

## School's Out for Summer...

Everyone is anxious for summer to arrive and students are particularly thrilled when that final bells rings! Do you remember those days in the summertime when you could sleep in late and play all day, a pick-up game of baseball with friends or a corner lemonade stand? Summer is a time to relax and wind down after a long year of academics...right?

Not really!! According to Oxford Learning<sup>1</sup>, "on average, students lose 2 months of reading skills and 2.6 months of math skills over the summer." This means that teachers must use as much as two months at the beginning of the year to re-teach those skills. Even more disturbing is that two-thirds of the income-based achievement gap is attributed to summer learning loss by the start of high school.

According to Brenda McLaughlin, M.P.P. and Jeffrey Smink, M.Ed.<sup>2</sup>, "Differences in a child's summer learning experiences during his or her elementary school years can impact whether that child ultimately earns a high school diploma and continues on to college (Alexander, Entwistle, & Olson, 2007)."

The Children's Center recognizes that children need both time to relax and intervention to avoid the learning loss experienced when school is out for the summer. The fifty-plus children enrolled for Summer

Camp this year are ages 5 – 12 and each day is packed with specific activities that are designed to minimize the loss of math and reading skills over the summer.

During the first week of camp, teachers used our Teaching Strategies Gold<sup>®</sup> assessment tools to document each child's current skill level. Our goal is for each child at camp to maintain or increase his or her skill levels, until returning to school in August. Children are reading every day, having library visits and enjoying special book times with volunteers. Through activities such as cooking, beading or building with Legos, math skills are reinforced. Each day of camp offers a different theme

and each theme includes skill reinforcement activities. Using the same assessment tool at the end of the summer we can evaluate the success of this newly updated program. 🌱



Graphic courtesy of: National Summer Learning Association

**BY THE END OF GRADE SIX**

**STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SUMMER LEARNING LOSS OVER THE YEARS ARE AN AVERAGE OF 2 YEARS BEHIND THEIR PEERS**

1. <https://www.oxfordlearning.com/summer-learning-loss-statistics> 2. <http://education.jhu.edu/PD/newhorizons/Journals/spring2010/why-summer-learning>



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## **Jody's Gems**

Time continues to fly by and I am just amazed at everything that happens at The Children's Center. The highlight of the past few months is the graduation of 44 children heading off to kindergarten in the fall. These bright and curious young people have filled our halls with so much happiness and energy. Many of them have been "our" children since they were 8 weeks of age. During the graduation program, each of our three classrooms performed for the parents, grandparents, siblings and special friends. The next part of the agenda brings chills to anyone who understands this momentous occasion, the children marched into the multipurpose room wearing graduation gowns with caps and tassels. If you have never experienced a pre-school graduation, it is heartwarming and inspiring.

Take a moment and think of the tremendous potential enclosed in those small frames and the opportunities awaiting them. In the year 2030 these children will again walk across a graduation stage. If you take time to google "the world in 2030," you may not believe the predictions, but one thing we can all agree with, the world we pass on to the next generation will require them to be agile in their ability to adapt, will expect more of their creative ability and require them to adopt a philosophy of lifelong learning.

Graduation has led us directly into summer camp and the energy level remains high! Our Summer Camp offers a place of learning, love and security to children ages 5 to 12, allowing parents to work and support their families. Our goal of eliminating summer learning loss is as important as our commitment to education throughout the school year.

Other "behind the scenes" activities the past few months have been critical to our ongoing operations. These include the renewal of our license. The Children's Center has successfully passed the license renewal process with Department of Social Services. Some facility enhancements, recordkeeping audits and staffing accountability validations were included with the renewal. We commend our staff and education leadership for completing this project. Another project had our Board of Trustees participate in an externally facilitated strategic planning process. Through this process, four core focus areas have been identified. These include continued educational excellence, organizational financial stability, a commitment to staff excellence and an obligation to increase community awareness.

**Every day is amazing and special at The Children's Center, stop for a visit or become a volunteer and share in this rewarding experience.**

# Week of the Young Child™

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Each day at the Center was a different activity. Thank you to Lee Chase & Carol Prillaman for their support of the Kazoo Man.



CONGRADULATIONS!  
to our Graduates of 2016!



# THANK YOU

The Children's Center is grateful for the support we receive from so many people and organizations throughout our community.

## Sunset & Hilton Head Rotary Clubs

The Children's Center sends sincere thanks to the Sunset & Hilton Head Rotaries. Rotary truly "ROCS" our world! They cleaned inside & out, painted and installed wallboard - it's beautiful and we are blessed! Thank you ALL!



The Children's Center is grateful for the ongoing support of our community foundations and organizations.

**Total received thus far  
in 2016: \$53,813.13**

**Hilton Head Island Association  
of Kappa Kappa Gamma:**  
Summer Camp Literacy Activity

**The Bargain Box:** Tuition Assistance

**The Church Mouse:** Tuition Assistance

**Wexford Plantation Charitable Foundation:**  
curriculum kit, activity kits, and digital student  
portfolios

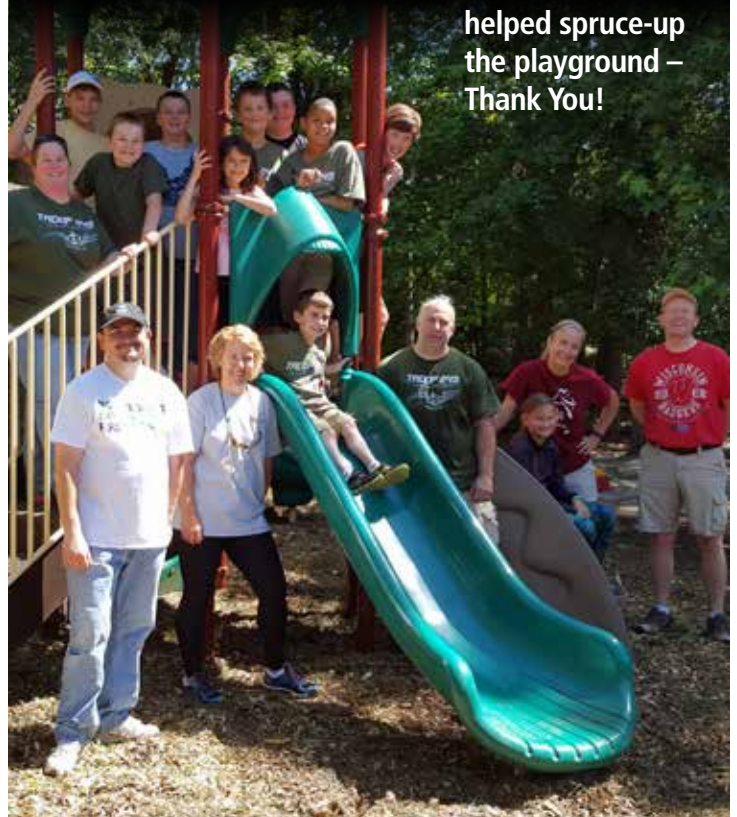
**Palmetto Electric Trust:** Tuition Assistance

**Long Cove Foundation:** Technology upgrade

**St Francis Thrift Store:** Security upgrade

## Boy Scout Troop 245

helped spruce-up  
the playground –  
Thank You!





# BUILDING BLOCKS

The Children's Center Scholarship Fund

## Children ARE our future, help us build a strong foundation.

Building strong foundations for our children's future is done one block at a time. Building Blocks supports our tuition assistance program. Over 95% of the Center's families benefit from tuition assistance based on our sliding scale tuition. Tuition ranges from \$90 to \$145 per week, depending on the age of the child. Tuition assistance is the equivalent of a scholarship for the parents and caregivers of our children. Each family provides proof of their income, and we use a specially designed tuition calculator to determine a "fair and equitable" tuition payment for that family, based on the income information.

### Basic Tuition Assistance Premise:

- The maximum need-based assistance rate is 30% of tuition set by the Board of Trustees.
- Parents qualified to receive maximum assistance pay only 70% of full tuition rates.
- If a second or third child from the same family is enrolled, they pay 90% of the first child's adjusted rate.
- There is no assistance for before and after school care or summer camp, but rates are designed to remain affordable to all families.

In 2015, support from the community allowed The Children's Center to offer families \$287,315 in tuition assistance. Because of the tuition assistance program, families can pay for other necessities such as rent, food, utilities and basic needs. To support this important program, click the "donate" button at [www.thechildrenscenter.org](http://www.thechildrenscenter.org).

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

The Children's Center plays a critical role in the economic vitality of our community. By providing a safe, loving and educational place for parents to send their children, we help keep the island's economic engine running. This spring we kicked off a new support venue by asking the business community to contribute to our work. We want to recognize those who have stepped up to the plate thus far. We invite others to join these businesses who value their employees and understand the important role of The Children's Center in our community.

**Allcare Tree Surgery**

**Bruno Landscape & Nursery**

**Custom Audio Video**

**Fraser Construction**

**Morgan Stanley**

**Ocean Woods Landscape**

**Outside Hilton Head**

**Pretty Papers & Gifts**

**Dr. Bonnie Rothwell DDS**



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## Providing Early Education & Quality Childcare for Working Families since 1967

- The Children's Center enables working families to afford quality education & childcare.
- The Children's Center provides a multicultural, bilingual early childhood program for children ages 8 weeks to 6 years beginning at 6:30 each morning.
- The Children's Center serves a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack at NO additional cost to parents.

We welcome visitors to tour our facility.  
Please call 843.681.2739 or visit  
[www.thechildrenscentersc.org](http://www.thechildrenscentersc.org) for info

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