



Annual Report 2007-2008

Collaborating for kids



We embrace the community as our partner in serving children. For the past 25 years, this sentence from the Children's Center's shared values has

reflected our collaboration with other agencies, local groups, and civic organizations. This year, partnering with the community has moved to new heights as staff and Board members have been involved with Smart Beginnings Hampton Roads and Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater.

What have we gained in the process? We have learned the power of using data to make informed decisions. Reading the numbers, we realized that

there are about 1,400 children living in poverty in Western Tidewater. We serve about 10 percent of those in Early Head Start. When an opportunity came to expand those numbers, we jumped at the chance. Our hope is to serve more children during the next year. We'll be letting you know how that is going!

By partnering together, our individual efforts have a greater impact. What's the big deal? Research shows that children develop 85 percent of their brains before they are three years old. The first three years of life are critical to their development. If we want to support children and families — and our community — we can't afford to wait!

Barbara Mease
Executive Director

Barbara Mease was awarded the J. Paul Councill, Jr. 2008 Community Service Award by Paul D. Camp Community College to honor her work on behalf of children in Western Tidewater.

Our Mission

We nurture and educate children and their families through a professional staff dedicated to enhancing each child's potential with creative, quality programs.

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.

Remarks from Amy



The Children's Center is all about hope.

As you look through this annual report, you will find a lot of numbers, and they are important. Numbers

hold the Center accountable to the public, funders, and families. The Center takes accountability seriously. Numbers are important, but numbers will never tell the whole story.

I encourage you to spend some time with the children and families featured in this year's report. These families give us hope for our quality programs and caring staff.

All of this great work is made possible by donors, volunteers, and people like you who care about the welfare of others. Will you share our hope?

Amy Britt
President, Board of Directors

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Executive Director

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Program Director

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Early Head Start Director

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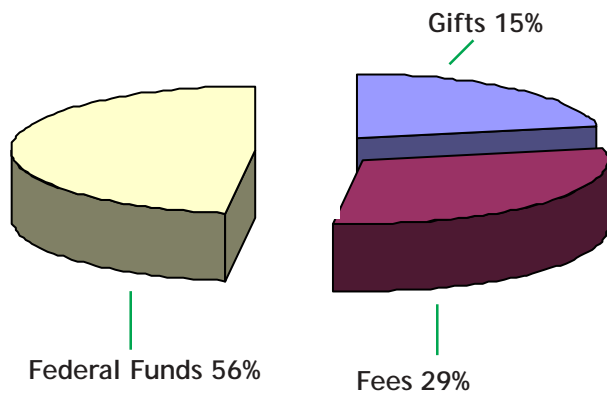
Franklin-Southampton
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*The Children's Center is a private, non-profit organization.
Donations are tax deductible.*

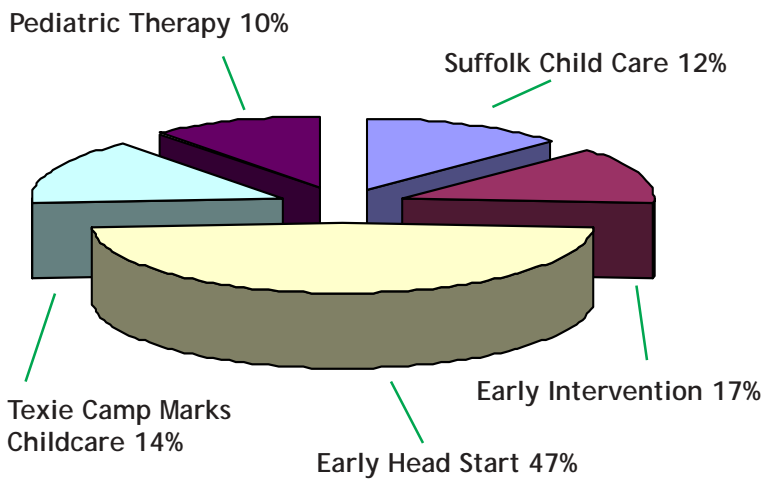
Revenue and Expenditures

2008-2009 Budget - \$3,348,789

Revenue by Source



Expenditures by Program



Program Statistics

	Total	City of Suffolk	City of Franklin	Isle of Wight County	Southampton County	Other
Early Intervention	192	124	21	27	20	0
Pediatric Therapy	421	269	56	37	40	19
Texie Camp Marks	167	5	93	4	57	8
Suffolk Center	173	158	1	2	1	11
Early Head Start	233	89	81	37	26	0
Total Participating	1,186	645	252	107	144	38
Total Actual Children (non-duplicated)	852					

Early Head Start statistics

Revenues

Source	Budget	%
EHS Federal Funds	\$1,359,592	79
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 307,693	18
USDA	\$ 28,000	2
United Way	\$ 26,960	1
Local Tax	\$ 5,245	0
TOTAL	\$1,727,490	

Expenses

Source	Budget	%
Salaries	\$ 939,316	54
Fringe	\$ 134,180	8
Supplies	\$ 106,888	6
Travel	\$ 6,500	1
Other	\$ 540,606	31
TOTAL	\$1,727,490	

Audit Results

The auditors' report expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Children's Center for the fiscal year 2008-2009. The auditors' report on compliance for the Early Head Start program for the Children's Center expressed an unqualified opinion.

Parent Involvement

Eighty percent (160 of 198) of families served by Early Head Start participated in education activities designed to develop knowledge and skills that encourage self-sufficiency and improve interaction with children.

Kindergarten preparation

Families in the Children's Center Early Head Start program participate in the Raising A Reader (RAR) program. RAR provides books on a rotating basis and encourages parents to share books with their children.

The Children's Center uses *Creative Curriculum* in all of its Early Head Start 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 program assures that all children have required immunizations, social security cards, birth certificates, primary care physicians, and health insurance before they leave the program.

Savannah is more vocal and alert

Savannah Davis, age 2 from Smithfield, has been receiving Early Head Start and Early Intervention services from the Smithfield Children's Center, and has seen marked improvement. Savannah has been diagnosed with severe cerebral palsy.

Savannah has received case management from Darlene Dillard, speech therapy from Margaret Bachman, and occupational therapy from Tracy Pounce-Jagessar. Savannah also spends two days a week in an Early Head Start classroom.

Renae Davis, Savannah's grandmother, said she has seen Savannah blossom.

"She is more vocal now that she is with other kids. She is more alert and looks around more. She loves the other kids and they are good to her," Renae said. "It's cute the way they interact with her. The teachers have been integrating her into the classroom setting."

Darlene Dillard, service coordinator for the Children's

Center, said she has also seen Savannah make dramatic improvement since her initial evaluation in March. A team effort has helped Savannah control her mouth and move around better. The Center has even helped with the little things, like crying.

"Two weeks after her first home visit and Savannah was able to pull herself up," Darlene said. "When I first started working with the family, she fussed and cried. All she wanted was Grandma. I made some suggestions about keeping her cuddled and secure and things got better."



Savannah Davis, diagnosed with severe cerebral palsy, has made significant gains in the Children's Center Early Head Start and Early Intervention programs. Also pictured is Renae Davis, Savannah's grandmother.

Renae said she has hopes for her granddaughter.

"I hope one day she will be able to eat like other children and maybe she can walk with the assistance of a walker," she said.

Family benefits from Early Head Start

Shameika Young of Franklin and her children, Kameile and Jada, have enriched our lives at the Children's Center's Early Head Start program. The program provided early childhood education for Jada while her mom went back to school to become a licensed practical nurse.

"Jada had great teachers who let me know it was alright for me to go back to school. My school

time was the exact same time that she was here in the program," Shameika said. "I always wanted to go back to school and become a nurse."

Kameile, 4, went through the EHS program and is now a student in the Bright Starts program in Franklin.

"Before the Children's Center, Kameile was a shy student. Now she talks and she's bright. She

was picked for student of the month in her Bright Starts class," Shameika said. "She has grown with the other kids."



Jada and Kameile Carrington

“Superfamily” gets help from Early Intervention

The Diefenbacher’s of Carrollton are truly a “superfamily”. Jamie and John Diefenbacher have three young children who need constant medical attention, and the Children’s Center’s Early Intervention and Early Head Start programs have helped the Diefenbacher’s receive the services they need.

Jamie and John’s children, Isabelle, Addison, and Jackson, have all received services from the EI program. All have been diagnosed with a rare metabolic disorder, which requires a rigorous schedule of medications and doctors appointments. All of the children also need other health services.

At eight months, Isabelle, who is now three and is no longer in the EI program, received physical and speech therapy, and was also in the Early Head Start program. Addison is receiving occupational therapy from Tracy Pouncie-Jagessar for a sensory processing

delay. Jackson receives speech therapy and feeding therapy from Margaret Bachman.

All of the children have made great progress.

“The therapy has definitely helped them. We’re definitely seeing improvement,” Jamie said.

“They have been great trying to work around my schedule and coming here.”

Annette Whitfield, an Early Head Start family advocate that makes home visits, came to serve the family while Isabelle was in the EHS program.

“Isabelle still talks about Miss Annette,” Jamie said.

Darlene Dillard, a service coordinator for the Children’s Center, said she is in awe of Jamie as she keeps up the families’ hectic schedule.

“She blows my mind on how she keeps up with all the doctors appointments, medications, therapy appointments, maintains her home, and deals with



The Diefenbacher’s (l-r) — Isabelle, Jackson, and Addison, have all received Early Intervention services from the Children’s Center. Also pictured is mom Jamie.

everyday events,” Darlene said. “She always seems calm, cool, and collected even though there are three children and under 4 years of age pulling her in every direction and all having unique abilities and disabilities.”

“She blows my mind on how she keeps up with all the doctors appointment, medications, therapy appointments, maintains her home, and deals with everyday events. She always seems to remain calm, cool, and collected.”

— Darlene Dillard



The Diefenbacher’s follow this routine everyday for their children.

In honor *and* memory

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Miss Maggie L. Vaughan's Family

Maggie L. Vaughan

Many of our friends offer the Children's Center gifts made in honor or in memory 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, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

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See HONOR, page 7



Honor

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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, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

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Center Locations

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

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

300 Executive Court
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(757) 538-2523

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