The CDC Hosts A Visit From The Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD)

During the months of April and May, the CDC hosted visitors from DIDD, Tennessee government and local representatives for tours of our facilities and an opportunity to meet individuals of all ages who receive services through the CDC.

On Monday, April 20th, the CDC welcomed Jordan Allen, DIDD Deputy Commissioner of Program Operations, Cara Kumari, DIDD Director of Communications, Senator Jim Tracy, Representative Pat Marsh, Bedford County Mayor Eugene Ray, and Shelbyville City Mayor Ewing Wallace for a visit. A tour of the Administration offices, Independent Support Coordination offices, Family Support office, and the Bedford County Child Development Center took place. Many individuals and families served by the CDC, Board members and volunteers were present to talk about the impact the CDC has had on their lives, as well as to say thank you for all the support given by these VIPs.

On May 27th, several individuals and families supported through CDC programs were able to meet in Marshall County and talk with DIDD Commissioner Debra Payne, DIDD Deputy Director of Program Operations Julie Ferrara, DIDD Director of Communications, Cara Kumari, and Senator Jim Tracy. Marshall County was represented by Mayor Joe Boyd Liggett. The visit included opportunities for information sharing, refreshments and smiles all around!! DIDD Commissioner Debra Payne, Julie Ferrara, Cara Kumari, and Representative Pat Marsh also paid a visit to the CDC site in Lincoln County after leaving the Marshall County Child Development Center. Fayetteville City Mayor, John Law, was present as well. The CDC Early Intervention Program serves seven counties, the Family Support Program provides service to families across six counties, and the ISC Program Supports individuals across seventeen South Central and Middle Tennessee counties. The CDC supports over 800 individuals and families from birth through end of life.
The ISC Columbia Office held its annual Advisory Board Meeting at the Maury County Park on June 26th with an excellent turnout of members. The program included DIIDD Person Centered Unit representative Kate Rogers, who offered information and guidance on how to develop a personal, person centered support plan including a one page profile of themselves. The day also included a cookout lunch of hotdogs, chips, cookies, and drinks, and included BINGO as the highlight. Everyone was a winner and got to pick a couple prizes from the Prize Table. Everyone had a great time and is already looking forward to the next gathering!

ISC, Kristen Quinn with Chad Davis, an individual she supports, in his very first 5K race. After two months of hard work and dedication from Chad, he crossed the finish line, smiling brightly. His first statement to Kristen was “So, when are we running another one?” To Kristen, these words let her know that Chad has the heart of a dedicated runner and is on his way to becoming an avid eventer. They are planning another race together this fall.
Elle Forrester of Shelbyville, a CDC Family Support recipient, just completed her first year at Harris Middle School, but before her year as a 6th grader ended, she and another classmate got to make their athletic mark in the State Special Olympics.

It began with lessons from Elle’s teacher Ms. Amsler in a sport she had never played before… Bocce Ball. “She loved it,” said Elle’s mom Amy Forrester, who describes the game as a type of yard bowling. “Elle is very athletic, and very competitive,” says mom. “She loves tennis, swimming and basketball. It was so sweet that her teacher took the extra time to work with her and her teammates,” shares Amy. Practices even occurred after school for the “unified team,” which meant the team was made up of two Special Ed students and two “regular ed” students.

Their first competition was the area Summer games in Tullahoma this past April, where the team placed first. This win meant they were eligible to compete at the state level. The State Special Olympics were held in May at David Lipscomb College in Nashville. The team, chaperoned by Ms. Amsler got to experience college life for the weekend event, staying in a dorm on campus. “This was Elle’s first time to sleep away from home and not be with family,” said Amy. Elle especially loved their last night which included a celebration dance for all the athletes.

The team placed fourth and were all smiles when they arrived back in Shelbyville. Amy said that Elle proudly announced “We won!” and then immediately fell asleep on the couch.

Are there plans for the Harris team to compete next year, you might wonder? If Elle has her way, yes. She has told her mom many times since the competition that she wants to go to “Bocce Camp” again next year!

Our very own Annie Grace Jensen participated in the Shining Stars Spotlight fashion show, which celebrated the beauty of young ladies with special needs in our community. This first time event was an opportunity for the participants and those in the community to help children with similar disabilities in Guatemala. This special night was the dream of Marissa Countess, a local high school student who had been to Guatemala on a mission trip where she witnessed the need for help for those with disabilities.
Profile of a Child Served by Early Intervention

Alex was referred to the Child Development Center at 16 months with Osteogenisis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease). After he was born, the doctors realized that every bone in his body, except his spine, had been broken in the womb and were in the process of healing. Alex is now 20 months old and since birth there have been no other broken bones. Alex receives CDC early intervention services two times a month and physical therapy once a month. His legs bow outward, but he can crawl and stand independently. In the past three weeks, he has started walking with good balance. His language is still delayed, but children’s speech typically slows or stops when they are beginning to walk.

The 17th Annual “Helping Hands Golf Classic” was held on Friday, May 15 at Saddle Creek Golf Course in Lewisburg, benefiting the Marshall County Child Development Center. We had a great turnover of volunteers, parents and children, which helped make the day a success. It was a great day with just a little rain. We hosted 20 teams with one of the two Waste Management teams taking 1st place in the Championship Flight. The steering committee members worked diligently to produce this event. Those members are: Barbara Capps, Ronald Robinson, Scott Tepedino, Becky Jamison, Dwight Robinson, JC McNamara, Anna Childress, Emily Darnell and Lori Wade. Waste Management is our committed annual corporate sponsor. We had 3 Platinum sponsors, 2 Gold Sponsors, 7 Silver sponsors and 16 hole sponsors as well as many scoreboard and special friends sponsors. Lyons Chevrolet, Buick, GMC was the hole-in-one sponsor again this year. They have been a sponsor since 1999. A multitude of local businesses and individuals donated items for the silent auction. Prizes were awarded in 2 flights: Championship Flight and First Flight with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, as well as, Chipping and Putting contest, Beat the Pro, Longest Drive and Closest to the pin.

Camden, pictured at left, participated in the Bedford County Library Grand Opening in June. He represented the Community Development Center and the Bedford County Child Development Center and was part of the ceremony. He was served by the Child Development Center for almost two years and made tremendous gains towards development in all areas. He turned three at the beginning of July and will be truly missed.

Such an amazing Advisory Board in Lincoln County. This group is very passionate about serving the children in their community!
Protecting Your Child From Dehydration and Heat Illness

With the hot days of summer come outdoor activities. Learn to protect your children against the dangers of dehydration and heat illness.

Prolonged exposure to high temperatures, direct sun, high humidity, without sufficient rest and fluids can put a child at risk for dehydration. A child’s body surface area makes up a much greater proportion of his or her overall weight than adults, which means a greater risk of dehydration.

Early signs include: fatigue, thirst, dry lips and tongue, lack of energy, and feeling overheated. Thirst doesn’t kick in until a child has lost 2% of his or her body weight in sweat.

Make sure children (and adults) drink plenty of cool water and sports drinks often during outside play times.

Franklin County Bon Temps hosted a Princess & Pirate 5K in honor of Mallory Casey, who has received services from the Child Development Center in the past. All money raised is going toward the purchase of additional inclusive playground equipment for the Franklin County Park. Fara Mullins, CDC Early Intervention staff member, is pictured on the left.