

# Building Brighter Futures



2016-2017  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**Critchlow Adkins**  
Children's Centers





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## Administrative Staff

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Cristy Morrell

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## Site Directors

Donna Austin, Preschool  
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## Dear Friends,

As you browse through this beautiful Annual Report, you will find that Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers is not just a day care program. While CACC offers both before- and after- school programs, preschool and pre-K education, we are so much more! For example, we also have summer camps that include science, cooking, arts and crafts, gardening projects, field trips and swim lessons, which are so vital.

These programs operate all year long. It would be impossible, however, to maintain this schedule except for the wonderful and extremely dedicated site directors and teachers, many of whom have worked for CACC for over 30 years. Their dedication to seeing our children educated and prepared for the next step is wonderful. Further, our families who allow us to care for their children are fantastic. They reflect our diverse community and share a common goal: to have their children educated in a safe and nurturing environment.

By offering tuition assistance, we try to fulfill our families' wishes to be part of CACC regardless of their financial situation. We need your assistance to continue to make this happen. Providing quality early childhood education is expensive, but it is an invaluable investment in the health and vitality of Talbot County and benefits all of us. Please help CACC to meet the needs of our families.

Thank you for all that you do. With your support, CACC will continue to thrive and plan for the future!

Alexis "Lex" Kramer  
Board President



# 2016-17 by the Numbers



**Did You Know?**

All our sites are MSDE accredited and have the highest Maryland EXCELS rating.

**Did You Know?**

That we host **12** weeks of summer camp at all **5** sites, including **2** weeks of swim lessons.

## Our Students

**325** Total Students

**45%** of our families receive assistance

**\$100,000** Amount of Financial Assistance given per year

**8,000+** children have participated in our programs touching the lives of **3** generations

**Did You Know?**

We serve breakfast, a lunch supplement, and an afternoon snack to all our children

## Program Partners

Council Farms  
Girl Scouts of America  
4-H

Judy Center  
Talbot County Health Department  
PNC Bank  
St. Vincent de Paul

Talbot County Free Libraries  
Talbot County Public Schools  
Talbot County Parks and Recreation

## Experiential Learning

Pickering Creek  
Phillips Wharf  
Outstanding Dreams Alpaca Farm

Workhorse Farm  
Salisbury Zoo  
Easton Airport

Local Fire Companies  
Adkins Arboretum  
Idlewild Park

## Community Friends

Chefs • Musicians • Artists  
Police Departments  
Fire Departments



# Educating children in a safe, diverse, dependable, and nurturing environment



We are pleased to present the 2016-2017 Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers Annual Report and to highlight several major initiatives of the past year. These accomplishments position CACC to continue its role as a premier, accredited provider of affordable early childhood education and before and after school care. The certified teachers and creative resources that CACC provides its families ensure that the young children in its centers will receive safe, dependable, nurturing care and that they will be superbly school ready.

We are especially delighted to announce the appointment of Cristy Morrell as our new Executive Director. Cristy is eminently qualified for her new role. Before joining CACC, Cristy taught elementary school and English as a Second Language for Spanish-speaking students in Florida and in Talbot County, where she served on the staff of The Country School. A strong advocate of early childhood learning, Cristy was a founder of the local branch of Imagination Library, a highly successful early literacy program.

Speaking of her respect for CACC's role in the community, Cristy observes that "Since 1970, CACC's professional, dedicated teachers have partnered with families to ensure that their children have the best school experience, and that experience begins with preschool. Because of this partnership and our outstanding curriculum, and because our students and their families represent a true cross-section of our community, CACC offers a rich and nurturing learning environment. We come together with one purpose: to ensure that our children are prepared for kindergarten and on the path to a successful academic future." Of her goals for CACC, Cristy adds: "I want to build growing awareness of Critchlow Adkins and its impact in the community. Our children will be tomorrow's leaders. I want CACC to be the first call that people make when seeking a place for their children to begin their education."

Thanks to the support of many CACC Friends and Family, CACC's 2016 Joy of Children event was the most successful fundraising event in its history. CACC also received grants to support its initiatives from the organizations listed elsewhere in this report. These grants and the generosity of CACC's Friends will enable CACC to offer tuition aid to more families and to further enhance our educational programs.

Strong leadership, highly qualified staff and creative educational programming in safe and inviting settings require significant and ongoing funding. We sincerely thank everyone who has generously supported CACC in the past, and we earnestly hope that each of you will continue that support so that we, in turn, can continue to serve the children, their families, and the Talbot Community.



**MARYLAND EXCELS**  
CHECK FOR QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD  
AND SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

# Partnerships and Sponsorships

## Grants and Foundation Gifts:

Blackbaud, Inc.  
Bryan Brothers Foundation  
Christmas in St. Michaels

Dock Street Foundation  
Mid-Shore Community Foundation  
PNC Grow Up Great Grant  
Ruth and Robert St. John Foundation

St. Marks United Methodist Church  
Talbot County Health Department  
Van Strum Foundation



## 8TH ANNUAL

# Joy of Children

At the 8th Joy of Children event, CACC recognized Dr. Kelly Griffith, Superintendent of Talbot County Public Schools, for her leadership in Talbot County and the important partnership that CACC and TCPS have enjoyed since 1984. Four of the five sites are housed within Talbot County Public Schools, and Dr. Griffith has been instrumental in supporting CACC, enriching the lives of more than 9,000 children in our community.



## A Big Thank You to our Joy of Children Sponsors



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July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

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Christmas in St. Michaels  
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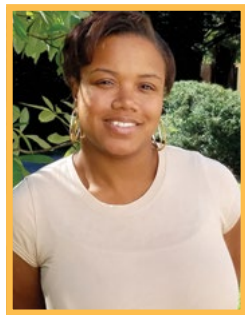
## Our Site Directors

To say that CACC has an amazingly talented and committed group of managers is an understatement at best. With a combined 100+ years experience in early childhood education, our site directors lead a staff of 37 early learning professionals, guiding them to create the best program possible for the hundreds of children and families CACC serves.



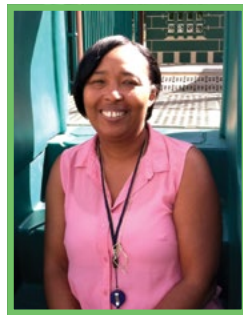
**DONNA AUSTIN**  
*Preschool Site*

Years of Service: 30  
Programs: twos, preschool  
and pre-K  
Enrollment: 70  
Staff: 14



**KEIEVE COLBERT**  
*School Age Site*

Years of Service: 13  
Programs: pre-K wrap,  
before and after school  
Enrollment: 63  
Staff: 7



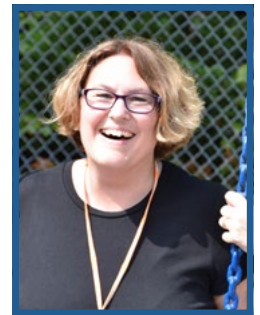
**MELISSA JOHNSON**  
*Cordova Site*

Years of Service: 12  
Programs: preschool, pre-K  
wrap, before and after  
school  
Enrollment: 66  
Staff: 7



**MARLENE THOMAS**  
*St. Michaels Site*

Years of Service: 30  
Programs: twos, preschool,  
pre-K wrap, before and  
after school  
Enrollment: 99  
Staff: 13



**CHERYL WILLIS**  
*White Marsh Site*

Years of Service: 14  
Programs: before and after  
school  
Enrollment: 45  
Staff: 3