



Annual Report 2021



Mission...

What are we here to do?

We provide affordable high quality early childhood education and childcare services for working families.



Vision...

Where are we going?

We strive to be the standard of excellence for early childhood education, development and care in the Lowcountry.



Purpose...

Why we exist

We support our community by enabling parents to fully participate in the local workforce and ensuring every child is ready to achieve success upon entering kindergarten.



A Word from Our Executive Director



We are proud to say we have navigated another year of pandemic without too many concerns and closures. It has been stressful each day worrying whether one person will bring the virus to our Center and praying that

no one is affected. Overall, it has been a good year, at The Children's Center, we have strengthened our internal and parent communication structures, we have habitualized our handwashing and sanitizing procedures and we welcomed several new families to our Center. We recognize that a "return to normal" may look different from pre-COVID times, but we also know that educating and caring for the youngest in our community is as vital now as it has ever been.

To quote the recent Greater Island Council Task Force Report on Childcare, "Quality childcare benefits everyone in the community: working parents, children, businesses and all residents who depend on every type of product and service (teachers, dental assistants, nurses, firefighters, chefs, retail clerks, etc.). For this reason, the solution to making childcare available needs to be supported by the entire community." The Children's Center is the largest childcare facility on our Island with the critical mission of affordability for our lowest income families. COVID has impacted the community businesses need to sufficiently staff their organizations. Providing for care of dependent children in one reason people, especially women, have not returned to the workplace. Betsey Stevenson, an economist from the University of Michigan is quoted in a recent AP article, "...The decisions we make about the availability of childcare today will shape the macroeconomy for decades to come by influencing who returns to work, what types of jobs parents take

and the career path they are able to follow." The Children's Center is a vital lynchpin to building and retaining strong economic vitality for our Island.

Last year, we listen to our community and have heard the call to expand services. Parents who are cleaning rental units during high tourist season had no place for their young children while working on Saturday. Many of these children are forced to go to work with their parents and can find themselves in unsafe situations because parents are focused on their jobs and not on their children. The Children's Center has responded and has piloted a new program called "Saturday School" to serve as a safe haven for children of working parents on Saturday during high tourist season. This program began on May 15, 2021 and we will have space for up to 40 children ages 3 to 8 years. The 2022 season will see a return of this program, with care provided from mid-April through the end of September.

Our Center continues to face challenges, but with a rock solid and dedicated Board of Trustees, we remain open for business, focused on high quality affordable early childhood education. Our Center has been here for 55 years, we remain committed to ensuring children are given opportunities to move at their pace through an age-appropriate developmental continuum. Our staff is highly qualified and shares a passion for child development. We maintain an ongoing vigilance on safety and security while remaining a family friendly and open place to welcome adults and children, visitors and volunteers. The Children's Center is a priceless gem in our community.

Thank you to the Lowcountry for your ongoing support.

Jody L. Levitt
Executive Director

2021 Highlights



OPEN all year! Despite all of the trials of the pandemic, The Children's Center remained open throughout the year. Making it possible for our parents to remain employed.



Graduated eighteen children who collectively mastered 96.8% of kindergarten readiness skills as identified by SC Early Learning Standards.



Saturday care for 25 children during peak tourist season to keep our parents working.

2021 Highlights: Saturday School

In late 2020, The Children's Center was approached by members of the rental community to discuss the need for Saturday School. With the onset of tourist season, these same rental agencies have cleaning staff who are taking their young children with them to their cleaning jobs. Children have been seen unattended at pool sides, on balconies, near lagoons and jumping on couches in homes and villas that their parents are cleaning. This is dangerous for the children, incurs liability for the property owner and a distraction to the cleaning personnel. There is currently no organized childcare available on the island on Saturday. Turning over a rental home or villa is the foundation of driving a thriving tourism industry on our island. There is strong interest in this program across the island in support of the tourism industry, even beyond the cleaning company services. The majority of the families served are people of color, mostly of Hispanic ethnicity. We were able to provide programs for just over 20 children last summer.

Families throughout the Lowcountry bring their children to The Children's Center because of quality programs and the affordable care for their child. Not only is The Children's

Center critical to our children's future, but we provide an economic benefit to our community's economy. According to a study released by Child Care Aware America, a group of childcare resource and referral agencies, the annual cost of day care for an infant exceeds the average cost of in-state tuition and fees at public colleges in 31 states. Not only does the high cost of childcare in the U.S. hit the bottom line of individual families, it also has repercussions for the economy as a whole. For one, the tremendous strain on household budgets dents consumption, which in turn hinders growth. Second, the burden of dealing with (and paying for) childcare is seen as a culprit that forces women to drop out of the labor market.

In summer 2022, The Children's Center will expand our Saturday School program to accept children ages two through eight. Each Saturday, mid-April through end of September, the program will offer care from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, including meals, and enrichment activities. The community and local business financial support from last year will continue to sustain this program this summer.



Staff salary hourly wages were raised by 36% for current/new employees to bring in to line with competition and recognize value.



Raised over \$723,000 in community support.



Maintained a cash balance of not less than six weeks operating capital.



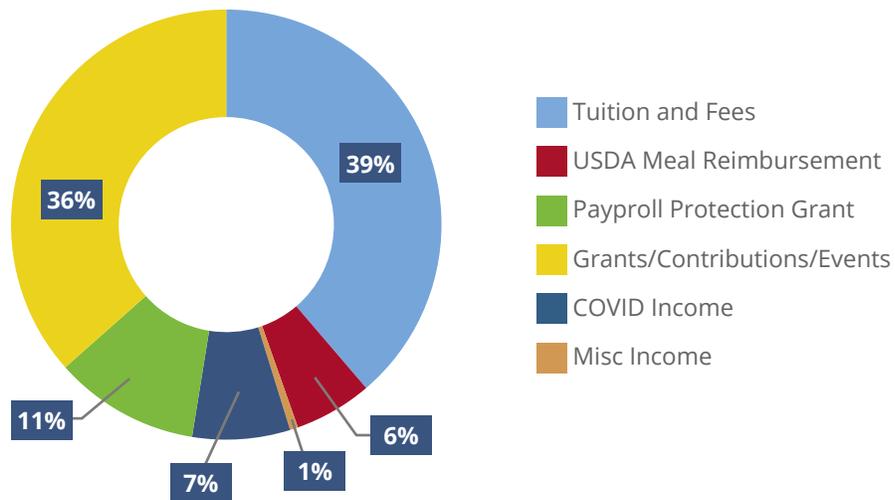
The Children’s Center held their first annual Tot Trot at Jarvis Creek Park. Family members and friends of the Children’s Center shared about the goal of raising \$16,500 to provide classroom materials to support early education at The Children’s Center. We exceeded our goal raising over \$25,000 and celebrated this success by each class doing a celebratory walk at Jarvis Creek Park!

Swing for the Future generated over \$59,000 in support for critical early education services at The Children’s Center. The weather was beautiful as x (how many?) golfers joined us on the state-of-the-art Long Cove Golf Club course. This was our first annual golf event, and we are so grateful for the amazing support the family and friends of the center have shown.

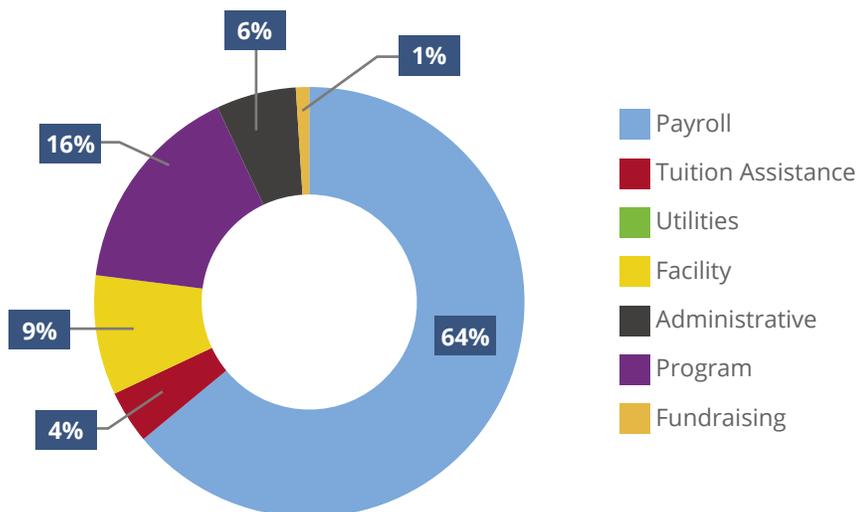


Financials and Numbers

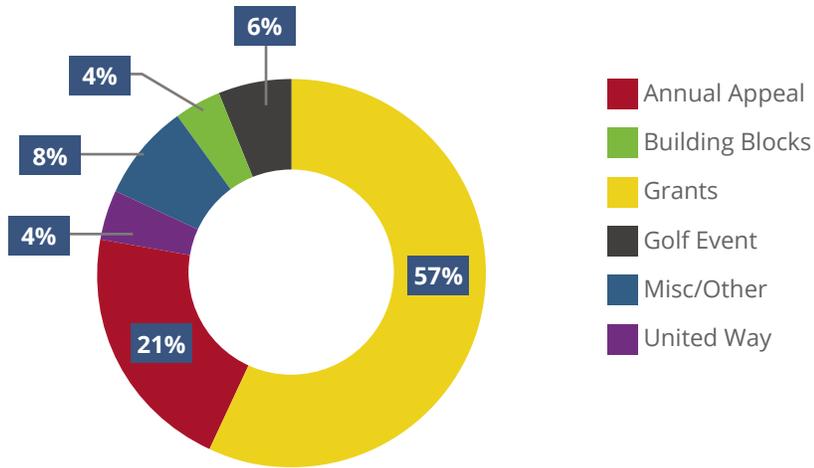
2021 Revenue Sources



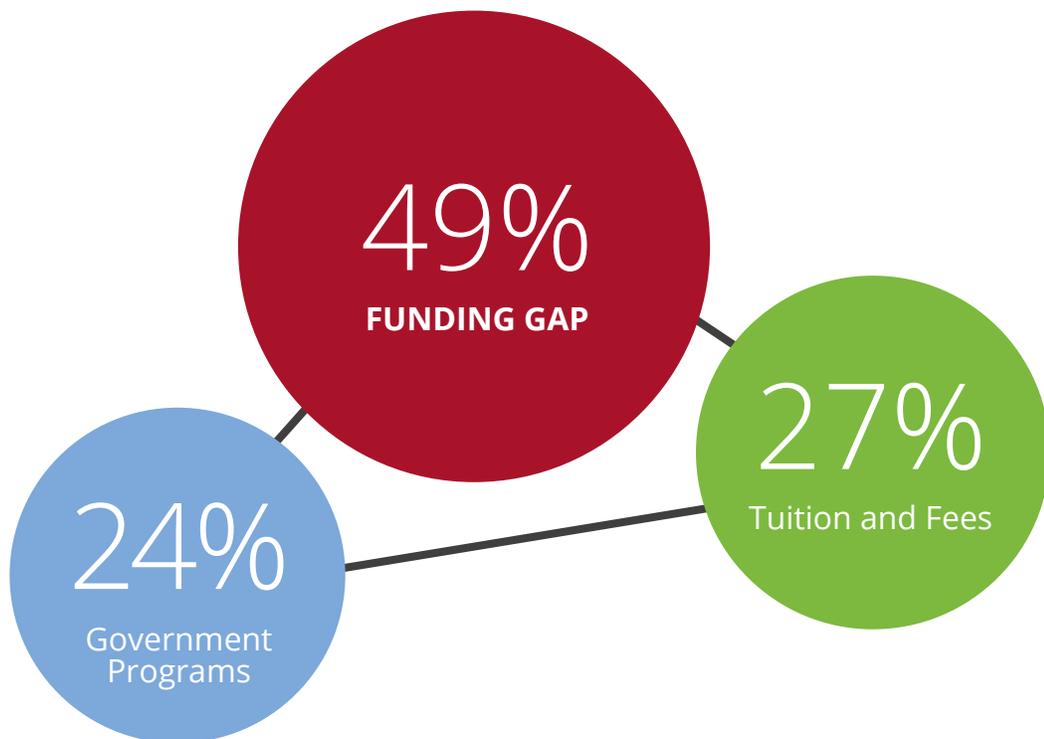
2021 Expenses



2021 Fundraising Activities



By the Numbers



We rely heavily on the generosity of individuals, grants and special events to keep tuition affordable.

2021 Donors

Birdies for Charity

Ms. Mary-Stuart Alderman
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Peggie Bailey
 Mr. & Mrs. Robin & Francis Baselice
 Mr. & Mrs. Barry & Karen Bittman
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter & Linda Buroker
 Ms. Sally Cizmaric
 Mr. & Mrs. Carol & Dennis Draeger
 Mr. Joseph Fraser
 Mr. Norman Harberger
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil & Deanna Hartman
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Trish Heichel
 Mr. & Mrs. John and Mary Howe
 Mrs. Mary Howe
 Ms. Barbara Johnson
 Mrs. Margaret Kriney
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Levitt
 Ms. Cynthia Marsteller
 Mr. Robert Mason
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed & Nancy Millette
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Holly Moeri
 Mr. Albert & Carol Nathewitch
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Linda Palmiero
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert & Carol Prillaman
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Raiti
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Martha Riggs
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Eddie Sanders
 Ms. Ianthia Scott
 Mrs. Andrea Siebold
 Ms. Kimberly Slovensky
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald & JoAnne Staffa
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Stehly
 Ms. Cynthia VanDyke
 Mr. & Mrs. Connie & Jerry Voight
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Karen Watson
 Col. & Mrs. Richard Wiles
 Ms. Henrietta Yount

Building Blocks

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ammeen
 Mr. Michael Aronstein
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bailey
 Mr. & Mrs. James Berding
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Bohn
 General Art Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. Pam Cooper
 Mr. & Mrs. John Diamond
 Ms. Betsy Doughtie
 Drs. Donald & Lisa Drakeman
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eberly
 Mr. & Mrs. David Ekedahl
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Forlenza
 The Charles M. Grant Foundation
 Jose Fuentes
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gottfried
 The Charles M. Grant Foundation
 Mrs. Jay Graves
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Greenfield
 Ms. Leanne Harrison
 Ms. Mary Lou Hiatt
 Ms. Gabriele Hoffmann
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kellom
 Mrs. George Krall
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Levitt
 Long Cove Club Community Charitable Fund
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mason
 Mrs. Mary Ellen McConnell
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pawlishyn
 Mrs. Donald Peirce
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Pendley
 Mr. & Mrs. William Raisch
 Ms. Jeanne Ricciardelli
 Dr. Bonnie Rothwell
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sanders

Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Silver
 Ms. Robin Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stitt
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wilcox
 Col. & Mrs. Richard Wiles

Grants

Beaufort County Human Services Alliance
 Berkeley Hall Charitable Fund, LLC
 Coastal Community Foundation
 David M Carmines Memorial Foundation
 Eleanor A & Bernard H Breedlove Fund
 Hargray Caring Coins Fund
 Hilton Head Island Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma
 Long Cove Club Community Charitable Fund
 Moss Creek Giving Fund
 Palmetto Dunes Cares
 Palmetto Electric Trust
 PNC Foundation
 SC Ports Authority
 St. Andrew by the Sea
 St. Francis Thrift Shop
 The Bargain Box
 The Church Mouse
 The Ward Family Foundation
 Wexford Plantation Charitable Foundation
 Women's Association of Hilton Head Island

COVID Specific Grants

Town of Hilton Head Island - HUD Funding

Annual Appeal

Mr. & Mrs. Hans Abbink
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Alderman
 Mr. & Mrs. David Ames
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Arnold
 Ms. Sally Frank Ayotte
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bailey
 Ms. Helen Baker
 Mr. & Mrs. Herwig Baumann
 Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Beard
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl & Barbara Becker
 Ms. Anne Berkeley
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Berthelsen
 Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Binks
 Mr. & Mrs. Barry Bittman
 Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Black
 Ms. Kayla Boyter
 Mr. & Mrs. Don & Terri Brashears
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Brubaker
 Mr & Mrs. James Burns
 Mr. Carl Cannon
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Case, Jr.
 Ms. Nadine Chaplin
 Mr. & Mrs. James Coleman
 Mr. & Mrs. Pam Cooper
 Mr. & Mrs. William Cunningham
 Mrs. Elmer Cuthbertson
 Mr & Mrs. Rad Darby
 Mr. Edward Dishart
 Ms. Betsy Doughtie
 Mr. Eadward Dowaschinski
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Draeger
 Drs. Donald & Lisa Drakeman
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eberly
 Mrs. Fred Eberting
 Mr. & Mrs. David Ekedahl
 Mr. & Dr. Ronald Farsetti
 Mr. & Mrs. James Ferree
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Flaumenhaft
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Forlenza
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gentzler
 Ms. Carol Gibbons
 Mr. & Mrs. Marty Gleason
 Mr. Norman Harberger
 Ms. Susan Hardin
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hartman
 Mrs. Trish Heichel
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Holland
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Hoover
 IBM Employee Center
 Mr. & Mrs. Dudley King
 Mr. & Mrs. Jake Kriney
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kuhn
 Ms. Pamela Kurtz
 Mr. & Mrs. Allan Lacoce
 Mrs. Nancy Jordan Lee
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Leff
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lembo
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Levitt
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Linneman
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Locker
 Ms. Judith Lowe
 Ms. Barbara Lucas
 Michael & Louise Lynch Charitable
 Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. James Maguire
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Marlowe
 Dr. & Mrs. Charles Matcka
 Mr. Harry Maxon
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward McBrien
 Mr. & Mrs. John McCann
 Mrs. Mary Ellen McConnell
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul McEvoy
 Mr. & Mrs. Floyd McKeag
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Misthal
 Mr. and Mrs. Ian Murray
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Palmiero
 Ms. Helen Payne
 Ms. Carol Ann Peck
 Mr. & Mrs. David Pierce
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Prillaman
 Mr. and Mrs. William Raisch
 Mr. and Mrs. David Rapp
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Riggs
 Ms. Cristy Robertson
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rotella
 Mr. & Mrs. James L Rowe
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sanders
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Sanders
 Mr. & Mrs. Horst Schroeder
 Mrs. Ianthia Scott
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Siebold
 Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Silver
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Simonetti
 Ms. Robin Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Smythe
 Ms. Judith Snediker
 Mr. Frank Soule
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Stehly
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Stevens
 Mr. & Mrs. Ray Stickel
 Mr. & Mrs. David Strong
 The Eberly Foundation
 The Hobbs Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Tucker
 Ms. Jean Vahey
 Mr. & Mrs. George Volanakis
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike and Betsy Welsh
 Mr. & Mrs. George Westerfield
 Mr. & Mrs. David Wetmore
 Ms. Orethia White
 Rev. Isaac Wilborn Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Wright

Special Event Sponsors

Happy Feet - Rotary Club of Hilton
 Head - Sunset
 Hampton Hall Those of Prose
 Mrs. Trish Heichel
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Murphy
 Ms. Lynne Perry-Irvine

2021 Donors

Special Event Sponsors

Mr. Michael Aronstein
 Mr. Carl Cannon
 Mr. & Mrs. William Chiappetta
 Mr. & Mrs. George Cook
 Correll Insurance Group HHI
 Culligan Water Services
 Mr. & Mrs. John Cunningham
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Draeger
 Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Grindstaff
 Herman & Davis Properties
 Mr. & Mrs. Jake Kriney
 MAKO Medical Laboratories
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark McAlister
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul McEvoy
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Marlowe
 Mike Reichenbach Chevrolet, Inc.
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Prillaman
 PURE Insurance
 Ms. Linda Shaffer
 South State Bank
 Vault Risk Management Services
 Mr. & Mrs. David Wetmore

Other Sources & Tributes

Ms. Michelle Adams
 Alarm.com
 Amazon Smiles
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Beaver
 Mary Ann Bruno
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Buck
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Campbell
 Congregation Beth Yam
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dauchert
 Fat Patties - Bluffton
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hartman
 Island Recreation Center

Ms. Jane Joseph
 Junior League Sustainers of the
 Lowcountry
 Kiwanis Club of Hilton Head Island
 Kroger Community Rewards
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Levitt
 Mr. & Mrs. Floyd McKeag
 National Philanthropic Trust
 North End Coffee Co.
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Prillaman
 Ms. Patricia Rawls
 Ms. Dee Ray
 Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island
 Rotary Club of HHI - Sunset
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Sigalow
 Ms. Janet Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Sturre
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wallace
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wallace
 Mr. John Wellner
 Mr. Stanley Xenakis
 Zonta Club of Hilton Head

Saturday School

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Adamsky
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Alderman
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Arboe
 Beach Properties of Hilton Head
 Beachside Properties of HHI, LLC
 Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Black
 Community Foundation of the
 Lowcountry
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Cutrer
 Ms. Jackie L. Darling
 Deep Well
 Ms. Joyce Emmett
 Ms. Annie Ferguson
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fraser III

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Galli
 Anne Garrette
 Mr. & Mrs. Marty Gleason
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Green
 Ms. Mary Green
 Ms. Betty Hambleton
 Heritage Classic Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Julius
 Mr. & Mrs. Rick Keebaugh
 Mr. & Mrs. John Kellom
 Mr. & Mrs. Kent Kerkhof
 Mr. & Mrs. John McCann
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert McClune
 Mrs. Mary Ellen McConnell
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Micharlson
 Mr. & Mrs. Ray Moloney
 Ms. Judith Moschera
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Noble
 Ms. Mary Noonan
 Mr. and Mrs. William Raisch
 Ms. Lisa Roberts
 Ms. Cristy Robertson
 Ms. Lori Romolo
 Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island
 Mr. & Mrs. Eli Roth
 Sea Turtle Getaway, Inc
 SERG Restaurant Group
 Ms. Beverly Serral
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Siebold
 Ms. Patti Soltys
 The Sea Pines Resort
 The Vacation Company
 Ms. Jean Vahey
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Voight
 Ms. Connie Whitehead
 Mr. and Mrs. Burrell Williams
 Daniel Wolfe
 Women of St. Francis

Tot Trot

Mr. & Mrs. Rick & Carol Adams
 Mr. & Mrs. Kerry and Jane Alexander
 Mr. & Mrs. David Ames
 Ms. Mayra Amoretti
 Mr. Johnny Andon
 Mrs. Sheila Baker
 Ms. Mary Ashlie Barnes
 Ms. Erin Barnes
 Ms. Doris Barnes
 Ms. Paula Batchelor
 Mr. Nick Baugh
 Ms. Elizabeth Beard
 Ms. Ana Beas
 Ms. Sandra Benson
 Ms. April Benson
 Ms. Anne Berkeley
 Mr. Scott Berkeley
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Berthelsen
 Mr. & Mrs Barry Bittman
 Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Black
 Ms. Cynthia Bolton
 Mr. Kevin Borke
 Ms. Keegan Bouzammour
 Ms. Amy Bouzammour
 Ms. Kadyne Bouzammour
 Ms. Haley Bowles
 Ms. Sharon Boyter
 Ms. Kayla Boyter
 Ms. Tracy Breinich
 Ms. Lisa Britt
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Brown
 Ms. Lisa Brown
 Ms. Joann Bruntlett
 Mr. Bill Byrne
 Ms. Adrienne Calapp
 Ms. Linda Caldwell
 Ms. Laraine Caldwell
 Ms. Meghan Campbell
 Mr. Carl Cannon
 Ms. Kim Capin
 Ms. Emma Carlton
 Ms. Nadine Chaplin
 Mr. Michel Claudio
 Mr. & Mrs. David Coyle
 Mr. Thomas and Kathleen Cramer
 Mr. Dave Crespan
 Mr. Leon Crimmins
 Ms. Sandy Crovo
 Mr. & Mrs. William Cunningham
 Ms. Michelle Daprich
 Ms. Graycen Dave
 Ms. Barbara Dave
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey and Juli Dave
 Ms. Hannah Dave
 Ms. Pamela Denlinger
 Mr. & Mrs. John Diamond
 Mr. Arno Dimmling
 Ms. Betsy Doughtie
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Draeger
 Mr. Tim Drake
 Drs. Donald & Lisa Drakeman
 Ms. Carolyn Drost
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eberly
 Ms. Kristen Eberly
 Mr. Paul Eberly
 Ms. Brigitte Eigenmann
 Mr. Michael Falvo
 Ms. Mildred Faranda
 Ms. Brittany Fennessey
 Ms. Lori Finger
 Ms. Marion Flotard
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward and Susan Forbes
 Ms. Elaine Forster
 Mr. & Mrs. David & Kelly Forster
 Ms. Lisa Froble
 Ms. Larissa Garniewicz
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gentzler
 Mr. John Giambalvo
 Ms. Carol Gibbons
 Mr. Richard Good
 Mr. & Mrs. Yanina and Christopher Goss
 Mr. Conrad Goss
 Ms. Larissa Grantham
 Ms. Nadesha Green
 Mr. & Mrs. Cary and Eileen Griffin
 Ms. Jackie Griffith
 Mr. & Mrs. Judy & Howard Griggs
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry & Christine Gruener
 Mr. Gordon Haist
 Ms. Ashley Hancock
 Ms. Leanne Harrison
 Ms. Marian Hart
 Ms. Nancy Haverland
 Ms. Robin Hayes
 Ms. Candace Hendrickson
 Ms. Sophia Hernandez
 Ms. Rebecca Hesse
 Ms. Jennifer Hiatt
 Mr. Ken Hiatt
 Mr. Ryan Holub
 Mr. Connor Hopkinson
 Mr. Reed Hopkinson
 Mr. & Mrs. John Howe
 Ms. Jennifer Hubner
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hughes
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hutton
 Ms. Jane Hyché
 Italian American Club of Hilton Head
 Ms. Rose Jackson
 Ms. Laura Keenan
 Ms. Elaine Killoran
 Ms. Mary Ann King
 Mrs. Ward Kirby
 Ms. Olga Klyushina
 Dr. Kenneth Kowalyk
 Mrs. George Krall
 Mr. & Mrs. Jake Kriney
 Mrs. Jessica Kuehner
 Mrs. Cynthia Kuehner
 Mr. & Mrs. Allan Lacoé
 Mr. Jeffrey LaCoe
 Ms. Connie LaCoe
 Ms. Christina Laios
 Ms. Linda Laughlin
 Ms. Lynn Lawson

2021 Donors

Tot Trot

Ms. Laurie Laykish
 Mrs. Nancy Jordan Lee
 Mr. Arthur Leesman
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lembo
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Levitt
 Ms. Anne Lewis
 Ms. Christina Lindstedt
 Ms. Veronica Llizo
 Ms. Nick Mahlberg
 Ms. Debra Malool
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Marlowe
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mason
 Mr. Michael Mason
 Mr. Rob Mason
 The McAfee Family
 Mr. William McCormack
 Ms. Linda McDonald
 Ms. Sarah McMillen
 Mr. Arbin Meza
 Mr. Ryan Mikkelson
 Ms. Beth Mitchell
 Mortgage Network
 Mr. Colin Moseley
 Mr. Daniel Moskowitz
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Murphy
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Noble
 Mrs. Jordan Norris
 Ms. Annabelle O'Grady
 Ms. Kieron O'Grady
 Ms. Barbara O'Malley
 Ms. Robert Oetjen
 Ms. Carol Orloski
 Ms. Erica Parker
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Parrella
 Mr. Harry Parrish
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pawlishyn

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Pendley
 Mr. Robert Pettit
 Pinnacle Financial Partners
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Prillaman
 Mr. Glenn Prillaman
 Mr. James Reeves
 Ms. Jeanne Ricciardelli
 Ms. Sandra Roach
 Ms. Lisa Robson
 Ms. Evelyn Rosado
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rotella
 Ms. Lonnie Ruzic
 Ms. Jackie Ryan
 Ms. Linda Schultz
 Mr. & Mrs. Van and Lauren Schwiebert
 Mr. Donald Scott
 Ms. Gale Seikel
 Ms. Kathy Shea
 Ms. Gloria Shoemaker
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Siebold
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Simonetti
 Ms. Kimberly Slovensky
 Ms. Kim Smith
 Ms. Lynn Steady
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim Stehly
 Ms. Kelly Sterling
 Ms. Monica Stites
 Ms. Patricia Stites
 Ms. Barbara Stouffer
 Ms. Dee Syling
 Ms. Kim Tavino
 Ms. Colette Taylor
 Mr. Charles Thomas
 Ms. Cheryl Thomas
 Ms. Pamela Thompson
 Ms. Linda Warnock
 Ms. Brend Watterson
 Ms. Bella Wheeler

Mr. & Mrs. Tena and Russell Wheeler
 Mr. Todd Willbur
 Mr. Carl Wilson
 Mr. John Woods
 Ms. Jackie Woodward
 Ms. Renee Young

In-Kind Gifts

Happy Feet - Rotary Club of Hilton
 Head - Sunset
 Hampton Hall Those of Prose
 Mrs. Trish Heichel
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Murphy
 Ms. Lynne Perry-Irvine

Board of Trustees

Barbara Pawlishyn

BOARD CHAIR

Retired Hospital Administrator

Tim Stehly

VICE CHAIR

Retired Executive Manager

Christine McKeag

TREASURER

Retired College Instructor

Robert Eberly, Jr.

SECRETARY

Retired Attorney

Robin Berkeley

Retired Early Educator

Sandy Berthelsen

Retired Educator, Community Volunteer

Larry Brown

Retired Corporate Attorney

Carl Cannon

Human Resources Consultant

Betsy Doughtie

Retired Nonprofit Executive

Phil Hartman

Retired Education Administrator

Helen (Rose) Jackson

Vice President, South State Bank

Carl Jones

Retired Sales & Nonprofit Development

Norman (Jake) Kriney

Retired Entrepreneur

Allan Lacoë

Realtor, Dunes Real Estate

Brian Marlow

Retired Executive Manager

Robert Mason

Retired Info Tech Executive

Mary Scott

Community Volunteer

Kimberly Slovensky

Office Leader, Pinnacle Financial Partners

The importance of Early Education

The speed of brain development is fastest from birth to age 5 and is also the most important. A newborn at birth has most of the brain cells they will ever have, but relatively fewer connections, the circuits among the different cells. A baby forms 700 new neural connections per second in the first years of life.

An infant's brain is dependent on responsiveness from adults. So all those adorable things that babies do right from the beginning -- coos, gurgles, sounds and smiles -- how an adult responds to those coos and gurgles help shape the brain circuitry. The baby does something, the adult responds back. Vice versa. It's all about how the baby feels -- is she in an environment that is safe, loving and enriching?

Brain development in the area of language, the synapses needed to learn language, peak at 9 – 10 months of age. Many higher cognitive functions peak at 1 year of age. Language has been shown to be a predictor of success. Researchers see differences in children's vocabulary as early as 18-24 months. **We know that 3rd grade reading scores can predict future life success, but did you know that 18 month vocabulary can predict 3rd grade reading skills?**

Research shows us that many children from low income households are at a disadvantage in the area of brain development, language development and loving caregiver involvement. So, if these children do not receive the important interactions to develop those positive brain connections, their vocabulary development is lacking - they will enter kindergarten well behind their peers. Statistics show they are less likely to graduate high school, have poor health habits and more likely to become a part of the expense of crime and poverty to the American taxpayer.



The brain forms as many as **700** neural connections per second before the age of 5.



Students with early education are **29%** more likely to graduate from high school.



Every **\$1** invested in early education equals as much as **\$13** saved in future costs to our society.





8 Nature's Way
Hilton Head Island
South Carolina
29926

843.681.2739

info@thechildrenscenentersc.org
www.thechildrenscenentersc.org



  Follow us @thechildrenscenentersc