



2024 - 2025
ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Western Tidewater, Virginia

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NEW BEGINNINGS

Each year at the Children's Center tells a new chapter in a much larger story — one rooted in the belief that every child deserves the strongest possible start. Our theme “New Beginnings” invites us to pause and reflect not just on what has changed, but on what is taking shape.

In early childhood, “new beginnings” happen daily, and these small moments build toward lifelong outcomes. The same is true for our organization. With every family we welcome, we are continually beginning again —and reaffirming our mission.

As we conclude year 2025, we see both continuity and change. We welcome Kristie Dailey as our new Executive Director, while we recognize the retirement of Rosalind Cutchins, whose leadership has been instrumental. Kristie is no stranger to our mission. She has served with extraordinary dedication, bringing deep expertise in early intervention and therapy directly to the children and families.



Kristie Dailey
Executive Director

Though changes are among us, what remains constant is the heart of this work: the daily commitment of staff, families, community partners, and supporters like you. Together, we are building something that endures — not just programs and services, but relationships, trust, and opportunity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for walking alongside us in this journey. Your support makes these new beginnings possible — for our team, for our organization, and most importantly, for the children and families we serve.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Spencer
Board President



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

School Readiness & Education



- Suffolk Head Start and Texie Camp Marks centers received Infant and Toddler Quality VQB5 Honor Roll for demonstrating exemplary interactions with infants and toddlers, as measured through CLASS® observations. Both sites' scores during the 2024-2025 year were within the top 10% statewide.
- Centers held literacy events year-round and sent packets home with rising kindergarteners over the summer.
- Classrooms introduced nature-focused projects including hatching eggs, raising hermit crabs, and growing gardens.

Family Engagement



- Early Intervention hosted play dates at the park and Jungle Gymz in Suffolk, held a cookie decorating event, pumpkin patch field trip, and held a swimming class pool party for families. This was made possible by funding from Suffolk Foundation.
- Programs and activities were held agency-wide for families including fatherhood events, distributed Thanksgiving meals, provided wellness kits to new moms and more.

Community Involvement



- Guest speakers covered a variety of topics at parent events (PACT) including Suffolk Library, Western Tidewater Community Services Board, Virginia Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program, Franklin Police & Fire Departments, Dental Assistants and Early Childhood Western Tidewater.
- Expectant moms & families obtained free car seats and pack-n-plays upon their completion of Car Seat Safety and Safe Sleep Training through our collaboration with our local Health Departments.
- Strengthened our partnership with Western Tidewater Community Services Board to benefit Early Intervention families, hoping to increase awareness and referrals for both agencies.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT



44% of the projected number of eligible children in the community received Early Head Start services.



30% of the projected number of eligible children in the community received Head Start services.



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



97%

Average monthly enrollment in Early Head Start



92%

Average monthly enrollment in Head Start



Medical Exams

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



Vision Screenings

100% Early Head Start and Head Start children are given a vision screening at our centers.



Dental Screenings

99% of Early Head Start children had a dental screening. 67% of Head Start children had a dental exam.

1,655
children served

Children Served in 2024-2025 by Program

	Suffolk	Franklin	IOW	SOCO	Other
Suffolk Childcare	31	0	3	0	4
Franklin Childcare	3	41	1	8	9
Early Head Start	101	93	28	20	18
Head Start	141	24	25	24	2
Early Intervention	421	50	85	43	0
Pediatric Therapy	320	44	69	37	0
Total	1017	252	211	132	43

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

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The draft independent auditors' report expressed a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the Children's Center for the fiscal year 2024-2025. 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 2024-2025. A copy of the Children's Center's audit is available upon request.

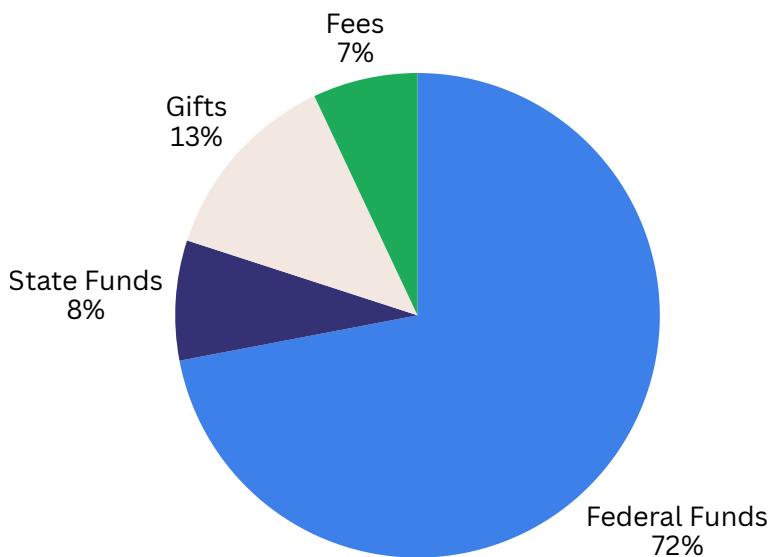
72%

FEDERAL FUNDS

14.6M

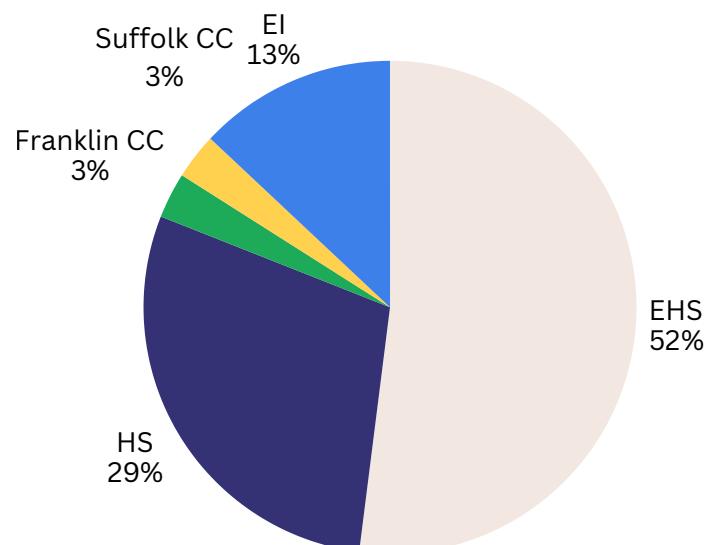
OPERATING BUDGET

REVENUES BY SOURCE



KEY:
 EHS: Early Head Start
 HS: Head Start
 EI: Early Intervention
 Franklin CC: Franklin Chilcare
 Suffolk CC: Suffolk Childcare

EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



BUDGET BREAKDOWN



EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START REVENUES

EHS REVENUES	25-26 Budget	25-26 Budget %	24-25 Actual	24-25 Actual %
EHS Federal Funds	6,606,941	79%	5,949,445	83%
Other Federal Funds	0	0%	0	0%
USDA	180,000	2%	186,513	3%
Local Tax	3,750	0%	3,750	0%
United Way	17,640	0%	17,640	0%
Contributions	140,538	2%	195,002	3%
In-Kind Contributions	1,402,695	17%	839,921	12%
TOTAL EHS REVENUES	8,351,564		7,192,271	
HS REVENUES				
HS Federal Funds	3,622,790	78%	3,337,816	83%
Other Federal Funds		0%	0	0%
USDA	170,000	4%	150,365	4%
Local Tax	3,750	0%	3,750	0%
United Way	11,760	0%	11,760	0%
Contributions	22,899	0%	17,308	0%
In-Kind Contributions	828,721	18%	516,770	13%
TOTAL HS REVENUES	4,659,920		4,037,770	

EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START EXPENSES

EHS EXPENSES				
Salaries	4,621,754	55%	4,266,791	59%
Fringe	851,738	10%	806,740	11%
Travel	13,420	0%	7,262	0%
Equipment	164,607	2%	42,895	1%
Supplies	595,669	7%	529,677	7%
Contractual	37,880	0%	3,795	0%
Construction	0	0%	0	0%
Other	2,066,495	25%	1,535,112	21%
TOTAL EHS EXPENSES	8,351,564		7,192,271	
HS EXPENSES				
Salaries	2,425,868	52%	2,121,324	53%
Fringe	426,256	9%	376,927	9%
Travel	1,997	0%	1,467	0%
Equipment	24,243	1%	28,660	1%
Supplies	424,705	9%	324,658	8%
Contractual	87,320	2%	22,585	1%
Construction	0	0%	0	0%
Other	1,269,531	27%	1,162,148	29%
TOTAL HS EXPENSES	4,659,920		4,037,770	

Mom & Daughter Bloom Together!



Sangela Martens is a Head Start teacher at the Children's Center—and a parent whose children have been part of the program since infancy. Sangela came to the Center seeking a safe, loving environment for her children. What she found was a community that would shape her family's journey in lasting ways.

Sangela's daughter, Ava Rose, briefly transitioned to a local public school VPI program. When challenges arose, Ava returned to Head Start, where she quickly began to thrive. With the consistent care, emotional guidance, and nurturing support of her teachers, Ava completed the program and is now a confident kindergartner!

Sangela shared her family's experience in a speech she gave at the Head Start transition ceremony. She reflected on the profound impact the collaboration between her family and the Center had on her children's development. She spoke about watching her daughters take their first steps, find their voices, and grow not only academically, but emotionally and socially.

Sangela highlighted the dedication of teachers who patiently helped her daughter learn to navigate big emotions—support she described as “life-changing.” She also recognized her fellow teammates who create a culture of warmth, trust, and belonging for every family who walks through the doors.

“Leaving the Children's Center won't be easy,” Sangela shared, “but we leave with full hearts and lifelong gratitude.” Stories like Sangela's reflect the lasting impact when educators and parents come together: children leave confident and prepared, families feel supported and valued, and educators help shape futures long after children move on to their next chapter!

Tempe is an Early Intervention STAR!



Temperance has the best development experts on her team through her mom, dad, and grandmother! They are her first and best teachers. They sought the Early Intervention (EI) program at the Children's Center for support and guidance! What a story unfolded!

Through individualized occupational therapy and service coordination, Temperance began making progress towards reaching

developmental milestones. Her family and the EI team recognized that consistent peer interaction would be essential to support her continued growth—particularly in social and communication development.

Temperance enrolled in full-time childcare at the Children's Center through the Mixed Delivery Grant. This access to high-quality, inclusive childcare proved to be transformative.

In the classroom, Temperance began to join in with awe and wonder. The nurturing environment, combined with continued family engagement and professional support, encouraged her to thrive alongside her peers. Her new friends were the best motivators!

As Temperance celebrates her third birthday and graduates from the Early Intervention program, she continues to succeed in the classroom. Temperance is a shining example of what's possible when early intervention, high-quality early childhood education, and strong family support come together. What a Tempe celebration!

A YEAR OF SMILES



DONORS

Individual & Community Gifts

These gifts were given between July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025.

In Memory

Angels

Kevin & Rosalind Cutchins

Carol Ricks Aliff

G.Lee Taylor

Juanita Alphin

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Baby Charlotte

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Charles Bunn

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Brandi Burnett

Marti Clark, Kristie Dailey, & the EI staff

Laurie Phillips

Chris Cole

Troy & Jane Miller

Rosalind Cutchins

Holly & George Giles

Bob Holt

Lane & Perkins P.C.

Mitzi McCoy

Obici Healthcare

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Janice Tawney

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Early Intervention Team

Muriel Blythe

Educators & Staff at the Children's Center

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Raffi Lee Elzarian

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La'Kisha Jones

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Virginia Early Childhood
Foundation
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Thank you,
donors!





Our Centers

Texie Camp Marks
Children's Center
700 Campbell Ave.
Franklin, VA 23851

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

The Children's Center
Aurora Courtland
22015 Aurora St.
Courtland, VA 23837

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

The Children's Center
Davis Suffolk
860 Davis Blvd.
Suffolk, VA 23434

The Children's Center
James Smithfield
240 James St.
Smithfield, VA 23430

The Children's Center
Washington Smithfield
236 Washington St.
Smithfield, VA 23430

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

Commonwealth of Virginia campaign
#29-005076



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@TheChildrensCenterVA

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www.childrenscenterva.com