Mayor Pat Ford participates in a “Roast” of himself in an effort to raise money for the Giles County Child Development Center. Attendees enjoyed a tasty dinner, entertainment, such as the Pulaski Ukulele Band, and endless laughter as friends and family delved into the personal life of Ford. Proceeds from the Roast, donations raised by Ford in the amount of $3,000 and continued donations from countless caring individuals have exceeded the CDC’s goal of raising $5,000.
**William's Story**

A Person Centered Facilitation referral was sent in on William’s behalf to help him achieve his personal goals, advocate for himself and others with Autism, gain community employment and help him build relationships with others. William has built a positive relationship with several people, including his mother and father and Dr. Bruce Davis. William enjoys caring for and riding horses with Dr. Davis. William has also enjoyed learning to drive a tractor and using it to feed hay to the horses. He has been able to learn many good work skills by doing chores on the farm. He also enjoys teaching sign language at the local library. William is working very hard on getting a job in the community and has been working with Voc. Rehab to assist him.

Joni Farris (House manager) and her terrific staff have worked hard to support him through very difficult times in his life. They have worked long hours to ensure William has had the continuity in staffing supports needed to get him where he is today.

William’s provider agency, Bios is fully committed to providing Person-Centered Services and ensure that all staff are PCT trained. Bios states “We appreciate very much the support of DIDD and their Person Centered Practice Unit along with Dr. Bruce Davis and the support of his family and COS for being fully involved with promoting and helping William reach and achieve his goals and dreams he wants out of life”.

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**Employee Anniversaries**

**April**
- Amanda McCall 13 years
- Heather Brown 12 years
- Sheri Vaughn 9 years
- Brittany McConnell 7 years

**May**
- Jim Singleton 12 years

**June**
- Cindy Hatchett 7 years
- Bethamy Besse 1 year
We were excited to partner with Tennessee Disability Pathfinder for a community outreach program, which focused on the needs of our Spanish speaking community. Cecilia Melo-Romie, Multicultural Outreach Coordinator with Pathfinder is very familiar with several families in the area who participate in the Family Support Program. This was an opportunity for Cecilia and Alexandar Santan, also with Pathfinder, to meet with additional families who may not be aware of services that are available for their family members who have a disability. Those in attendance were reminded that services for their children are available and eligibility is not based on the citizenship status of their parents. The group of more than 25, met at St. William of Montevergive Catholic Church in Shelbyville in late March and were provided lunch. Pathfinder is developing ways of reaching those in rural counties of Tennessee with higher ethnically and linguistically diverse populations. They are hoping to duplicate the success of our event in Shelbyville in other areas of the state.
# New Hire Spotlight!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Garner</td>
<td>Independent Support Coordinator</td>
<td>Shelbyville office</td>
<td>Lives in Murfreesboro with her five year old gray cat. Jenna loves going on walks and hikes when the weather permits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Story</td>
<td>Independent Support Coordinator</td>
<td>Shelbyville office</td>
<td>Lives in Bell Buckle with her husband and 4 kids.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Neal</td>
<td>Independent Support Coordinator</td>
<td>Shelbyville office</td>
<td>Lives in Winchester with his wife and five children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Black</td>
<td>Independent Support Coordinator</td>
<td>Columbia office</td>
<td>Loves to travel and watch cooking and police shows with her Chihuahua, Oscar. Martha has 15 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Welcome to the CDC Family

We would like to introduce you the newest addition to the CDC family. Henry Rudolf was born on March 6, 2019. He weighed 9 lbs and 11 oz and was 20.5 in long. Mom Rachel and baby Henry are doing great!!
With Your Help, I Have No Limits

The Big Payback is in full swing to take place on May 2, 2019. This 24 hour of online giving was created to increase philanthropy for the non-profits of Middle Tennessee. The goal is simple—inspire Middle Tennesseans to come together, show their pride in their communities, and of course contribute to the life-changing work of their non-profits.

The Big Payback starts at midnight on Thursday May, 2nd and run until 11:59pm. All donations should go through TheBigPayback.org and the CDC can even win more money from The Community Foundation, which host this event every year.

We will be at the Chamber from 7am-7pm for The Big Payback; Come support the CDC!

You know you want to get in on the fun, so how do you do that? It’s easy; just help us reach our goals. Timing also counts. If you donate between 6:00 am and 9:00 am, you can help us earn more money! You can also get a shout out on our social media pages.

Below are the things that Anita will do once that monetary threshold has been met:

- $500- Kiss a Pig
- $1000- Ice Bucket Splash
- $1500- Dye her hair
- $2000- Sundae Chicken (You get to make a yummy sundae on her head and then cover her in feathers)
Carrie’s Corner
By: Carrie Hobbs Guiden, executive director

The Danger of Block Grants

It seems everywhere you go these days, somebody in government is talking about “block grants.” The federal government regularly makes attempts to convert their funding of key programs such as Medicaid into a “block grant.” It’s become nearly an annual battle for the disability community to fight. Now the issue appears to be coming closer to home. The Tennessee General Assembly has put forth legislation (SB1428/HB1280) that would require TennCare to submit a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to receive its federal portion of the funds in the form of a block grant.

Block grants are not a new concept. They have been around at least as long as I’ve been in the disability field (and that’s a long time). Maybe that’s why so many of us worry when we hear talk of block grants around funding streams that impact services and supports for people with IDD. We remember what the system was like before IDD services were provided through Medicaid Waivers. We remember the waiting lists (often worse than they are now). We remember that institutional services were the norm. We remember services being restricted because funds were low.

While it is true that block grants may offer states more flexibility in terms of how they deliver services and supports, that flexibility often comes at a price. Block grant funding for a given year is typically based on the number of people enrolled in the previous year. It an influx of people become eligible for TennCare due to aging, a recession, or other emergency, or costs of certain medications or procedures suddenly skyrocketed, the funding wouldn’t keep up. The State would either have to pitch in to cover the costs or enrollees would experience a reduction in services. History tells us that the latter is the more likely scenario.

We also frequently hear that “Tennessee can do things better” and that the federal government is nothing but a hindrance to our State. Again, there is some truth to that statement. Nobody enjoys government red tape and Tennessee has developed several innovative programs. But for people with IDD, federal oversight is often necessary to ensure that states do the right thing for this population.

While this current legislature is supportive of disability issues, that may not always be the case. That is why we have federal laws like the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. That is why federal lawsuits like Olmstead are so important to our community. Sometimes, people with IDD have to rely on entities other than state government to ensure that their civil and human rights are not lost.

It is easy to get caught up in the rhetoric of the supposed benefits to block grant funding. I urge you to look beyond the rhetoric to consider the real consequences of block grants – the serious potential to experience a decrease in federal funding that negatively impacts the services and supports people with IDD need to live healthy, safe and fulfilling lives in their community.

To learn more about block grants, visit The Arc TN website at: http://www.theartn.org/Public-Policy.php.