



2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



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

CACC families are grateful to YOU...

IT VERY QUICKLY BECAME CLEAR that teleworking with toddlers was not going to work. I was so lucky to still have a safe place to take my children, so I could be a good employee and a good mother. Thank you Critchlow for helping us working moms really be able to "do it all!" — ANDREA WILSON

I'M SO HAPPY to have my daughter be part of the CACC family. She had very little interaction with other kids during COVID. Josie's transition into her CACC classroom was a seamless one. She loves all of her teachers and has made very close friends. I'm especially grateful for all of the hugs Ms. Jessica gives Josie when she is feeling sad or scared. I'm also grateful for the never ending support I receive from Marlene. I've been able to complete two years of college since Josie joined CACC. I'm closer than ever to having the career I've always dreamed of! Thank you. — KAITLYN MISTER

CACC HAS BEEN SUCH A BLESSING TO OUR FAMILY, especially during the COVID shutdown. Annetta and fellow staff members continued to provide loving care to all the children while balancing safety protocols, social distancing, and virtual learning. Cam was always on Zoom on time for his classes and got all the help he needed to complete his assignments. I am not sure what we would have done without CACC! Thank you so much. — MEGAN OZMAN

CACC IS A GREAT PLACE FOR LILAH TO LEARN and socialize with other children. The teachers really engage her and she learns a lot. It was the most affordable and reliable care I could find. Most appreciated! Thanks again for everything! — MELISSA CHARNOCK



CRITCHLOW HAS ALLOWED GRACIE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS and be in a great environment with kids her age to have fun, learn, and grow. We're so grateful to be part of this program! — JUSTINE FRANZEN

WITH EVERYTHING BEING SHUTDOWN AND SOCIAL ISOLATION, Critchlow has allowed Logan to get out of the house and spend time with other kids. It has kept him active and away from TV and video games. — LESLIE R POLLARD



CRITCHLOW HAS BEEN A GODSEND FOR OUR FAMILY this past year. Staying open as long as possible during COVID allowed our boys to continue their on-line learning in a structured school-like environment. My husband and I, working remotely from home, needed to be able to focus on our work demands, so with Critchlow open, who better than early childcare educators to do the teaching assistance and give our kids a sense of regularity in their schedules. A HUGE thank you for the staff who made the choice to put their health at potential risk during a pandemic to help take care of the kiddos! Summer camp is also a huge help. Our boys love the different activities each week that make it truly feel like a summer camp vs daycare at the school location. — BRIGHTON LAZNOVSKY

THE CRITCHLOW ADKINS PROGRAM HAS BEEN A BIG HELP TO MY FAMILY. We started our oldest son in the after-school program when he started kindergarten at Chapel. Our work schedules changed monthly, so Melissa and her team members worked with us and made it possible for my son to attend part time. This was a perfect solution for our family. When our other son started at Chapel we immediately signed him up for the after-school program. This was great because we were already familiar with everyone and we knew what to expect. We felt our children were safe and taken care of while we finished out our workday. We would highly recommend the Critchlow Adkins program. — RACHEL SMITH

CRITCHLOW HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL in helping maintain a routine and schedule for my son during all the craziness this past year. Thank you for all that you do and for all your hard work keeping our kids healthy and safe! — STEPHANIE LAYNE JACKSON



Dear Friends,

This past year Critchlow Adkins celebrated its 50th year of providing exceptional childcare to families in Talbot County. While we had multiple events planned throughout the year to celebrate this milestone, our focus remained on the continuation of our operations in all five sites given the challenges, restrictions and new regulations of a pandemic. I am proud to say that we “weathered the storm” and continued our mission to provide quality, financially accessible childcare for children and their families in a nurturing, diverse, safe and enriching environment. The word “safe” in our mission statement meant more than ever to CACC this past year.

The staff at our five sites continued to implement all the necessary requirements and restrictions to provide safe environments for our children and their families. This was not always easy as they constantly reacted to changing enrollments, revised regulations and class closings when necessary. Without a doubt, our staff went above and beyond in this regard, and as a result, we continue to provide the highest level of quality childcare and early education.

While many non-profits faced financial deficits, no stone was left unturned in CACC’s obtaining funding through aid and grants. A big factor in our financial stability was our annual Friends Fund campaign, which was hugely successful this past year due to the commitment and generosity of you, our donors. Your donations greatly helped families needing financial assistance in a year when there was much need.

As we reflect on the past fifty years, the growth of CACC is truly amazing – from a handful of classrooms to the current five sites that provide preschool, before-and after-school care and summer camps for children 2-12 years of age. We have so much to be thankful for and so much to celebrate.

In my last Annual Report message, I noted that we needed you, our donors, to continue your support during uncertain times. You met that challenge this past year, and we are so very grateful for your continued generosity.

Julie Crocker
President



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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:

Academy Art Museum • Bay Side Quilters • Chesapeake Community College • Easton Volunteer Fire Department • Family Affair Farm • Girl Scouts of America • Lion's Club • Oral Health Department • PNC Bank • S.O.S. Sink or Swim • St. Michaels Community Center • St. Paul's Church, Trappe • St. Vincent de Paul • Talbot County Free Library • Talbot County Health Department • Talbot County Judy Center • Talbot County Public Schools • Talbot County Child Care Association • Talbot Family Network • Trident Aircraft Easton • U.S. Air Force • U.S. Navy • YMCA of the Chesapeake • 4-H Youth Development



Warm and cozy quilts donated by Bayside Quilters.



Our Students

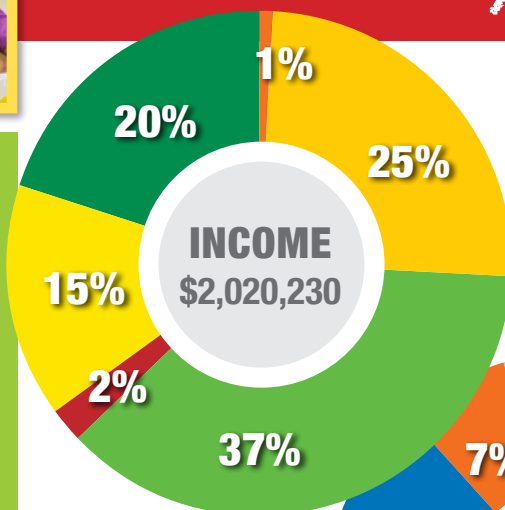
220 Total Students
40% of our families receive tuition assistance
\$66,000 Amount of Financial Assistance given per year
4 Generations of families have attended CACC

Although the Health Department and Office of Childcare COVID-19 guidelines limited the number of children we were able to serve, all five sites used best practices in providing the highest level of safety and care.



2020-21 by the Numbers

INCOME (Gross)

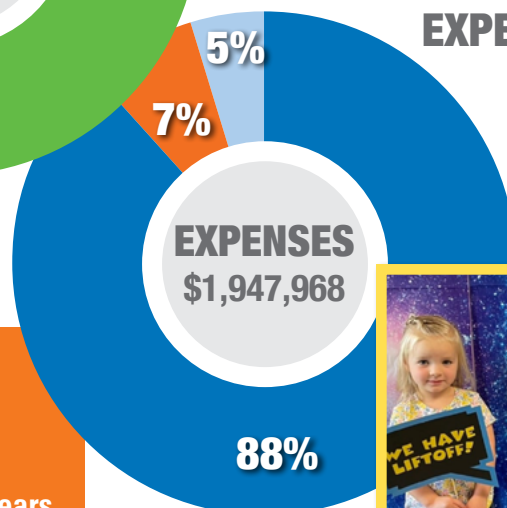


Childcare Food Program
 Department of Social Services

Parent Fees
 Events

Friends Fund
 Grants

EXPENSES



Program Services
 Management and General
 Fundraising



Established in 1970, CACC has cared for and educated over 12,750 children!

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
 (AGES 2 TO 4)
 AND
BEFORE- and AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
 (PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE)
 St. Michaels • Easton Cordova • White Marsh (Trappe)

SUMMER CAMP
 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.



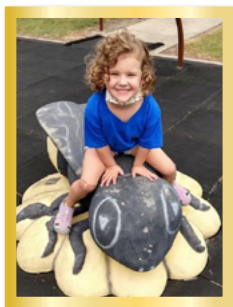
50 YEARS -See How We've Grown!

CACC HAS MUCH TO CELEBRATE!

It has come a long way since its founding by Happy Critchlow and Janice Adkins when it was located in St. Mark's Methodist Church in Easton. In those days, 60 children were divided into 3 year-old, 4 year-old and kindergarten classes, occupied three classrooms, and sat down to a family style lunch with teachers at the head and foot of three tables. White Marsh site director Annetta Biscoe explains that while the program has always been educationally-based and has developed the children's socializing, creative, and musical skills, in those days a big focus was on maintaining accreditation and providing top flight childcare.



Fast forward to our 50th Anniversary year, and CACC has grown in countless important ways that we celebrate. Marlene Thomas, St. Michaels Site Director, notes that "After 50 years, CACC is still around, but bigger and better. It's changing with the times. It is constantly evolving." It serves a much broader community with its Preschool, St. Michaels,



Level 5 certification for using best practices and providing the highest quality of childcare, CACC's staff focus is on delivering exceptional early childhood education. Even the 2- and 3-year-old classrooms regularly use computers; the children engage in STEAM projects; virtual learning has been available during Covid; and learning experiences beyond the classroom have exploded with field trips to places like Pickering Creek, the Salisbury Zoo, the Maritime Museum, and county parks. Thanks to their outstanding preparation, CACC children are fully ready for entry to all of the schools in Talbot County

Donna Austin, Director of the Preschool program, puts her finger on the reason for CACC's success and growth: "Teachers see this as a mission." Annetta, Marlene, and Donna have all been with CACC for 35 years or more. A number of the teachers have also been with CACC for many years. Some teachers leave to pursue degrees and then return.

White Marsh (Trappe) and Cordova sites, enrolls approximately 350 students, and has added 2 year-old, before- and after-care and summer programs."

Now, having achieved accreditation and EXCELS



Others further their studies while remaining in the classroom. They all reach beyond the classroom to the families themselves by asking "How can we help you with your family needs?" Donna sums up this dedication, perhaps for many of her colleagues as well as for herself, by observing that "This is where my heart is." We celebrate our teachers!

We celebrate our families too. They also have added greatly to CACC's growth and success. Some of today's parents attended CACC and are now sending their own children. Looking at these parents, the Site Directors happily exclaim, "I remember you!" In fact, some are now seeing the third generation of CACC children enroll for the same quality experience that the generations ahead of them have had. These families join in after-school activities such as costume parties, special lunches, evening game nights and graduation festivities lending love, support and continuity to our classrooms.

It is understandable why CACC eagerly celebrates its 50 year history and evolution. While exceptional childcare and early childhood education have been paramount, we also celebrate 50 years of what Marlene explains as "bringing the community together."



THE 1970 SOCIETY

What will YOUR legacy be? When you join the 1970 Society, you shape children's lives for generations to come.

Throughout its 50-year history, Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers (CACC) has greatly benefitted from generous individuals who have remembered CACC in their wills. Their gifts have helped to assure CACC's future during challenging times and improved the lives of the many children we educate and care for. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of what began as Easton Day Care Center, The 1970 Society has been launched to honor past and future donors who remember CACC in their estate plans.

"I included Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers in my estate plan because providing caring, fun education for children during this critical stage of brain development is one of the most important gifts one can give."

—DR. MARGARET BAKER RENNELS, PEDIATRICIAN

For more information visit our website at www.cacckids.org or call Cristy Morrell, Executive Director at 410.822.8061. Your attorney, accountant, or financial advisor can help you craft the legacy gift that suits you best.



Events and Sponsors

13TH ANNUAL Joy of Children

Although Trivia Night was cancelled due to COVID, you all won top points for lending your support to CACC! Thanks to you, our Joy of Children "non-event" raised \$24,000 to provide tuition assistance and enrichment programming for our CACC Kids!

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JOY OF CHILDREN SPONSORS

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Conor's Project

Conor Nashold was a child in our program who passed away in 2017. His grandfather, Rennie Gay, created Conor's Project in his honor to raise money for summer swim lessons and enrichment programs.



Due to the generosity of all who supported the Conor's Project Skeet Shoot, over \$18,000 was raised to provide swim lessons and enrichment programming for our CACC Kids.



Grants and Foundation Gifts

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Choptank Electric Trust, Inc.	MSDE Childcare Relief Grant	Talbot Interfaith Shelter
Christmas in St. Michaels	Nora Roberts Foundation	Talbot Optimist Club
DHCD Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative Round II	Philip A. Zaffere Foundation, Inc.	The Van Strum Foundation
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July 1, 2020 -
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Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers

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Eagle Scout Project

CHARLIE MUELLER achieved Boy Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout by coordinating efforts to build a new deck for CACC's White Marsh Preschool program. This new deck is a wonderful space for children to safely play and enjoy learning activities. The staff and children at White Marsh celebrated with an outdoor picnic and dance party. Generous CACC supporters Kim and Linda Cassady donated the funds to purchase supplies and decking for the project.



To learn more about Critchlow Adkins or to make a donation,
visit www.cacckids.org or call 410.822.8061