



**Annual Report
2022**



Mission...

Providing affordable, high-quality childhood education and childcare services for working families in the Lowcountry.

Vision...

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

Purpose...

Supporting 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

Where has the time gone? Just yesterday we were heading into 2022 still wondering what the COVID pandemic had in store. As the year progressed, we found ourselves less worried about a virus and more engaged in welcoming volunteers and visitors back onto our Campus. While we continue to face the challenges of low staff levels and long wait lists, we are also pleased with the high-quality staff we have added to our already incredible team and strengthened our commitment to ensuring wages and benefit packages show the value of our early education professionals.

2022 was a year of new additions at our Center, new teachers, new grants, new donors, and new events. We are most proud of our new graduates, a for-profit business might consider this their premier product and we are proud to report that our graduates (our products) achieved a collective kindergarten readiness score of over 90%, that's an A on any grading scale. This foundation prepares them for success entering into their formal education years.

The Children's Center is a First Steps 4K partner. South Carolina First Steps is the states only dedicated, comprehensive early childhood initiative focused on getting children ready for school and life success. (www.scfirststeps.org) This is our second year of offering this free PreK program for income qualified families.

Affordable childcare is a vital need for parents across our nation and locally, many believe it is the lynch pin to a vibrant and healthy economy. Affordability is the mission of The Children's Center in conjunction with high-

quality educational programming. Pre-pandemic, it was almost impossible to engage in a meaningful conversation about the value of childcare unless the conversation was with a parent or possibly a grandparent. Today, it is a critical issue on lips from Washington DC to Columbia to Hilton Head. The necessity of high-quality early education and childcare is important today as an economic driver of the local economy and tomorrow for the personal family stability of generations to come.

To our donors, we applaud your vision to invest in the future of our Island. To our event sponsors, we celebrate your willingness to take a risk on new events that returned a better than projected response. To our volunteers, your presence brightens young lives and adds variety and positive interactions in each child's development. To our community partners, we are honored to work beside you to make Hilton Head and the Lowcountry a better place for everyone. We hope you see, thought the pages of this report the impact you make through your support.

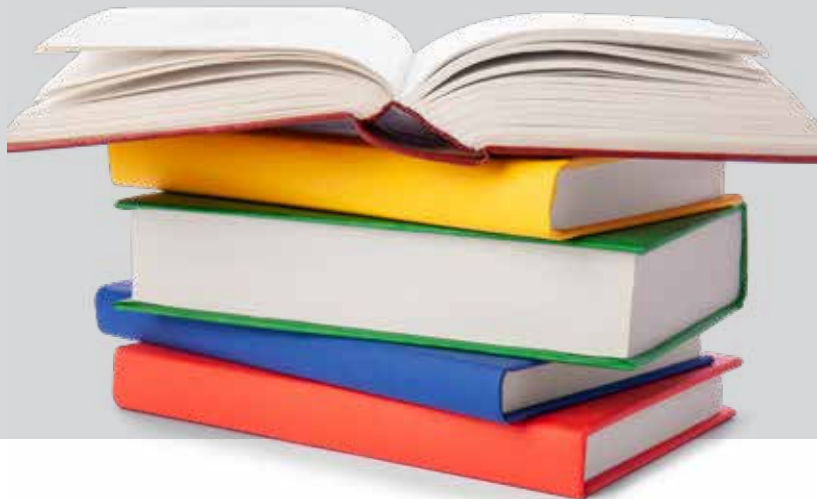
Honored to be your partner in child and community development,

Jody L. Levitt
Executive Director

Inspirational Stories

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Many families appreciate the sliding scale tuition available at The Children's Center. Stories like **Tereasa's** are prevalent in the families we serve. **Tereasa** is a single mother of three beautiful, energetic, and bright children. The oldest is now in elementary school but attended The Children's Center for preschool. Brother and sister enrolled as infants and have grown to be kindergarten and PreK age. While **Tereasa** holds a position in health care administration, she struggles with three children on her own. Without the sliding scale tuition structure, she says, "there is no way I could pay childcare and would not be able to work and support my family. My job requires 8 hours a day and if I couldn't count on TCC for after care too, I'd be lost."



Natasha is the mother of two children at our Center. Rensie just "graduated" from the Sea Horse class (infant room) to the Sand Castles (one-year class). Rensie came to TCC at six months. She has learned to share toys, sing and dance and is beginning to repeat simple words. Her brother **Rolland** has moved from the two-year-old class to the three-year-old class. He is starting to speak in full sentences, associating cause and effect and learning to kick and throw the balls on the playground. These all sound like simple, natural steps in development, but without the consistent and loving care of their teachers, there is no guarantee these children would be developmentally "on track" for their age. Both children are learning English as a second language here at our Center as well.

Mom, **Natasha**, says she is thrilled with the strides her children have made and truly amazed by what they have learned. She is grateful that her children have a place to come so she can work every day. She says, "Me encanta estar aquí porque a mis bebés les encanta. Puedo trabajar y ellos pueden aprender." (I love it here because my babies love it. I can work and they can learn.)





Roberto Hernandez and his family moved to the United States two years ago from Costa Rica. He has two daughters named **Amy** and **Sarah** who are six and four, and both girls attend The Children's Center. Before attending the Center, his wife was unable to work because she was caring for their girls, and it created a complicated financial situation for their family as they needed both incomes to provide for their family. After hearing about The Children's Center from friends, they decided to check it out and **Roberto** says, "The Children's Center has changed our lives in a big way. My wife and I are both able to work, our girls have learned English [they spoke only Spanish two short years ago], and both girls have made wonderful friends. The skills and experiences our girls have gained makes us so happy."

MaKayla has two young children who were staying with their 75-year young grandfather while she worked two jobs to support everyone. Her children, **Auria** – age 9 months and **Kamarion** – age 2 were both energetic and happy with their grandfather. **MaKayla** notice that granddad was limping and after seeing a doctor, was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. He began struggling to care for the children. **MaKayla** was going to have to quit her job if she could not find a place for her children. It took nearly four months, but finally openings became available for both children. Being a single mother and caregiver for her elderly father, the tuition assistance she received was critical to helping her balance an already tight financial situation.

Both **Auria** and **Kamarion** are developing at age levels and **Kamarion** is beginning to cultivate new friendships with other children in his class. He has significantly increased his vocabulary and surprises mom with some of the words he uses and understands. **Auria** is walking and enjoys her newfound mobility and freedom. **MaKayla** says The Children's Center has been a blessing in so many ways for she and her father, but even more for her children.



Community Partnerships

Adding value to programs and families.



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DEEP WELL

Weekend Food Bags & Home to Circles Program

GREATER ISLAND COUNCIL

Childcare Task Force

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Summer Slide Collaborators

LOWCOUNTRY EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION & LOWCOUNTRY BASICS

Involved in launch of Lowcountry Basics coming in 2023

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

Executive Leadership Program & Board Development Education

USCB COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Ronald Erdei, developmental milestone tracking database development

Fundraising Events



CELEBRATION DINNER

April 29, 2022
Sea Pines Country Club

\$117,141

While the original event was scheduled just as COVID hit, the eventual result achieved was beyond expectations.



SWING FOR THE FUTURE

September 19, 2022
Wexford Golf Club

\$41,888

Partnering with Wexford for the 2nd annual golf event could not have been better. Golfers reported, "Best tournament ever!" "Count me in for next year."



TOT TROT

August 5, 2022
Jarvis Creek Park

\$20,639

This second time activity partnered our classrooms with the community for a virtual giving opportunity in conjunction with an outdoor fun experience for our children.

100% of the Board of Trustees made personal contributions to The Children's Center in 2022.



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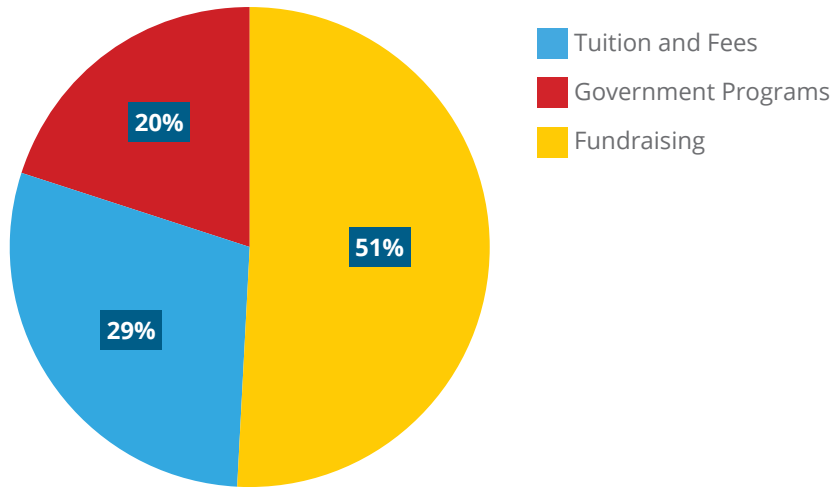
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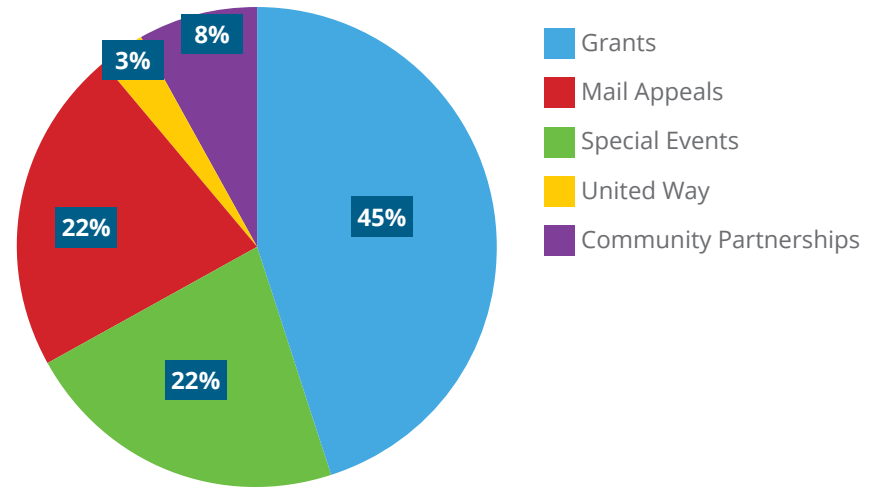
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2022 Financials

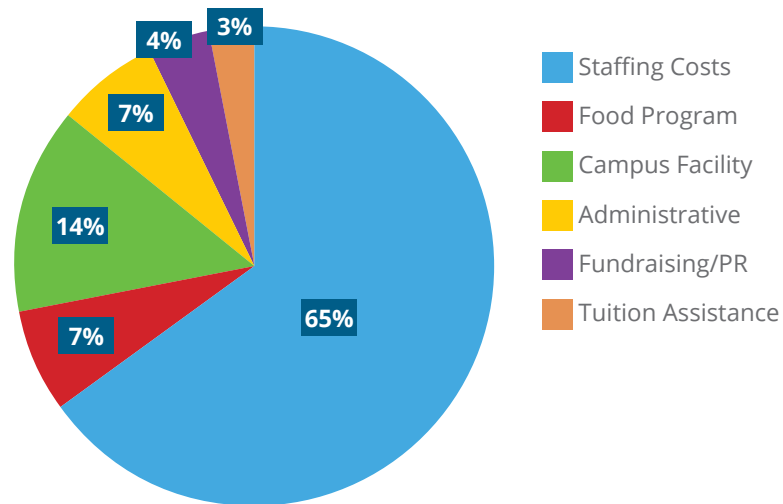
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2022 Fundraising Sources



2022 Expenses



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DID YOU KNOW? THE CHILDREN'S CENTER...

...was founded in 1967.

...is the 2nd oldest non-profit on Hilton Head Island.

...receives NO funding from Beaufort County.

...has NO debt.

...is the only Center to offer a sliding tuition based on income and family size.

...provides care for children 6 weeks to 8 years old.

...is open from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

...provides care for up to 200 children daily.

...provides Saturday care during peak tourist season.

...graduates mastered kindergarten readiness standards at a rate of over 90%.

...starts salaries at \$15/hour with no previous experience.

...offers employees discounted (up to free) tuition.

...has 2 employees with 40+ years of service.



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Hilton Head Island
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www.thechildrenscenentersc.org

Get involved!

