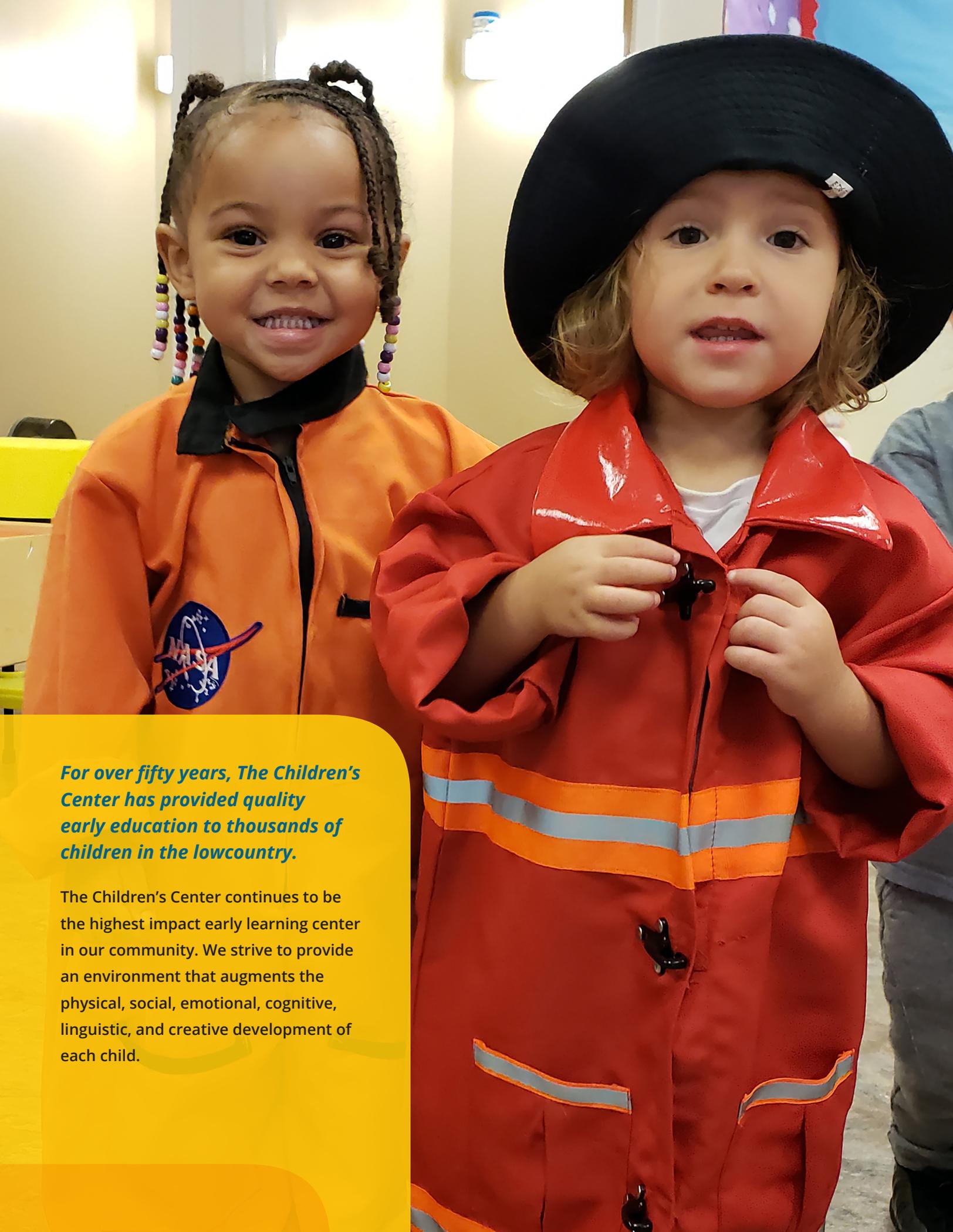


2018
Annual
Report





For over fifty years, The Children's Center has provided quality early education to thousands of children in the lowcountry.

The Children's Center continues to be the highest impact early learning center in our community. We strive to provide an environment that augments the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, linguistic, and creative development of each child.

A message from our director, Jody L. Levitt

2018 has been the year of looking forward. The Board of Trustees worked diligently to create a roadmap for our Center's future. We began with a deep dive into the operations of the organization and the services we offer. Through the process, we identified the key areas requiring attention and focus. Five areas bubbled to the top of the list: Staff Excellence, Financial Stability, Educational Commitment, Leadership Development and Community Awareness. A comprehensive Strategic Plan was developed and approved, and guides our conversations, our decisions and our financial activities currently and through the next three years.

Appreciating the incredible responsibility we carry every day to keep our children safe in light of the dangers faced in the outside world, our Center committed itself to do everything we could to provide a security system that delivers top notch safety measures for our staff and our children. We began with a full campus assessment by both an insurance security expert and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department. Both provided quality insights upon which to build our plan. Thanks to a grant from the Wexford Plantation Charitable Foundation, we were able to complete the entire project.

We are pleased that we were able to serve almost 300 children and their families during 2018 with an average enrollment of 168 children daily. While some children are only with us for a few years, others come as infants and stay until they graduate to kindergarten. They are all part of our family the minute they walk through our doors.



Jody L. Levitt
Executive Director

In 2018, nineteen of our children graduated with the skills and tools needed for success in kindergarten. We are honored to have played a part in their development. Of our graduates, 32% were enrolled at The Children's Center for three years or more.

Financially, The Children's Center remains sound. The organization has reported a positive year end fund balance for the past 6 years. These fund balances have allowed the Board of Trustees to create a Board Reserve Fund dedicated to facility upkeep and sustainability. This was the second year of our Holiday On-Line Auction which grew by 60%. The Children's Center continues to rely on the generosity of grants and donations from the local community. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors. We hope you will join us in making this year the best yet.

2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nineteen students graduated to kindergarten
- Only 4K program offered in Beaufort County
- Installed new flooring in all classrooms
- Significantly upgraded security system
- Daily enrollment average of 168 children, age 6 weeks to 8 years
- 40 children participated in Summer Camp, with 100% of emerging kindergarteners and 1st graders retaining or improving their math and literacy skills throughout the summer
- Approval of Strategic Plan for 2019-2021 Focus areas: Staff Excellence, Financial Stability, Educational Commitment, Leadership Development, Community Awareness

2019 Expectations and Goals

The State of South Carolina announced new learning standards for children from birth to age five in 2018. The Children's Center is integrating these standards into our daily curriculum in an effort to provide parents with an understanding of their child's individual progress.

Deep Well has partnered with our Center to provide a weekend food program for those families that need assistance ensuring their children are able to have nutritional meals through the weekend. Currently almost 100 families participate.

The Strategic Plan is now the central focus of the work of our Board committees and organizational leadership. Specific and measurable objectives have been designed to ensure movement within the Plan.

As part of the focus on Leadership Development, the Board has committed to participate in orientation trainings by all new Trustees and for every Trustee to support ongoing leadership and Board development trainings as they are scheduled during the year.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Improved Skills

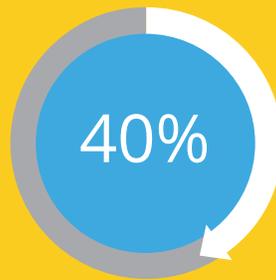
Children who attend high-quality preschool enter kindergarten with better pre-reading skills, richer vocabularies, and stronger math skills than those who do not.

Lower Dropout Rates

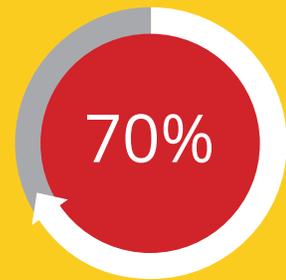
A child without an early childhood education is...



more likely to drop out
of school



more likely to become
a teenage parent



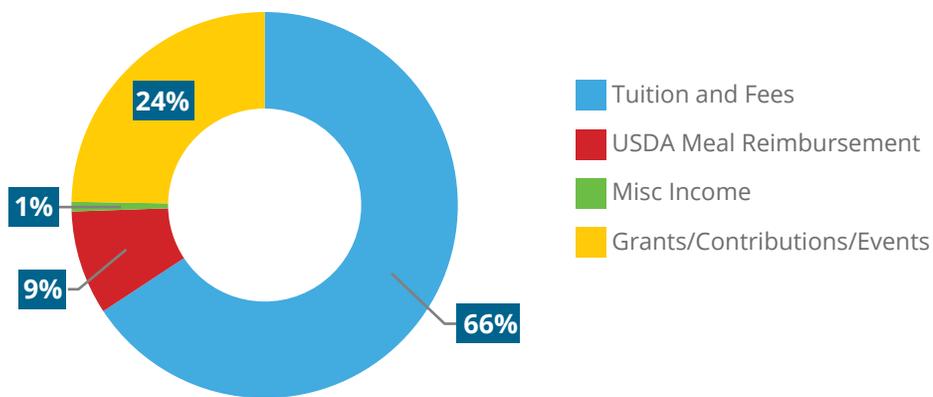
more likely to be arrested
for a violent crime

Future Success

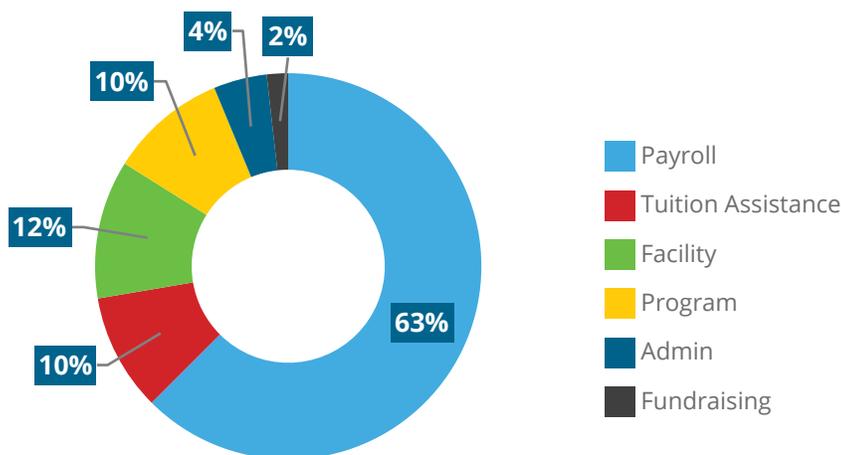
High quality early education is proven to enhance children's chances for success later in life.

FINANCIALS AND NUMBERS

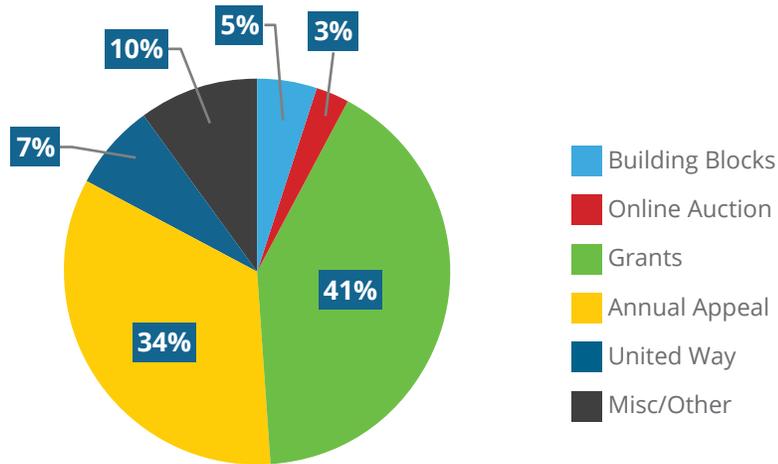
2018 Revenue Sources



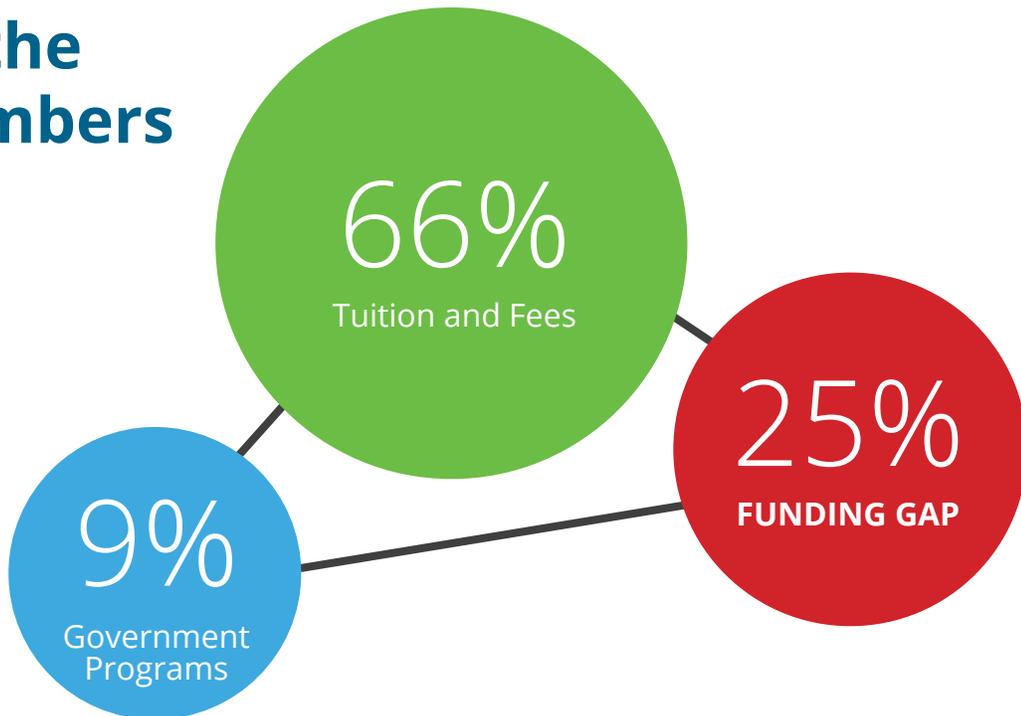
2018 Expenses



2018 Fundraising Activities



By the Numbers



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

2018

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The Eberly Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Voight

Grants

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Eleanor A & Bernard H Breedlove
Fund of the Community Foundation
of Greater Atlanta
Hargray Caring Coins Fund
Hilton Head Area Association
of Realtors
Hilton Head Island Alumnae
Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma
Long Cove Club Community
Charitable Fund
Moss Creek Charitable Fund
Palmetto Electric Trust
St. Andrew by the Sea
TD Charitable Foundation
The Bargain Box
The Church Mouse
The Ward Foundation
Wexford Plantation
Charitable Foundation
Women's Association of
Hilton Head Island

Annual Appeal

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Mr. and Mrs. David Strong
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The Hobbs Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Tiano
Mr. Michael Welsh
Col. and Mrs. Richard Wiles
Mr. James Wood

Other Sources & Tributes

Aetna Foundation
Amazon Smiles
Ms. Marcia Bader
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Bowles
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Buck
Ms. Toni Darby
Ms. Barbara DeMilio
Mr. & Mrs. John Diamond
Ms. Leslie Dickler
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Draeger
Evelyn and Authur, Inc.
Mrs. Betty Fowlkes
Harris Teeter - Together in Education
HeritageClassic Foundation
Hilton Head Area Association
of Realtors
IBM Employee Center
Mr. & Mrs. Ward Kirby
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MAKO Medical Laboratories
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Ms. Nancy Simonetti
Ms. Robin Smith
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St. Luke's United Methodist Church
The GE Foundation
The Sisters!! - Church of the Palms UM
Mr. Gary Turkish
United Way of the Lowcountry Inc
Vanlandingham Rotary
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wallace
Ms. Karen Watson
Zonta Club of Hilton Head

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We have a Board of uniquely talented and dedicated individuals who participate with both their heads and their hearts – the perfect combination.

2018 Board of Trustees

JOHN HOWE – retired wealth management

BOARD CHAIR

BARBARA PAWLISHYN – retired hospital administration

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CHRISTINE MCKEAG – retired college instructor

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WALTER WHEELER – auto restoration specialist

Why The Children's Center

- We prepare children for success in kindergarten offering affordable programs for infants 6 weeks old to age 6 and after-school solutions and summer camp for children up to 8 years old
- Family income determines each child's tuition expense, using a specially designed sliding scale, making it affordable for anyone
- We're open 5 days a week, year round, from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm
- A nutritious breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack are provided at no additional cost
- We maintain a B+ rating by the State of South Carolina Department of Early Care and Education, ABC Quality Standards





8 Nature's Way
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
(843) 681-2739
TheChildrensCenterSC.org



A United Way Agency