The Family Support Program is off to a great start with funding allocated to 188 individuals in the six counties served by the CDC. The Local Council recently held its first meeting of the new fiscal year and allocated funds to be used for services ranging from respite care and personal assistance, to medical travel and education. DIDD funding is not enough to reach all the families who need FS services, so the Local Council allocated emergency funding in each county to be used by those on the waiting list. Other grant dollars raised through United Way, local grants and local fundraising are also available to those on the waiting list. Currently there are 129 waiting for Family Support services.

Family Support serves both the young and old with severe or developmental disabilities. Rebecca Crabtree and little Drake Barlow, both live in Marshall County.

Goals and Milestones

"ISC-S, Kristen Quinn, has really been making some positive changes in her life over the last year. Not only has she dropped over 100 pounds and starting marathon running, Kristen most recently purchased her first home. What a milestone!

Congrats, Kristen!"
All of the CDC Program Managers met at the Semi-Annual Manager’s Meeting on Friday, June 13th to prepare for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. The meeting consisted of reviewing policies, updating the Operations Manual and to discuss items that impact the agency operations. The Administration Staff treated the managers to a brunch and salad lunch.

To honor Sarah Hunt for her many years of service to the CDC as the Executive Director, each Manager brought in flowers which were combined into a beautiful bouquet. The flowers were used to symbolize the individual programs that make up the Community Development Center.

Starting front left - Stephanie Amos, Teresa Winnette, Becky Jamison, Christy Jensen, Jim Singleton, Sandra Markley, and Amy Todd. Middle row: Patty Clifton, Kathy Chapman, and Deb Corum. Kneeling: Executive Director, Anita Teague, and Tami Newcomb.
Community Development Center was excited to participate in The Big Payback on May 6th. This monumental event was the first time The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee hosted this community-wide online giving day that celebrated Middle Tennessee’s spirit of generosity and support for the work of nonprofits.

The 24-hour online event helped us – and other nonprofits – raise much-needed unrestricted dollars and bring awareness to pressing needs in our communities. Through our Facebook page, CDC promoted the event beginning in March and on the Big Payback day we gave updates and even had a contest with a prize given for our first $100+ donor. Thank you, Kathy Bogle for your donation – we hope you are enjoying your CDC backpack! We were blessed with more than $800 of donations on May 6th and are looking forward to participating again next year!

www.facebook.com/CommunityDevelopmentCenter
Clenetta Perry, Columbia ISC writes, being a mother of an autistic child is not the end of the world, although it feels like both a curse and a blessing at the same time. My son Kaizen is very smart and intelligent. Although I do not know exactly what all he knows, he can figure things out very quickly. I call him my “little Houdini.” Change is scary for us. I never know what may cause Kaizen to go into a meltdown whether it is a tag in the back of his shirt or a smell. In my opinion, what is frustrating to me and other autism parents is when someone who is uneducated about autism says “let me take him for a day.” Getting Kaizen prepared to do any major activity takes a lot of work. Along with Kaizen’s autism, he has ADHD. Giving him one prompt does not work. It takes several prompts and me trying to catch him several times to keep him on task, which can wear any mom out and that is just the start of our day. I am blessed that Kaizen is very loving and affectionate, as some children with autism have problems in the area. He enjoys giving hugs and kisses, which blesses my day!
Recently, several members of our CDC family had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Temple Grandin. Temple Grandin is a best-selling author, an activist for Autism awareness and a consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior. Professor Grandin holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and a Doctorate in Animal Science; she is currently a professor at Colorado State University. Temple spoke on June 19th as a guest speaker for the University of North Alabama. She spoke of her own experience with Autism and the challenges she faced; and, the tools that helped her to become more than just a person with Autism. She stressed the importance of teaching children social manners and appropriateness in social settings; for example, shaking hands—when it is appropriate, how to grasp and for how long. Other skills she spoke of were answering the phone and shopping. She stressed the need for children on the autism spectrum to spend less time isolating themselves and playing computer games; she encouraged stretching the boundaries beyond the child’s comfort zone, but not to the point of overwhelming them.
In May, the EI program hosted two START (Screening Tools and Referral Training) meetings for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Association of Pediatrics. START educates physicians and their office staff on the different screening tools for children, the referral process when concerns are detected, and coding for payment. There were six pediatricians and staff members in attendance at the Bedford County meeting and 11 in Tullahoma.

On May 23, the Bedford County CDC participated in a community wide “Baby Shower” sponsored by the local Health Department. The baby shower offered information from several health and child care organizations in the area. BEI set up an informational table for attendees and handed out brochures and developmental materials. The event had presenters that spoke throughout the four hours.

The EI program sadly said good-bye to two cherished employees. We wish them both the best in their new careers. Christina Duskin, employed for seven months as the LEI classroom teacher, plans to teach painting classes and continue her education to obtain her teaching license. Tammy Lane, a 10-year employee of the agency, will continue to work with the children in Special Education Department at Thomas School in Shelbyville.

As Tammy Lane says farewell to the CDC, a parent wanted to do something special for her. Carrissia Foy, mother of two children in the Center, brought in a wonderful homemade lunch for Tammy. Tammy and friends said, "It was delish!! Pictured here are Tammy Lane, Carrissia Foy, and Early Intervention Program Director, Teresa Winnette. We'll miss you too, Tammy!
The Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCR&R), which began at the CDC in 1995, was merged with Signal Centers South East Region due to funding cuts within the TN Department of Human Services. This program is no longer operating under the management of the CDC, but services are still being provided in the South Central Region. Specialists Gayle, Laurel, and Kelly are all still serving this region under the administration of Signal Centers out of Chattanooga. CCR&R provides training, support, and technical assistance to all licensed child care providers as well as resources for parents and child care professionals. While CCR&R is no longer a program of the CDC, our two agencies and staff will continue to partner together in many opportunities in the future.

Executive Director, Anita Teague, Sarah Hunt and Holly Kinslow express appreciation to Gayle Martin, Laurel Stone and Kelly Voss for their years of dedication and service to the Child Care Resource & Referral Program.