

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Building Brighter Futures



...providing a nurturing, diverse, safe, and enriching environment
for children to learn, grow, and play.



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Dear Friends,

As you can imagine, this year has been full of challenges for Critchlow Adkins. Because of the pandemic, we were forced to close all five of our sites in mid-March and able to open for only a limited summer program at the end of June. However, I am happy to report that we have strategically navigated the impact of COVID-19 on our facilities, on our staff and, most importantly, on the families we serve.



You, our donors, have been a vital part of our ongoing efforts to weather the storm of this pandemic. We had one of our most successful Friends Fund campaigns this year. In addition, an early spring email effort raised money for cleaning supplies and other COVID 19 related items. Thank you.

The notion that it "takes a village" is not lost on us. It is through multiple efforts that CACC was able to pay its entire staff this spring and slowly return to providing the quality, affordable childcare we are known for. Through the relentless efforts of our Executive Director, Cristy Morrell, CACC was the recipient of funding from many sources including a loan from the Payment Protection Plan and a Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Grant.

While much has changed in our world and lives due to the pandemic, our mission to provide quality, affordable child care has not. This is evident in our staff's continual dedication to providing all our services in a safe and healthy environment, the commitment of our board of directors to ensure the continued viability of this irreplaceable organization and the tremendous participation of our donors and community organizations in supporting us when we needed it most.

Our five Site Directors and their staff have made many adjustments in the way they operate due to COVID-19 rules and regulations. These changes include a new process for dropping children off, the thorough sanitization of our facilities, toys and equipment, adhering to the principles of social distancing and wearing masks. Specific precautions for each child ensure the safety of their toys, supplies and work environment. CACC has produced a short video on all the precautions and changes that have been instituted at our five sites which can be viewed on our website at www.cacckids.org.

While our plans to celebrate our 50th anniversary this coming year have changed dramatically, we are working on alternative ways to recognize this milestone in the history of Critchlow Adkins. We look forward to sharing these special events with you in the months to come.

We can't thank you enough for your tremendous support, especially during the past few months. It is through your generosity that CACC continues to be such a valuable and viable resource in our community. We will continue to need your support during these uncertain times.

Julie Crocker
President

Our Mission

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers mission is to provide quality, financially accessible childcare for children and their families in a nurturing, diverse, safe and enriching environment.

Our Community Partners:

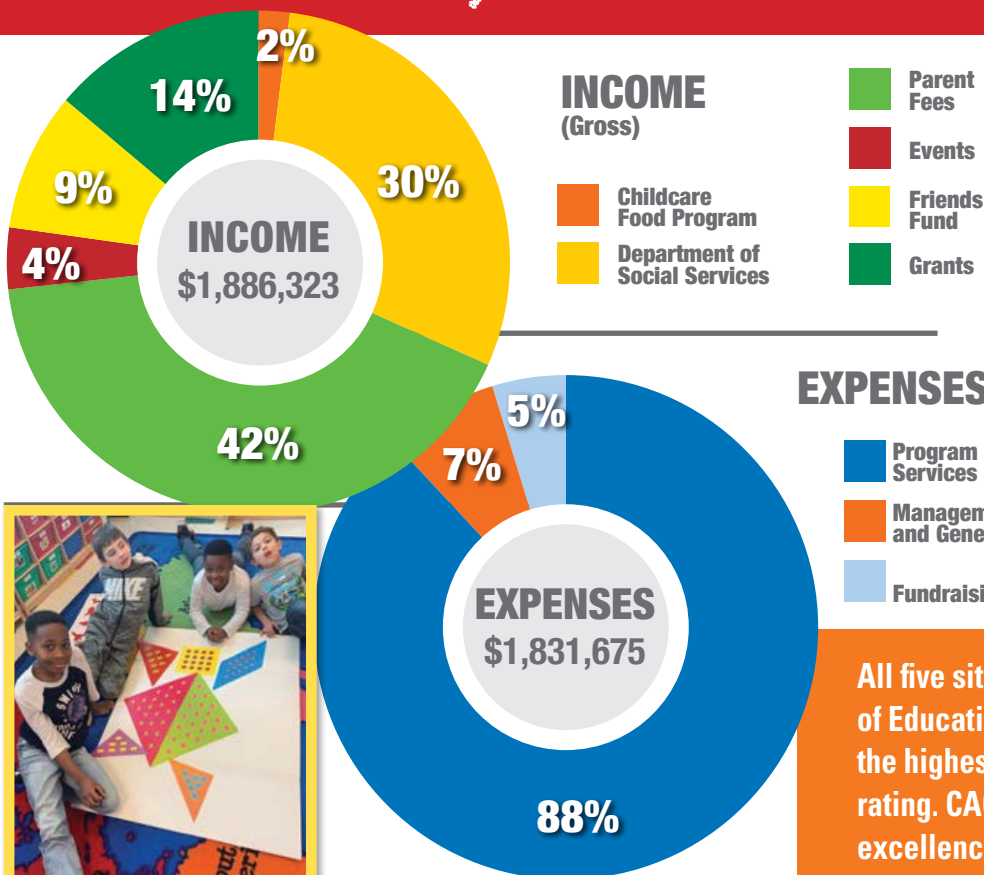
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 Talbot County Public Schools • Talbot County Child Care Association • Talbot County Family Network
 U.S. Air Force • U.S. Navy • YMCA of the Chesapeake • 4-H Youth Development



Our Students

420 Total Students
45% of our families receive tuition assistance
\$100,000 Amount of Financial Assistance given per year
4 Generations of families have attended CACC

2019-20 by the Numbers



Established in 1970,
 CACC has cared for
 and educated over
 12,500 children
 for four generations!

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
 (Ages 2 to 4)
 St. Michaels • Easton
 Cordova • Trappe

BEFORE- and AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
 (Pre-K to 5th Grade)
 Easton • St. Michaels
 Cordova • Trappe

SUMMER CAMPS
 AT ALL FIVE LOCATIONS

All five sites are Maryland State Department of Education Accredited and have earned the highest Maryland EXCELS Check Level 5 rating. CACC has been awarded this level of excellence for over 25 years.

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

Annetta Biscoe

ANNETTA BISCOE, White Marsh Site Director, always knew what she wanted to be: an early childhood teacher who could “make a difference.” After receiving a certificate in early childhood education at Chesapeake Community College, she started as an Assistant Teacher in the three-year-old group at Easton Day Care as Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers was then called. At that time, it was the only childcare center around. Within six months, Annetta had become managing teacher for the three-year-olds. That was

forty-one years ago. She has remained at CACC because of her “commitment to the organization, to the people – parents and staff – and to the children.” As she looks back on

those first years, she recalls that CACC consisted of only one site located at St. Marks Church and provided daycare for twenty 3-year-olds, twenty 4-year-olds, and twenty kindergarten children.

When she started, Annetta eagerly embraced Happy Critchlow’s and Jan Adkins’s goals of ensuring that the children in her care always felt loved and safe. As CACC has grown through the years, so has Annetta’s focus. In addition to providing exceptional childcare, love,

and safety, all of her programs are educationally based and include music, arts and craft activities, and science projects. Children in her care explore the world outside by growing things from bulbs to pumpkin seeds and taking field trips (pre-COVID). “I’m always thinking about new, fun things to bring into the class,” she notes. Before children get down to the serious business of learning through play, students start each day with a “morning meeting” when the children can sit down and talk and share with one

another. Annetta believes “morning meeting” sets the tone for a positive day as it helps her gauge how her students are feeling. Most importantly, Annetta makes it her

goal to see that the children like reading. Here her enthusiasm and creativity kick in with full force. She likes to encourage a love of reading through animation with the use of puppets, musical instruments, and CD’s.

Over the years, Annetta has raised over \$20,000 for St. Jude’s by teaching children about bike safety and hosting trike-a-thons. Annetta has also raised awareness of the hazards of smoking around young children and the effects it



may have on a child’s health. Annetta has been introducing her children to an anti-smoking program for years, sponsored by the Talbot County Health Department, which educates families about the hazards of second hand smoke. Her love of creativity also is reflected in family events that she orchestrates at White Marsh.

Her creativity has been recognized in The Terri Lynne Lokoff Childcare Teacher of the Year Award (King of Prussia, PA) that Annetta won in 2001 for her multi-cultural curriculum. With that award came a letter from the Governor of Maryland recognizing Annetta’s skill and creativity. Since that time she has continued to pursue her love of early childhood education and to develop her expertise with the completion of an Associate Degree at Chesapeake College.

Annetta’s commitment, as well as her skill, enthusiasm, and creativity have been an inspiration to her students and families alike. She has seen three generations of families at Critchlow. Some of them also have gone into teaching. “You never know when you will make that connection,” Annetta observes. And former students remember her hugs.



Events and Sponsors

October 2019 12TH ANNUAL Joy of Children

A Big Thank You to our Joy of Children Sponsors



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Because of your generosity, our Joy event raised \$47,500 for our Tuition Assistance program. An additional \$21,000 was raised to purchase furniture for our new School Age Site classrooms that are located in the new Easton Elementary School. **THANK YOU!**



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Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers

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