

# In and Around the CDC

*Reaching Out To Serve*

www.cdctn.org

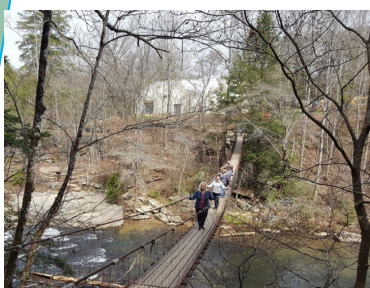
113 Eaglette Way, Shelbyville, TN 37160

Spring 2018

## Leadership Team Retreat



The Community Development Center's Leadership Team (top left) were able to engage in a teambuilding retreat at Fall Creek Falls on March 22nd and 23rd. The Team, pictured left to right, are Travis Smotherman, Employment Services Coordinator, Anita Teague, Executive Director, Teresa Winnette, Early Childhood Director, Rhonda Green, ISC and ECF Program Manager, Rachel Rudolf, Children's Center for Autism's Clinical Coordinator, Christy Jensen, Family Support Coordinator, and Bob Jacobi, Business Manager. Each received a copy of *StrengthsFinder* in January in order to take an assessment prior to the retreat. Circle Center Consulting's Leigh Ann Roberts was the retreat facilitator. Time was spent on teambuilding, identifying strengths as individuals as well as a team, and discussing the Agency future and goals. The retreat ended with the Team hiking to see the Falls. This team-building retreat was made possible thanks to a generous donation from The Clayton Foundation (FirstBank).



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### Tennessee Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder

The new Tennessee Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder under the oversight of the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) seeks to establish a comprehensive statewide, long term plan for a system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. It has also been charged with making recommendations in program development for all levels of autism spectrum disorder services for both children and adults. The council is comprised of persons with autism spectrum disorder and families members appointed by Governor Haslam, as well as many relevant state agency representatives.

# Disability Day on the Hill



Above: Rachel Rudolf, Clinical Coordinator of the Children's Center for Autism, Anita Teague, Executive Director, and Christy Jensen, Family Support Coordinator.

The Disability Policy Alliance (Council on Developmental Disabilities, TN Statewide Independent Living Council, The Arc Tennessee, and Disability Rights Tennessee) hosted a program highlighting *The State of Disability Services in Tennessee*. Many thanks to all those who participated in Disability Day on the Hill! They continue to work towards educating our legislators about disability issues and the needs of Tennessee families. We urge you to reach out to your elected officials all year long, building relationships and helping them to truly understand how to improve our communities and systems for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Anita Teague, Executive Director of the Community Development Center, serves as TN Disability Coalition Board Chair and led the Board meeting before the Legislative Session on February 13th.

## Family Support Council Welcomes A New Member!

The Family Support (FS) Program is pleased to announce the addition of Rebecca "Becky" Black to the CDC Family Support Local Council. Becky is very familiar with FS, as her grandson Carl is a recipient of FS services. Becky is a life-long resident of Marshall County and a graduate of Chapel Hill High School. She is married to Ricky Black who works for the Marshall County Water Department. They have three grown children and nine grandchildren.

After graduating high school, Becky worked for local companies Teledyne and Faber Casteel, until injuries from a very serious automobile accident in 1991 kept her from continuing to work. Over the years to keep busy, Becky opened what she calls a "knick-knack shop" she tended to her roses and enjoyed taking care of her coy fish ponds, and was content. Then it all changed in 2009 when Carl was 3 and he was diagnosed with Leukemia. She said when she got the call she "closed the doors on her shop, packed everything up, and headed to Vanderbilt." She was at Vanderbilt with Carl for three weeks. He is now 12, and has been cancer free for five years, but Becky is still with him every day. She and her husband gained custody of Carl who has Down syndrome, shortly after his Leukemia diagnosis. Today her days are filled with being a full time volunteer at Carl's school where he is in the fourth grade. She says "they've been so good to him, so I can help them out when they need it." When not volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her other eight grandchildren and loves getting outside and working in her roses.



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T E N N E S S E E   D I S A B I L I T Y  
**MEGA**CONFERENCE

Empowerment • Inclusion • Self-determination • Choice

May 24-25, 2018  
Nashville Airport Marriott



Plans are underway for the 16th annual  
Tennessee Disability MegaConference!

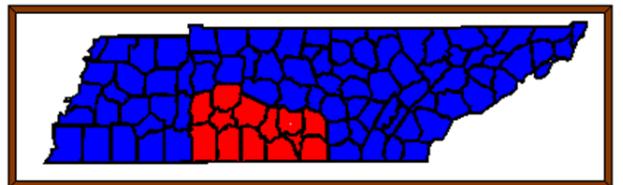
MEGA

Non-Profit of the Year - Child Development Center



On February 8, 2018, at the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Banquet, Patty Clifton, Center Manager of Giles County Child Development Center, accepted the plaque naming the Center *Nonprofit of the Year*.

From left to right: Jodie Lewter, Chamber President, Jessie Parker, Chamber CEO, Patty Clifton, Center Manager, and Erin Curry, Chamber Past President.



Proudly Serving Tennessee's  
South Central Counties

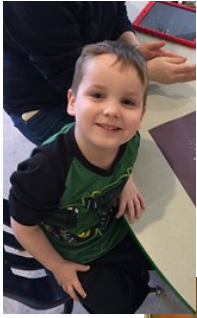
Happy Birthday!

**Mickey Moffitt**      **May 5**

**Jennifer Perryman**      **May 6**

**Renee Reed**      **June 27**

# Making Great Strides in Learning

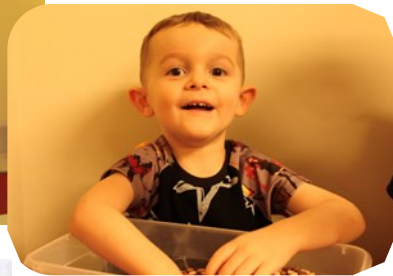


Adam, a student at the Children's Center for Autism, started the program with only two words and many problematic behaviors. His two words were *no* and *car*. He engaged in high intensity tantrums including aggression, screaming, and flopping. He has received services for a year and a half, and has shown great strides in his development. He now talks in complete sentences, can identify all his colors, numbers, letters, and shapes, and is completely toilet trained. His problematic behaviors have decreased to a manageable state and he is using more communication to get his needs met. In the next year, we will be working on Adam's learner readiness skills to ensure his success as he transitions to his kindergarten classroom. We are so proud of how hard he has worked and how great he is doing.



## The Children's Center for Autism

Celebrates Spirit Week with Super Hero Day, Pajama Day, and Spirit Day!

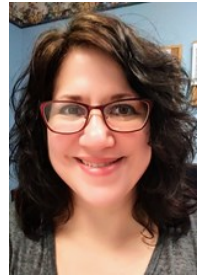


# Look Who's Joined the CDC Family!

Travis Rollins recently joined the Employment Services program as an Employment Specialist. He and his wife Taylor reside in Huntland, TN where he enjoys reading, movies, and watching sports. Travis tells us he has the ability to talk to anyone!



Kim Spradlin is an Independent Support Coordinator in the CDC Columbia office. She tells us she loves fishing, hiking, and some creative writing. Kim is a proud mother of five wonderful children who have all graduated college!



## *Family Support Spring Yard Sale*

*The fundraiser, which was held on Saturday, April 21st was a huge success!*

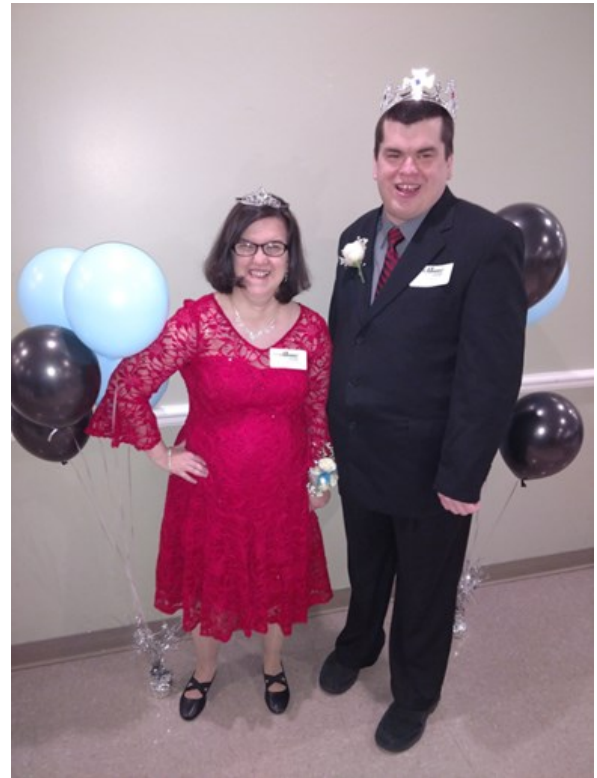
We appreciate the many volunteers and Community Development Center staff who helped with set up prior to the event and on the day of the event. We are truly thankful for the gifts of time, energy, and the many donations which made this event possible. Many thanks to Gateway Church, 1250 Madison Street in Shelbyville, for the use of their building.



## Say Hello to James Vaughn

James Vaughn is friendly, as evidenced by his great smile, and is very outgoing. He loves getting a paycheck from his job in a local bowling alley. He enjoys watching the Titans and the Vols football games. James collects Native American art and artifacts, loves shopping, and thinks Burger King Whoppers are the best!

William Scott (below, hugging two of his favorite people, Tricia and Jonita) found creative ways to make his house his own by decorating with photos. The photos are reminders of how important we are to each other. Good days or bad, sunshine or rain, knowing that we can rely on each other makes life better!



Siblings Missy and Jason, attended "Night to Shine" Prom on February 9, 2018 at Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield, TN. The prom event and others around the country was sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation.

Senior Equipment  
Loan Program  
For more information call:  
931-684-8681

**Community Development Center**  
**Mission**  
*Providing supports and services to children, families and individuals with disabilities, while addressing the health and well-being of all persons in the communities in which we serve.*

**CDC Anniversaries!**

Kathy Chapman	21 years
Amanda McCall	12 years
Heather Brown	11 years
Jim Singleton	11 years
Sheri Vaughn	8 years
Britney McConnell	6 years
Cindy Hatchet	6 years
Lana Barnes	1 year

**#PROUDTOBENONPROFIT**



<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityDevelopmentCenter>



Community Rewards Program

