The Community Development Center’s Children’s Center For Autism

The Community Development Center recently received a $50,000 grant from The Baptist Healing Trust out of Nashville. This grant will be used to establish The Children’s Center for Autism (CCA) in Marshall County, in collaboration with The Brown Center for Autism in Nashville. The mission of the CCA is to help young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in South Central Middle Tennessee realize their full potential through individualized and collaborative treatment plans. Individualized treatment and small group intervention will be provided for children ages 18 months to five years of age. This new program will launch in January 2016. Services provided at the Children’s Center for Autism will be based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Included in the program will be parent and family training. This will be a key component of the program at CCA due to the belief that for a child’s skills to be meaningful in his or her life, those skills must be able to be used in more than one setting.

Mark Your Calendar

October 12……………………………………………………………Columbus Day
October 31…………………………………………………………….Halloween
November 11………………………………………………………..Veterans’ Day
November 26………………………………………………………Thanksgiving
December 7……………………………………………………….Hanukkah Begins
December 24 ………………………………………………………..Christmas Eve
December 25………………………………………………………Christmas Day
December 26………………………………………………………..Kwanzaa Begins
December 31 ………………………………………………………New Year’s Eve

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The CDC Administrative offices will be closed November 26th and 27th and December 24th, 25th, and 28th, so that our dedicated employees may spend time with their families this holiday season.
Thanks to our Trail Life volunteers and sponsors, the Child Development Center was able to have a successful first Pancake Breakfast in Coffee County on August 22, 2015 at the First United Methodist Church. Board members Amie Newsom and Jason Bogle helped to set up and also managed a PowerPoint slide show throughout the morning. Many thanks to everyone who gave time and support to make the first “Big Hands Helping Little Hands” pancake breakfast such a success.
The BEI annual Pencil County Classic Golf Tournament was held at the Riverbend Country Club on Monday, September 21, 2015. Seventeen (17) teams started the morning shotgun, while twenty-one (21) teams played for the championship in the afternoon. Awards were given to Joe Blanton and Kay Rose at the midday turnaround and Tom Insell’s team were the golf tournament winners. Many thanks to all who donated time, money, and items to make this year’s Golf Tournament such a success! Please take a moment to watch the amazing video about the Pencil County Classic Golf Tournament on our website: www.cdctn.org.

Logan Blade, above right, again provided entertainment at the reception. On the left, Ociel and his mother pass out goody bags, while Hudson, below right, takes a break from his turn at handing out goody bags to the players.

Sarah Hunt, founder of the Community Development Center, is recognized by the CDC Board of Directors for her years of service. As she retires, she will continue to support the work of the agency to fulfill its mission.
Ricky’s Dream
Ricky Blawusch has a dream of owning his own business one day. He would prefer a lawn mowing or small engine repair business. He is currently learning to work on small engines such as weed eaters, mowers, tillers, etc with a friend. Ricky realizes that there are steps that he must take before he can own his own business. One step he has taken is he signed up for GED classes. Ricky attends GED class one day per week and seems to enjoy it. Ricky stated, “If I ever get out of services I want to be able to take care of myself financially.”

Early Intervention and Family Support Work Together
Hank entered the Early Intervention (EI) program at 30 months of age. Meal times were a battle that resulted in flailing, screaming and crying, partly because he would not touch food with his hands or a utensil. He slept very little, which exhausted his parents. He had no verbal communication, instead he was crying and screaming to get his needs met. In September he was diagnosed with Autism. Since Hank has been involved in EI, he is much calmer throughout the day, has picked up several words and last week said “ready, set, go” for the first time ever! Mom and the therapist have created a visual needs chart so that Hank can show his mom what he wants. He still does not tolerate waiting for very long, but this is a work in progress using distractions such as counting or singing while waiting. Hank still will not use utensils, but can feed himself a sandwich and other finger foods. With the help of Family Support, Hank has a weighted blanket which is making bed time much easier. In one week’s time he is going to bed with less fuss and sleeping through most nights.

Autism Speaks’ stresses the importance of recognizing the early signs of autism and seeking early intervention services. While every child develops differently, studies show that early intensive behavioral intervention improves learning, communication, and social skills in young children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Become familiar with the typical developmental milestones that your child should be reaching:

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or thereafter
- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions by nine months
- No babbling by 12 months
- No back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months
ISC of CDC

On September 15th several of our Skills recipients had the opportunity to attend the Lincoln County Fair. Many of the amusement rides were open for their enjoyment and they were given free treats of ice cream and cokes. They were able to observe the different exhibits displayed in some of the fair buildings where they received small items from some of the booths. Everyone had a good time and they are looking forward to next year!

Adventures in Antioch

Bradley Gower and Terry McDonald greet all guests to their new home with welcoming smiles. They’ll gladly take you on a tour of the spacious house they chose that’s near restaurants, shopping, fishing and entertainment. They have plans to install a basketball hoop beside their large patio for practice and games. They’ve met neighbors and are fast becoming familiar faces in their new community. Both gentlemen were employed when they lived in Columbia and have already started looking for new jobs. Bradley thinks he might like to work in a bowling alley while Terry’s preference is filling any open position at his favorite restaurant, Hooters. They both have long, successful work histories and will be an asset to any employer.
Family Support Program
4th Annual Walk-N-Roll
Saturday, Nov. 7
Community Development Center
(Family support office)
Registration 9:00 -9:30 am
Walk 9:30-10:30 am
Door prizes & refreshments following the walk

All proceeds will be used to help families on the waiting list and to administer the FS Program.

Community Development Center’s Mission Statement
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.