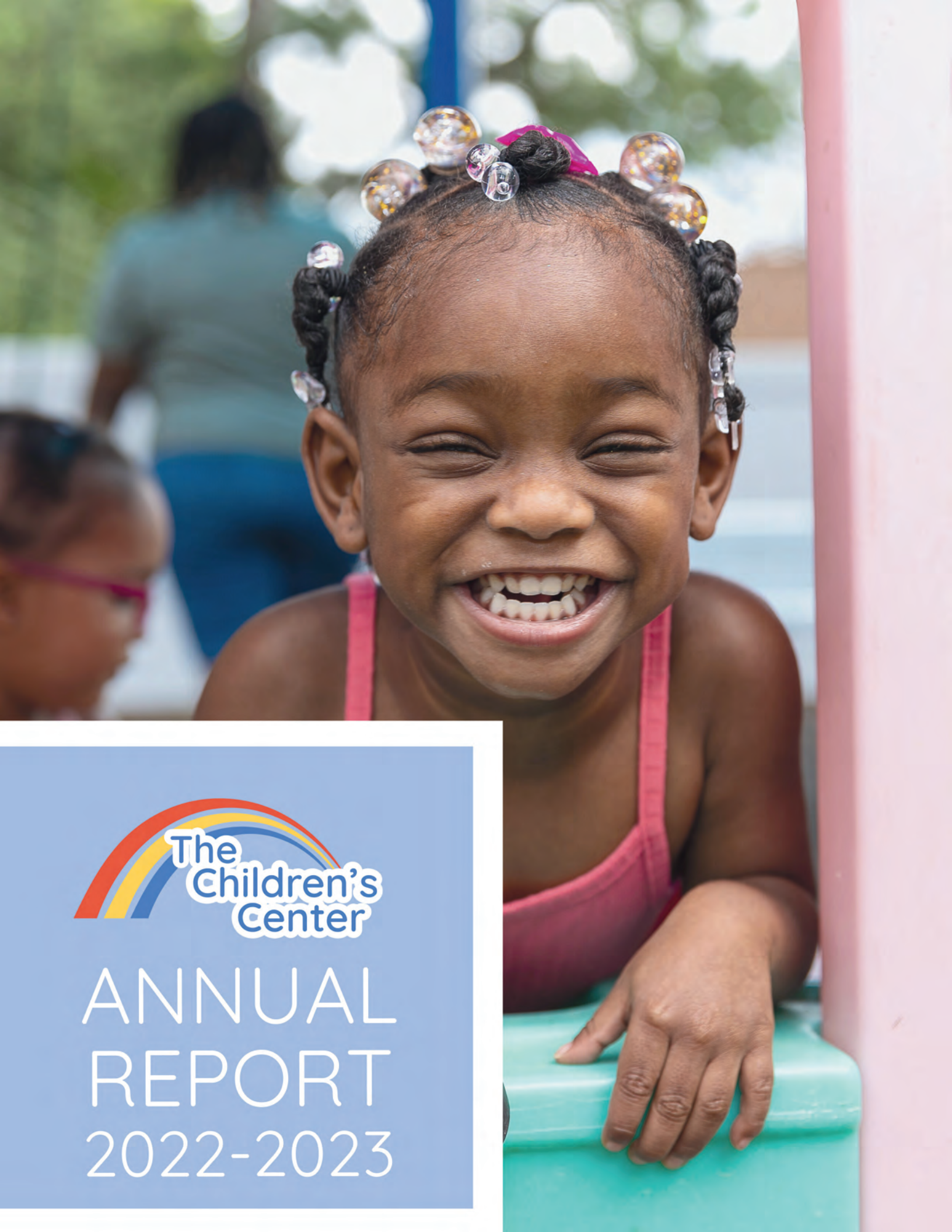

The Children's Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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40 YEARS OF NURTURING CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Forty years ago on October 4, 1983, the Children's Center incorporated! Since then, we have grown with our community needs! In 1983, we served 63 children in our first year. In 1984, we moved into our first permanent home, the Barbara S. Mease Children's Center at the Jones House. Today, we call 8 buildings home and serve over 1,300 children annually across Western Tidewater. The Children's Center has helped children and families in Western Tidewater learn, grow, and thrive. We thank you for trusting us and look forward to many more years of serving children and families in partnership with you.

OUR MISSION

We nurture and educate children and their families.

LOOKING FORWARD

A Message from the Board

Anniversary
an·ni·ver·sa·ry | noun
The annual recurrence of a date marking a notable event.

Anniversaries come in all shapes and sizes. As a community, we find comfort and pride in celebrating notable events. The Board of Directors is thrilled to celebrate the Children's Center's 40th year serving the children and families of Western Tidewater. What a milestone!

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Children's Center is a testament to the unwavering dedication, compassion, and impact that defines our journey. Over four decades, we have evolved from a small program for children with disabilities in a Sunday School classroom to offering a multitude of services including Early Intervention, high-quality early childhood education, Early Head Start, and Head Start which combined serve over 1,300 children today. Through the changes and challenges that come with forty years of service, our team of educators have tirelessly worked to make a positive impact in the lives of the children and families we serve.

Forty years have shown us that there will always be more work to do, but it's the lives we've touched that continue to push us to make a difference. As we reflect on this significant anniversary, we are filled with gratitude for the passionate employees, individuals, volunteers, and supporters who have been the heartbeat of our mission.

Together, we have built a legacy of excellence and compassion. We aren't just celebrating an anniversary, but we are celebrating many, many years of connections, smiles, and memories! This anniversary marks not just the passage of time but our diligent commitment to education. Thank you for helping us celebrate forty years of purpose, impact, and the boundless potential for positive change that lies ahead. We look forward to continuing to nurture and educate children and families for generations to come!

-Jennifer

Jennifer Spencer
Board President

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

School Readiness & Education

- Literacy kits including school supplies and educational materials were provided for all rising kindergarteners and 4-year old preschoolers to support learning over the summer
- Our centers participated in Virginia Quality Birth-Five VQB5 unified quality measurement system
- All teachers received training through Obici Healthcare Foundation on the STREAMin3 curriculum
- Home-based families participated in the Parents as Teachers curriculum focusing on enhancing school readiness

Family & Community Engagement

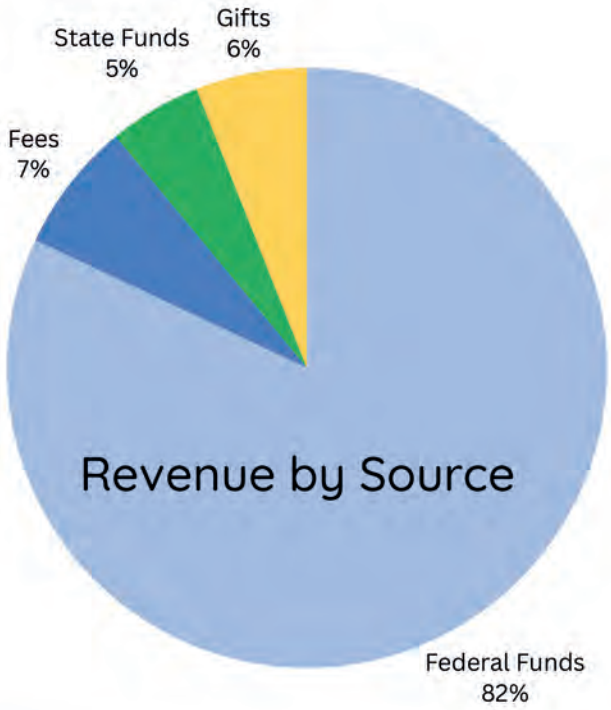
- Collaborated with Blackwater Regional Library, Suffolk Public Library, and Early Childhood Western Tidewater to support literacy activities
- A baby shower for pregnant families gifted safety equipment and essential supplies through the Give 757 campaign
- Hosted a nutrition information event in collaboration with Virginia Collaborative Extension
- Hosted monthly parent webinars and trainings
- Centers invited male role models to engage in child focused activities

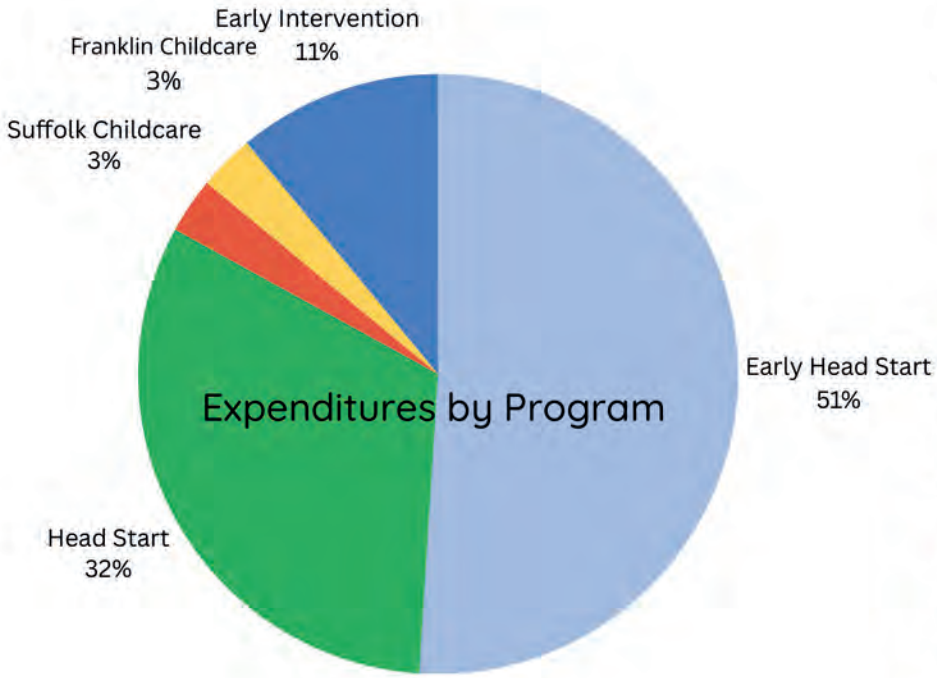
And more...

- Education activities were provided to parents including Ready Rosie, nutrition screenings, infection control information, parent meetings, & other family engagement activities
- Partnered with Early Childhood Western Tidewater on multiple educational projects
- Each center met or exceeded expectations VDOE VQB5 Site Performance results
- Best-selling author Eric Litwin presented to staff at Annual Training Day

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2022-2023 REVENUES & EXPENSES





AUDIT RESULTS

The independent auditors' report expressed a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the Children's Center for the fiscal year 2022-2023. 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 2022-2023. A copy of the Children's Center's audit is available upon request.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The Children's Center

Early Head Start

Revenues	2023-2024 Budget	Budget %	2022-2023 Actual	Actual %
EHS Federal Funds	6,930,253	94%	6,095,203	92%
Other Federal Funds	0	0%	9,163	0%
USDA	245,510	3%	140,074	2%
Local Tax	14,000	0%	17,625	1%
United Way	15,000	0%	15,000	0%
Contributions	188,992	3%	336,994	5%
In-Kind Contributions	0	0%	0	0%
Total Revenues	**7,393,755**		**6,614,059**	

Expenses	2023-2024 Budget	Budget %	2022-2023 Actual	Actual %
Salaries	4,602,211	62%	3,223,217	49%
Fringe	790,892	11%	573,297	9%
Travel	6,000	0%	12,775	0%
Equipment	345,043	5%	94,630	1%
Supplies	563,579	8%	830,288	13%
Contractual	0	0%	18,975	0%
Construction	403,499	5%	866,418	13%
Other	682,531	9%	994,459	15%
Total Expenses	**7,393,755**		**6,614,059**	

Head Start

Revenues	2023-2024 Budget	Budget %	2022-2023 Actual	Actual %
HS Federal Funds	3,572,861	93%	3,111,711	86%
Other Federal Funds	0	0%	2,948	0%
USDA	214,434	6%	158,727	4%
Local Tax	14,000	0%	10,375	1%
United Way	10,000	0%	10,000	0%
Contributions	36,477	1%	316,429	9%
In-Kind Contributions	0	0%	0	0%
Total Revenues	**3,847,772**		**3,610,190**	

Expenses	2023-2024 Budget	Budget %	2022-2023 Actual	Actual %
Salaries	2,446,740	64%	1,933,421	54%
Fringe	395,884	10%	315,899	9%
Travel	2,000	0%	2,360	0%
Equipment	171,895	5%	158,602	4%
Supplies	337,269	9%	370,398	10%
Contractual	0	0%	0	0%
Construction	0	0%	0	0%
Other	493,984	12%	829,510	23%
Total Expenses	**3,847,772**		**3,610,190**	

ARP/CRRSA

Revenues	2023-2024 Budget	Budget %	2022-2023 Actual	Actual %
ARP/CRRSA Federal Funds	0	0%	720,000	100%
Other Federal Funds	0	0%	0	0%
USDA	0	0%	0	0%
Local Tax	0	0%	0	0%
United Way	0	0%	0	0%
Contributions	0	0%	0	0%
In-Kind Contributions	0	0%	0	0%
Total Revenues	**0**		**720,000**	

Expenses	2023-2024 Budget	Budget %	2022-2023 Actual	Actual %
Salaries	0	0%	0	0%
Fringe	0	0%	0	0%
Travel	0	0%	0	0%
Equipment	0	0%	0	0%
Supplies	0	0%	0	0%
Contractual	0	0%	0	0%
Construction	0	0%	720,000	100%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
Total Expenses	**0**		**720,000**	

The Children's Center

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

62% Average monthly enrollment in Early Head Start

91% Average monthly enrollment in Head Start

Children Served in 2022-2023 by Program

	Suffolk	Franklin	IOW	SOCO	Other
Suffolk Childcare	40	0	3	0	6
Franklin Childcare	7	27	2	12	6
Early Head Start	106	78	28	34	10
Head Start	145	30	.33	11	4
Early Intervention	314	34	76	28	1
Pediatric Therapy	179	45	49	35	4
Total	791	214	191	120	31

1,347

children served

The Children's Center serves a diverse Western Tidewater community including Franklin, Suffolk, Isle of Wight and Southampton counties.

33% of the projected number of eligible children in the community received Early Head Start services.

38% of the projected number of eligible children in the community received Head Start services.

100% of families engaged in educational activities with their children.

Medical Exams

100% of Early Head Start children had a physical/well child check. 99% of Head Start children had a physical/well child check.

Vision Screenings

All Early Head Start and Head Start children are given a vision screening at our centers.

Dental Screenings

100% of Early Head Start children had a dental screening. 57% of Head Start children had a dental exam.

2022-2023

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SUCCESS STORY: TCC CHILD, MOM, ADVOCATE

Meghan Betz Ashburn is a continuous learner, educational consultant, parent mentor, and co-author of the book, I Will Die On This Hill and, she will forever be a Children's Center child and parent! Her mom, Barbara S. Mease is the Founding Executive Director and Star of the Children's Center. Forty years ago, Meghan attended our first high-quality early childhood education class. Those classrooms set the values of inclusion, diversity, and honoring the parent as the best teacher and decision-maker for their family.

Meghan's son, D.J. is a freshman on Virginia Wesleyan's soccer team following inclusion in our in Early Intervention program. He is a great example of children using the strengths-based approach of Early Intervention to encourage their best skills. Her twins Dominic and Julian (age 10) began at the Children's Center as preemies in Early Intervention and participated in the Early Head Start program. As Autistics, they teach the best lessons on neurodiversity and presumed competence.

Meghan advocates for communication rights and inclusion at the local, state, and national levels. Her book's purpose is to explore the dynamics between the autistic community and the allistic (non-autistic) parenting community.

Through 40 years, the Children's Center rejoices when a child in the program succeeds; cheers when a child goes into the world to grow; and encourages children and families facing challenges. May the next 40 years be blessed by Children's Center children everywhere.

SUCCESS STORY: CRUZ-RAMOS FAMILY

Gabriel is a three-year-old who went from being a quiet toddler to a vibrant, talkative little boy who is thriving despite the many challenges his Spanish-speaking family faced. Gabriel started in Early Intervention with language goals to help him communicate in both English and Spanish.

Holly Giles, Developmental Specialist, along with Tracy Savage, Home-Based Manager, and Translator, began to work with the family. Home visits required dedication from all participants to ensure communication was accurate, his family's goals for Gabriel were understood and coaching was effective. Hard work and commitment paid off and communication became easier.

Gabriel was accepted into Early Head Start in Spring 2023. He began to excel in the classroom. He played with peers, initiated games, and called friends by name. Gabriel's education team grew to include his teacher and family advocate as all programs collaborated.

At his last Early Intervention home visit, Holly recalled feeling "emotional as everything had come full circle." Together with his parents, the team and Gabriel shared accomplished goals and plans for his next steps.

Gabriel's mom shared, "The Children's Center helped Gabriel a lot. Thanks to the entire team, today he is a different kid. He looks forward to going to school!" The family is currently applying to Head Start where he will prepare for kindergarten!

DONORS

Scan to donate!

Individual & Community Gifts

These gifts were given between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

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Angels
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Ginnie Outland

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Franklin, VA 23851

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Franklin, VA 23851

The Children's Center Aurora Courtland
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Courtland, VA 23837

The Children's Center Executive Suffolk
300 Executive Ct.
Suffolk, VA 23434

The Children's Center Davis Suffolk
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Suffolk, VA 23434

The Children's Center Pruden Suffolk
4169 Pruden Blvd.
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The Children's Center

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We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to nurture and educate children and families!

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