

THE CDC CORNER

Newsletter

OUR 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



Disability Advocacy Day Craft Fair in Giles County

On March 11th, the Pulaski Recreation Center hosted the first ever Disability Advocacy Day Craft Fair on behalf of the Giles County Child Development Center. Complete with local craft vendors, homemade soups and chili, door prizes, and entertainment, community members wore blue to show their support for Disability Advocacy Day.

Thanks to the contributions of community partners like Rusty Spur, Franks Vending, Sun Drop, and many more for contributing to the delicious success of this event!

A special thank you goes to Darlene Slinger of the Pulaski Recreation Center, along with the City of Pulaski, for donating their time, decorations, and space. The Giles County Child Development Center, children and families, and Advisory Board are beyond blessed to be a part of such a supportive and caring community. Thank you so much to our board members for their hard work and contributions that also helped to make this fundraiser successful. Be sure to mark March 2024 in your calendars for the second annual Disability Advocacy Day Craft Fair!



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HOLIDAYS

Apr. 2	World Autism Awareness Day
Apr. 4	Auditory Processing Disorder Awareness Day
May 14	Apraxia Awareness Day
May 30	World Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day
Jun. 25 - Jul. 1	Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

Disability Day on the Hill

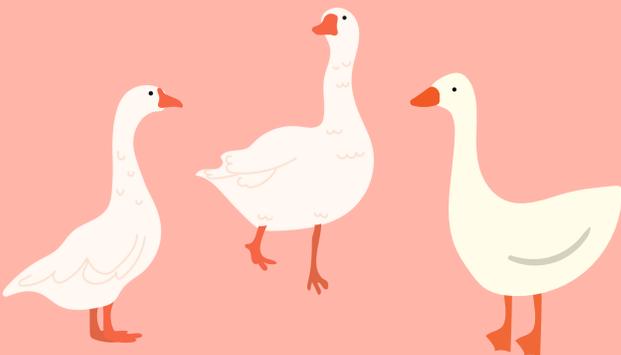
DDH • 2023



On March 8th, several CDC staff members visited Nashville for Disability Day on the Hill. They had the opportunity to meet in-person with State Representatives and Senators to discuss pertinent upcoming legislation, systems, and policies.

The CDC team even spotted a celebrity on their travels to Nashville! Marshall the Goose - the Tennessee Disability Coalition's very own mighty mascot - made a special appearance during the TDC Community Party!

Disability Day on the Hill gives organizations such as the Community Development Center the platform to educate and inform Tennessee legislators on the significance of their constituents and the services currently available to them.



World Down Syndrome Day



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

Look at all the wacky socks the CDC staff and their families rocked on March 21st!



Early Intervention



Dani is an 18 month old with Apert syndrome. She entered the Child Development Center (CDC) at 2 months old. She has had many surgeries and countless hospital stays.

Despite all of this, she is crawling, cruising furniture, using a few words, and can use her hands exceptionally well. She will pick up papers, try to use utensils, and turn pages in some books.

All of this is possible because of Dani's persistence, her family's consistency and compassion, the medical team, her physical therapist and her CDC Early Interventionist!



On March 11th, the CDC was chosen to participate in the Disability Advocacy Day Craft Fair in Pulaski. Proceeds from the event benefit the Child Development Center in Giles county. Many agencies attended to bring awareness to service for individuals in the Giles County community. Our Early Intervention and Employment Services programs were both represented at the event!

The Children's Center for Autism



IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH!

In 2023, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that 1 in 36 children have an Autism Spectrum Disorder. This has again increased since 2020. A lot of people are asking "why have these numbers increased so much over the years?". The experts say that it isn't that the number of people with Autism has increased, it is the fact that we as professionals have gotten better at early identification. We know that early identification with supports is key in helping our kids reach their fullest potential.

STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT!

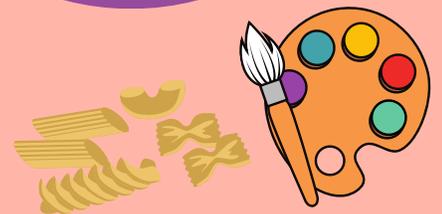
This friend has made great strides towards meeting his fullest potential! He has the best sense of humor, has recently started talking, and loves to play with friends. We are so excited to continue to watch him grow!



LOOKING TO HELP SUPPORT THE CCA PROGRAM?

Here is a list of possible donation items that CCA uses on a daily basis to help support our kids:

Laminating Paper - Velcro - Multi Colored Construction Paper - Glue - Washable Paint - Sensory Bin items like: dry rice, dry beans, dry pasta, playdoh, cornstarch, bubble wrap, sand, colorful fish rocks, etc.



Independent Support Coordination/ECF Services



Bobby Dickson has begun a new adventure living with his brother, sister-in-law, and their teenage children. Bobby has been staying active with the many sport events he attends with his nieces and nephews. He has lost 40 pounds since he has been so active!

As an ISC you are faced with many situations, some of which actually require some crafty solutions, such as one I had recently. One of my clients had a problem with his feet slipping on his elliptical foot pedals. I was visiting with my client and noticed that his feet kept sliding off his foot pedals as his Occupational Therapist worked with him. I went over and began to suggest some ideas that may work for him to the OT. She said that she was very open to any ideas that may help this situation. I looked at the bottom of the machine and came up with an idea for a strap with a buckle to put around his foot. Well, the idea was good, but the strap kept slipping around the pedal as he would move his feet around and around. So, it was back to the drawing board! I went to Home Depot and found a mending plate that was close to the width of the machine. I met the OT over at the client's home and I screwed in the screws into the bottom of the machine. The problem was fixed! My client now has a working solution for his issue with his elliptical pedal machine.

-Melissa Cole, ISC



Gerald Lee McKelvey, 56, of Tullahoma passed from this life on Monday, March 13, 2023, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Born in Augusta, Georgia on August 24, 1966, the son of Herbert and Betty Lee McKelvey. He was a member of Highland Baptist Church in Tullahoma. Gerald loved to bowl, fish, shoot pool, and enjoyed spending time with his friends from Skills Development. Gerald never let his disability stop him. He had such perseverance and inner strength and continued to fight battles in health and limitations that would crush many of us. He showed everyone what it was to be strong because strength is not just found in the biggest and toughest. He was a kind soul with such a heart of gold.

Family Support



Jaydon is a 21 year old resident of Coffee County and former client of the Family Support Program. He now receives services through the ECF program. Jaydon's mom, Karen, currently serves on the FS Local Council and represents the CDC on the FS District Council.

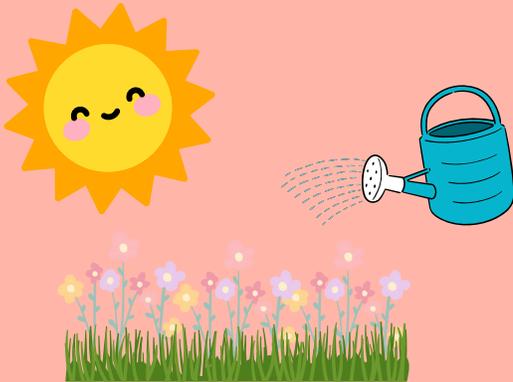
Jaydon first dreamt of traveling in 2021. He desperately wanted to go to Hawai'i to swim with the manta rays (Hawai'i is one of only 12 places in the world to snorkel with them!) and go whale watching.



His family came up with a plan to start hauling any scrap metal or recycling that they could fit into their truck to work towards his goal and make his dream come true - which it did! Jaydon recently visited the Big Island and Oahu, Hawai'i for 10 days with his mom, grandfather, and uncle. During his trip Jaydon visited the green beach and especially enjoyed a tour of the Dole plantation. But he's not stopping there! Jaydon is going to continue to pick up scrap metal, appliances, vehicle batteries, and aluminum cans to fund future dream trips. Alaska or Maine is next on his agenda!

Employment Services

THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM AT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAS BEEN GROWING!



The Employment Services department recently participated in the University of Tennessee Southern Special Education Program's FIRE (Fostering Inclusion through Resource Efforts) Resource Fair. This event connected local individuals, families, and educators to agencies and resources for individuals with disabilities. The Employment Services department was able to connect with several families and educators from Giles and Lawrence counties and discuss Pre-ETS. Several families expressed interest in receiving Pre-ETS summer services.

In the first 3 months of 2023, the Pre-Employment Transition Services program has expanded to serve three new schools: Marshall County High School, East Hickman High School, and Community Middle School. Pre-ETS is now serving 12 schools across 6 counties, with 85 students served in March!



Senior Equipment Loan

THEY HAVE ARRIVED!

The Senior Equipment Loan Program recently received a delivery of several items to add to its ever-growing inventory. Among these items included 3 wheelchair ramps, 8 shower benches, and 2 suitcase ramps! Thanks to funding from *Serving Tennessee's Seniors* - a grant administered by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee at the request of the Chancery Court - these new additions can now be offered to individuals in need of mobility assistance.



Welcome to the Team!

Jeenene Secrest	Early Intervention	February 20
Janeth Quevarado	CCA	March 1
Sara Musgrove	Administration	April 10
Gretchen Biggerstaff	Early Intervention	April 10

Staff Spotlight

Learn all about Early Interventionist Tiffany Ward!

1.If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
If I could have any superpower, it would be to heal.

2.What advice would you give to someone who wants to enter your job position?

Do it, I wish I had done it sooner! Come with an open heart, passion, and love, willingness to learn, and ask for help when needed. Believe in yourself and be ready to be melted by some adorable kiddos!

3.What do you like to do on your days off?

On my days off, I like to spend time with my two girls, Emma, who is 17 and Lily, who is 10, and my husband of nearly 19 years Dustin. Exploring new towns, hiking spots and kayaking, eating places as I'm a big foodie, traveling, playing with my two dogs Charlie the Lab and Luna the American Bully, watching my oldest play soccer, my youngest compete in dance and of course soaking up the sun as I tend to my garden!

4.What's one thing people don't know about you that they would be surprised to find out?

I'm a huge Bucee's fan!

5.What is the best book you have ever read?

This is a tough one for me as I love anything by Author Lysa TerKeurst. Her books include: Good Boundaries and Goodbyes, Uninvited, Forgiving What You Can't Forget, and It's Not Supposed To Be This Way. All so good!





Hannah Turner	April 4
Kelli LaFont	May 6
Meghan Messick	May 10
Melissa Cole	June 9
Kathy Colburn	June 12
Mandy Kellar	June 12
Lucy Fletcher	June 18



Read All About It!

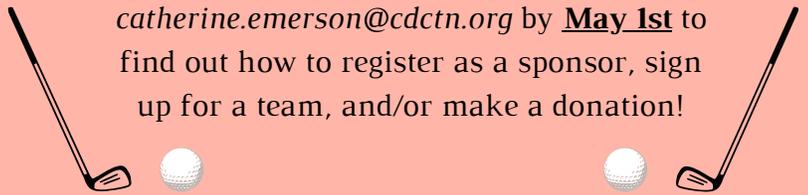
The 25th Annual Helping Hands Golf Tournament will take place on Thursday, May 18th at Saddle Creek Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit both the Early Intervention program and the Children's Center for Autism in Marshall County.

Contact Catherine Emerson at catherine.emerson@cdctn.org by **May 1st** to find out how to register as a sponsor, sign up for a team, and/or make a donation!

NEW!

HAPPY Anniversary DAY

<i>April</i>		
Daryl Graham	Administration	1 year
Kelly Lee	CCA	1 year
Amanda McCall	Administration	17 years
Sheri Vaughn	ISC	13 years
Britney McConnell	EI	11 years
Heather Brown	ISC	16 years
<i>May</i>		
David Fosbinder	EI	4 years
Cassidy Wiseman	ISC	2 years
<i>June</i>		
Bethamy Besse	ISC	5 years
Cynthia Hatchett	ISC	11 years
Danielle Dorey	EI	1 year



<http://www.cdctn.org>



<http://givingmatters.civicore.org>



Community Rewards Program



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