



# CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

VOLUME 31, NO. 3

WINTER 2019

## A Letter from Mr. Phil

Recently, my Facebook account posted a picture under “your memories” of a photo that I had shared a few years ago. It was the dedication of our new playground back in 1979. The picture showed Mrs. Joanne Hudlow, Mrs. Alice Stout, and me sitting on our newly created rock pile with about 15-20 children waving in the background. I shared the photo, as did a couple of friends, and we heard back from several of the children in the picture. They recognized themselves as well as many of their friends they had not seen in over 35 years. Most of the children in the photo are now in their late 40s or early 50s!



Last week at Sam’s Club, a young man came up to me and asked, “Are you Mr. Phil?” It is almost impossible for me to go anywhere in Chattanooga without running into someone who has some connection to Chambliss Center for Children. I guess that is inevitable when you are associated with an organization that has been serving the community for 148 years, and you have been at that agency for 48 of those years!

As I think of the phenomena of being known as “Mr. Phil” everywhere I go, the word that comes to mind is **family**. When children and youth that we have provided services to are asked to describe what the program meant to them, they almost always say that we are like family. That response comes from children, parents, and other caregivers in both the early education and residential programs.

During the seasons of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and end of the year celebrations, most everyone is focused on getting together with their family. Chambliss Center for Children’s focus is supporting family connections and activities.

*Sometimes* that means we are providing child care so a parent can work or go to school. *Sometimes* that means providing foster care while a family goes through treatment, or finds a job and a place to live. *Sometimes* that means finding an adoptive home for a child, because their biological family can’t take care of them. *Sometimes* that means giving a young adult a place to live and support services while they transition into independence.

Every day, Chambliss Center for Children cares for almost eight hundred children throughout the community. The building blocks of every community are its families - strong families produce a strong community. When you support the Chambliss Center for Children, you help us help families become stronger, and that makes Chattanooga a better place for a child to grow up and thrive!

**Thank you for your support and investment in our programs!** Merry Christmas; have a wonderful Holiday; and may your 2020 be healthy, prosperous and happy!

# Unum Back to School Bash

The start of the school year wouldn't be complete without our friends from Unum! Every year **Unum** hosts a big Back to School Bash, including inflatable slides, games, popcorn, face painting, pizza parties, and snow cones, to celebrate the end of summer camp and the beginning of a brand-new school year. Volunteers also donated and assembled the required school supplies for 150 children in our program to help them get the school year started. Our children look forward to this day every year, and we appreciate our wonderful friends at Unum for their continued support of our agency and the children we serve.



Our Unum volunteers loved getting to stop by their sponsored classroom! Pictured here are **Walker Kelly, Tameara Smith, Sean Puckett, Emily Marlin, and John Pruitt.**



The inflatables were **Kenya's** favorite part of the event.



**Emmanuel** loved getting his face painted!

**Christopher Melendez** helped monitor the obstacle course with his new friends, **Chance** and **David.**



**Jalayah** loved spending time in the bounce house with Unum volunteers **Emily Marlin** (left) and **Tameara Smith** (right).



We were happy to have so many great volunteers from Unum. Pictured here, from left to right, are **Hannah Tingle, Andrew Massey, Cori Barber, Miles Huff, and Rachel Hargis.**

## SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE

We are continuing to expand our Transitional Living program. This program is designed to assist youth "aging out" of the foster care system. We provide housing, counseling, and training in basic life skills. We currently have 10 young adults in the program, and are finishing up a six-unit apartment building to serve even more. We are partnering with another local nonprofit, **Homes & Havens**, to design and furnish the interiors of our new units. They will help us provide peaceful, beautiful spaces using therapeutic "trauma-informed" design, creating personalized, tranquil interior designs that are free of stress-triggers. Thanks to a generous donor, Homes & Havens recently re-designed the office space of **Jon Berestecky**, our Transitional Living Specialist. He now has a calming, cool space to hang out with the young adults he works with in our program.



Pictured here, Transitional Living Specialist **Jon Berestecky** works on getting settled in his new office designed by **Homes & Havens.**





**Welcome New Staff** **Elena Quintiana** (far left) has joined the Chambliss Center for Children team as Director of Human Resources. Elena has a passion for nonprofit work and will be working diligently to recruit teachers and staff for our agency, training and developing our current staff, and supporting all of our sites. **Gabrielle Barton** recently came on board as the site director for one of our off-site centers. She will be overseeing the day-to-day operations at Newton Child Development Center. We are happy to welcome them both to our team!



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

It was a warm, but beautiful day for our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chambliss Center for Children Golf Tournament at **Council Fire Golf Club** in October. Golfers and volunteers had a great time, and we raised more than \$56,000. We are so grateful to all who sponsored, played, and donated, as well as our wonderful committee members **Barry Bogo, Greg Cullum, Mark Degler, Jonathan Frost, Greg McGuire, Scott Parrish, Dan Pratt, Everett Warren, Justin White, and Chris Young** for helping put this event together.

We had several great board members volunteer at this year's tournament, including, from left to right, Board Chairman **Paul Fitzgerald**, Sustaining Board member **Catharine Daniels**, and President/CEO **Phil Acord**.



CENTER INSET:  
Board members **Teddi Mendel** (left) and **Cindy Wilkerson** (right) helped serve lunch to all our players.

Below, from left to right, **Chuck Jackson**, golf tournament committee member **Everett Warren**, Board member and golf tournament committee member **Greg McGuire**, and **Ben Hagaman** had a great day on the course.

Pictured here are, from left to right, Sustaining Board member and golf tournament committee member **Barry Bogo, Matt Hullander, Jason Soss, and Brandon Born**.

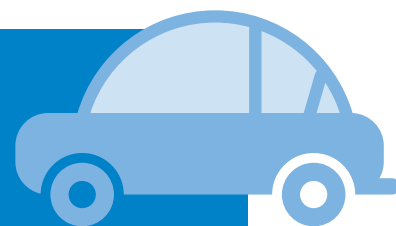


Board member and golf tournament committee member **Greg Cullum** (far right) is pictured here with his team, which includes (from left to right) **Matt Mathis, Jimmy Hudson, and Jimmy White**.



## Driven By Generosity

If you have a vehicle in working condition that you would like to see put to good use, we hope you'll consider donating it to us. We have young adults in our Transitional Living Program and parents in need of reliable transportation to help them get to school and work. Please contact **Racie Hoffman** at 423-468-1139 or [rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org) for more information.





# Volunteers & In-Kind Donations

Our thanks to each one of you for your help in making Chambliss Center for Children the best place for children in our community! This list acknowledges those who donated time, talents, goods, or services from July 1 - October 15, 2019. Thank you!



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Our TVA golf tournament could not happen without this great group. Pictured here with **Cameron** and **Peyton** from our child care program are: (left to right) **Lucia Harvey, Patricia Ervin, Shawn Affolder, Chris Willingham, Angela Smith, Jennifer Affolder, Amanda Poland, Renee Sharp, Jeanine May, Crystal Koch, Carolyn Creek, and Elaine Steele.**



TVA Chief Nuclear Officer **Tim Rausch**, was happy to meet some of the children in our program. He is pictured here with **Cameron** and **Peyton**.



**Ken Mackey, Jim Barstow, and J.T. Rose** were happy to take home 1st place in the tournament.



TVA Chief Nuclear Officer **Tim Rausch, Darren Gale, Eric Bush, and Warren Shows** had a great time at the tournament.



## 23 Years of Golf with TVA

For the 23<sup>rd</sup> year, TVA Nuclear has organized a successful tournament for our benefit. The event took place in October at **Council Fire Golf Club**. TVA employees, especially **Jennifer Affolder** and **Chris Willingham**, spent countless hours organizing the event and encouraging the support of our wonderful sponsors. This tournament makes a tremendous difference in our ability to continue caring for this community's most at-risk children and youth, and we can't thank this group enough!

The Chambliss Center for Children staff were grateful for such a beautiful day. Pictured here, from left to right, with **Cameron** and **Peyton** from our child care program are President/CEO **Phil Acord**, Associate Director of the Extended Early Childhood Education Program **Sumer Arispe**, Director of Special Projects and Events **Lesley Berryhill**, and Vice President **Katie Harbison**.





# A Spooktacular Time with TVA!

Trick-or-treating at TVA is one of our favorite events of the year, and our children always look forward to it. For the 23<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, more than 30 Pre-K children, ages four and five, decked out in adorable Halloween costumes, circled through one floor of the TVA Chattanooga office complex where employees, many who were also dressed in costumes, gave out candy. We always have a great time, and we know our friends at TVA do as well!



Tonisha made a new TVA friend, Lindsay Stewart.

TVA employees from left to right, **Jim Barstow** (VP, Regulatory Affairs), **David Czufin** (Sr. VP, Engineering & Operations Support), **Jeremy Fischer** (Chief Information Officer), **Meghan Flynn** (VP, Talent & Culture), and **Preston Pratt** (Director, Safety & Enterprise Improvement) loved getting to spend time with trick-or-treaters **Nova, Ne'vaeah, and India.**



Frederick loved hanging out with TVA employee and fellow superhero, Joshua Kaylor.

Dieshunn and I'Zavier enjoyed the pizza party TVA Nuclear hosted for us.



TVA employees, from left to right, **Emily Goodwin**, **Erica Hudson**, and **Amanda Hester**, dressed up as the Three Blind Mice had just as much fun as the kids did!



Our Pre-K children, staff, and TVA employee **Tracy Hightower** had so much fun dressing up and trick-or-treating!



**Kaide** and **Ahana** could hardly contain their excitement to start trick-or-treating!

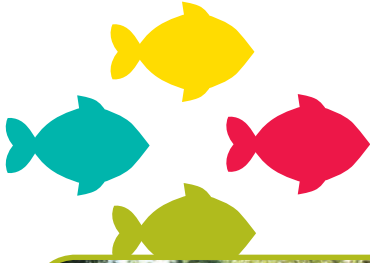
## Did You Know?

- The first five years of a child's life are crucial to their physical, emotional, social, & educational development, making early childhood education one of the best ways to give a child a good start in life.
- Parents in our Extended Childcare Program pay, on average, less than 25% of the cost of caring for their children, leaving us to raise the remainder of the funds to provide high-quality care.



# Fishing at Fowler Farm

Every summer, some of our older children travel to Lookout Mountain for a day of fun and fishing at Fowler Farm. The day begins with a safety lesson and instructions from area fisherman, **Mac McGee**, and his volunteers, prior to the kids picking up their cane poles and worms. It was a beautiful day this year, and the fish were definitely biting! We thank Sustaining Board member, **Gwin Tugman**, Mr. McGee, Sustaining Board member **Frank Fowler** and his family, our Board members, and volunteers for providing such a great day outdoors for our kids!



Pictured here are Vice President **Katie Harbison**, **Ciara**, and Sustaining Board member **Gwin Tugman**.



Board member **Jeannine Grogg** and her husband **Gary Grogg** helped give instruction to **Sundi**.

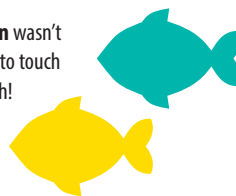


Volunteer **Mac McGee** helped **DeMoriah** catch her first fish.



Summer camp counselor **Will Anderson** helped **Lawson** show off the big fish that he caught.

**Jordan** wasn't afraid to touch her fish!



**A'Narriya** and **Kamaari** had a blast on the playground during the festival.



**Ava** and **Zamari** were ready to fill their bags up with treats.



## Fall Festival



**Deja** excitedly waited to see if she won the Cake Walk.



Our Fall Festival wouldn't happen without the support from our wonderful volunteers and Board members.



**Kadron** (left) and **Mia** (right) were excited to see their favorite summer camp teacher **Marcus Tumlin**.





Pre-K teacher **NaQuita Lester** loved cuddling up with **Harlem**.

Last year, we hosted our First Annual Fall Festival in an effort to keep our parents involved in their child's education. This year, the event was an even bigger hit than last year! The evening included games, door prizes, lots of treats for the kids, and a delicious supper. Parents also had an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher, fill out parent surveys, and learn about resources available to them. It was a wonderful evening, and we look forward to continuing this event for years to come.



President/CEO **Phil Acord** hung out with his favorite superheroes **Allen** (left) and **Timothy** (right).



Pictured above, **Cindy Wilkerson** (left) and **Teddi Mendel** (right) served drinks and cookies to our families.



Teacher **Ja'Quishia Knowles** loved getting to spend time with her family at the Fall Festival. Pictured with her are (top row) **Jayceon**, **Ja'Liyah**, (middle) **Desmond**, and (bottom) **Jabarri**.

For the 20<sup>th</sup> year in a row, **Tioga** hosted a very successful golf tournament benefiting our agency. The event, held at **Windstone Golf Club**, grossed more than \$39,000, which will go to support our programs. Thank you to our friends at Tioga, especially **Don Gregory**, **Don Carver**, and the entire **Keiser family**, for their continued support.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TIOGA Golf TOURNAMENT



**Brad Fourrier**, **David Landers**, **Joe Kannikar**, and **Brandon Ware** always have a fun time at this tournament.



We are beyond grateful to **Tioga** for organizing this event every year. Pictured here, from left to right, are Chambliss Center for Children Vice President **Katie Harbison**, **Andy Keiser** (Tioga), **David Keiser** (Tioga), **Don Gregory** (Tioga), and Chambliss Center for Children President/CEO **Phil Acord**.



**Don Carver**, **Gary Kilgore**, **Eddie Huff**, and **Ryan Stuart** were excited to win first place!



Chambliss Center for Children President/CEO **Phil Acord** and Board Chairman **Paul Fitzgerald** enjoyed the beautiful weather while they golfed.



**Joe Romanelli**, **Bob Catanzariti**, **Jeff Shaw**, and **Bill Blackwell** were ready for a great day of golf.





**Financial Donations** This list of financial contributions is from July 1 - October 15, 2019. If we have omitted your name, please accept our apologies and let us know so that we may correct our records and acknowledge you in our spring newsletter. Thanks to each of you for helping us continue our mission of working with our community's families and children.



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Judy & Mike St. Charles

**1872 SOCIETY**

Since our founding in 1872, Chambliss Center for Children has been blessed with the opportunity to shape the lives of many generations of Chattanoogaans. As we look ahead, we invite you to help us impact the future of our community by joining the 1872 Society. By including Chambliss Center for Children in your estate plans, you will help ensure that Chattanooga will always be known as a place that cares for its most vulnerable citizens. Below, 1872 Society members Gloria Miller & David Bowman share why they chose to include Chambliss Center for Children in their estate plans.

*"We support the 1872 Society, because we want to honor the legacy of this agency and the thousands of children they have helped over the decades. It is important to both honor that legacy, and to help provide for the children who will need its services into the future. We believe that by assigning one of our life insurance policies to Chambliss Center for Children, we are doing just that. It feels really good to know that this action on our part might help provide a child with a better start to life and bring them hope."*

- Gloria Miller & David Bowman

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# Mr. Phil's Friends

Named after our President/CEO of 48 years, Mr. Phil's Friends is a group of special donors who link arms with us by giving to Chambliss Center for Children on a monthly basis. By joining, your monthly gift provides reliable, consistent funding to help us continue serving more than 700 children a day. Members enjoy insider updates from Mr. Phil himself, are listed in our newsletters, and receive a special gift – a pair of limited-edition Mr. Phil socks!

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John Michael Trussel

Karen Wallace

Holly Wright

Visit [chamblisscenter.org/monthly-giving](http://chamblisscenter.org/monthly-giving) to join today!

# TVA Day of Serving

TVA recently held their 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Serving with our agency! With a campus consisting of 17 acres and more than 90,000 square feet of building space, as well as multiple off-site locations, we depend on volunteers to help us with projects throughout the year. It was a crisp Fall day for the 45 highly-skilled volunteers, who completed more than 50 tasks on our wish list. Volunteers tackled interior projects

such as cleaning, painting, replacing bathroom fixtures, and organizing closets. Exterior projects included trimming trees, pressure washing, and landscaping. We would like to thank all of these wonderful volunteers, especially our TVA Day of Serving coordinator **Phillip Harris**, for getting a year's worth of projects done in one day!



**Amanda Taylor** helped Board member **Ray Feher** prepare our garden for Winter.



Volunteer **Katie Downs** (above) cleaned and organized our Art Room.



Our Group 2 classroom needed some brighter paint on the walls, and TVA delivered. **Mary Vatter** painted the walls with chalkboard paint.



Our landscaping always looks great after TVA Day of Serving. **Zack Rosman, Sam Held, Daniel Polacek, and John Holcombe** spent the day mulching around campus.

**Robert Culisek** made sure that all of the nursery doors were in working order.



# Holiday Wish List

## Early Childhood Education Program

Baby doll clothes  
 Baby wipes (non-scented)  
 Band Aids: all sizes  
 Batteries: all sizes  
 Bean bag chairs  
 Blank CD's  
 Board games  
 Bottles of glue  
 Bouncy balls  
 Bouncy seats for infants  
 Cardboard blocks  
 Cardstock: various colors  
 CD players for classrooms  
 Child-friendly pillows for cozy areas  
 Clear contact paper  
 Clear plastic storage bins (small)  
 Command hooks  
 Construction paper  
 Construction Trucks (3 years and under)  
 Cotton balls  
 Craft supplies (pipe cleaners, googly eyes, pompoms, craft sticks, feathers, beads)

Crayola fingerprint  
 Disinfectant spray  
 Drawing paper  
 Dress up clothes (especially for little boys)  
 Duct tape: multiple colors  
 Extra changes of clothing & shoes for ages 6 weeks to 12 years old  
 Fabric markers & paint  
 Finger paint  
 Foam board  
 Gift cards: Walmart or Target (to purchase items for our education programs)  
 Glitter: all colors  
 Glue sticks  
 Hand sanitizer  
 Kleenex (non-lotion)  
 Laminator (small size)  
 Latex gloves  
 Leap Frog maracas (Spanish/English – if possible)  
 Lincoln Logs  
 Liquid hand soap  
 Little People playsets  
 Little Tykes Playsets  
 Magazines (for collages)

Markers  
 Masking tape  
 Model Magic  
 Multi-color sharpie markers  
 Multicultural books and dolls  
 Musical instruments  
 Outdoor balls (soccer, kickball, basketball)  
 Pacifiers  
 Plastic farm & zoo animals (3 years and under)  
 Plastic sheet protectors  
 Play dishes and play food  
 Play Dough  
 Play telephones  
 Posterboard  
 Potting soil  
 Puzzles: Large knob-type  
 Reusable water bottles  
 Riding toys (ages 2-4 years)  
 Scotch tape  
 Scrapbook paper, stickers, and books  
 See N' Say toys  
 Snap and Lock beads  
 Tempura paint- all colors  
 Tie-dye kits

Tissue paper  
 Touch and feel books  
 Toy Housekeeping items (toy iron, telephone, ironing board, etc.)  
 Tree blocks  
 Tri-Fold projects boards: various sizes  
 Watercolor kits  
 White t-shirts (youth sizes small-large)  
 Wide ribbons: any color  
 Ziploc bags: all sizes

## Residential Program

Weighted blankets (weights between 5-9 lbs)  
 Sensory toys  
 Copies of "The Connected Child" book  
 Pots & pans sets  
 Silverware  
 Lysol wipes  
 Swiffer wet pads  
 Multi-purpose cleaner  
 Gift cards to any food establishment  
 Gift cards for Uber, Walmart, Amazon, Target, gas stations and movie theaters

Many of these items can be purchased through our AmazonSmile Charity Wish Lists, which can be found on [www.ChamblissCenter.org](http://www.ChamblissCenter.org). You may also drop off donations during normal business hours at our main campus, 315 Gillespie Road, Chattanooga, TN 37411.



## Shop for a cause!

'Tis the season for giving, and shopping at or donating to our **Thrift Stores** is the perfect way to give back! Whether

you want to shop for gifts and décor, or clean your home out to make room for all the presents you'll be receiving over the holidays, shop or donate today while supporting a wonderful agency.

## THE THRIFT STORE

*Two convenient locations!*

3723 Brainerd Rd  
 423-698-3730

1936 Dayton Blvd  
 423-498-2101

Please call either store to schedule a pick-up for large items.

## Three Ways to Shop Amazon

1. Sign up for Amazon Smile so that a percentage of every purchase comes directly back to us! Simply start at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), search for "Chambliss Center for Children" to connect your account with us, and shop from that same site every time.



2. Help us stock our classrooms by purchasing much-needed items for our **early childhood education** classrooms from our AmazonSmile Charity List. You can scan this QR code or find the link on our website.



3. Make Christmas a special time for the children and youth in our **Residential and Transitional Living programs** by purchasing items on their AmazonSmile Charity List. Again, you can either scan this QR code or find the link on our website.



# We Love Our Staff!

This year, a generous donor gifted our agency with an opportunity to host a staff appreciation event. In September, we treated our staff to a dinner cruise on the **Southern Belle**. It was a beautiful night, and our staff loved getting to spend time together and enjoy each other's company outside of work. We have some of the best and most hardworking staff around, so we were grateful for an opportunity to show them how much we appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to the children and families that we serve.

Anita Morgan and Kisha Fifer enjoyed a delicious dinner with a view.



Chip Keith and Pat Gadson had a great time cruising along the river.



Proshonteya Garrett, Kristie Hill, and MarQuita Jennings spent some time enjoying the pretty weather and scenery on the riverboat.



## AGENCY HAPPENINGS



We had two great groups help us during the **United Way of Greater Chattanooga** Day of Caring. **Tennessee American Water** (below) employees volunteered at our property in Red Bank by cleaning up the playground at the early learning center and mulching the landscaping in the parking

lot at **The Thrift Store - Red Bank**. Volunteers from **Blue Cross Blue Shield of TN** (left) spent the day cleaning the interior and painting playground equipment at **Maurice Kirby Child Care Center**. We are so thankful for the support we get from this wonderful community!



Several of the children in our summer camp participated in **Operation Get Active**, a healthy initiative that uses the game of soccer to encourage youth to live active, healthy lifestyles. A tournament was held at the end of the summer for all of those who participated.



**The Chattanooga Downtown Rotary Club** has a program called "Rotary Reads" that consists of volunteers who go out to area agencies to read to children. They always send a group to Chambliss Center for Children, and our kids love it each time they visit! Pictured here, from left to right, are **Michael Dimitru, Lee Ann Adams, Dan Mayfield, and Pete Cooper**.



We are always happy to have members of the **Rotaract Club of Chattanooga** come by to spend time with our children. Fall Break is always a busy time on our campus, so Rotaract decided to host a Kickball Tournament for the school-aged kids one afternoon. It was a beautiful day for kickball, and our kids loved getting to see their friends from Rotaract. We are grateful for their constant support and volunteer time with our children!



**Lync Logistics** sends volunteers to our campus each month to spend time with the kids and tackle different projects, and we are grateful for all of their support. Pictured here, **Christian Noble** spent a fun morning playing interactive games with **Josiah** (left) and **Levi** (right).



One of our foster parents, **Sharon Collins**, has fostered more than 50 children over the past 18 years. This Fall, she adopted one of the teens in our program, and we are so excited for them. Congratulations Sharon and CT!





CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
GROWING YOUNG LIVES 24•7•365

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*Director of Volunteer Services*

RACIE HOFFMAN  
*Development Officer*

[www.chamblisscenter.org](http://www.chamblisscenter.org)  
423-698-2456



Our Mardi Gras King and Queen Alnoor & Gina Dhanani invite you to the 8th Annual Mardi Gras Gala on **Friday, February 21, 2020, at 7 PM!** The event will move to a new location this year, **Stratton Hall**. This event sells out faster every year, so make plans now to join the fun! Tables will go on sale 12/16/19, and individual tickets will go on sale 1/1/2020. Contact Lesley Berryhill at 423-468-1130 or [lberryhill@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:lberryhill@chamblisscenter.org) for more information.

Follow Chambliss Center for Children on all these sites!

*Delivering Holiday Cheer*



Send some cheer to your family and friends with a holiday card designed by one of the children in our Early Childhood Education Program. This year, we have two designs to choose from, "Let it Snow" and "Merry Christmas." If you would like us to mail these special greetings for you, simply send in a donation, along with a list of names and addresses, and we'll hand address and post them.

The wording inside the card can reflect that your donation was given in lieu of a gift or in honor of the recipient. Please contact Racie Hoffman (423-468-1139 or [rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:rmhoffman@chamblisscenter.org))

or Katie Harbison (423-468-1122 or [kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org](mailto:kcharbison@chamblisscenter.org)) for more information.