



Critchlow Adkins
Children's Centers

2022-2023 **ANNUAL REPORT**



Building Brighter Futures for our
children, families, and community!

CACC families are grateful for YOU...

IT IS SO CONVENIENT HAVING BOTH OF MY DAUGHTERS IN THE SAME CHILDCARE PROGRAM.

My oldest daughter has been attending Critchlow for almost 8 years and my youngest has been attending for almost a year. The site director, Mrs. Marlene is truly the best. She goes above and beyond her duties and always makes sure that all the children are happy, safe, and thriving.

Naomi and Eden's Mom



I CANNOT EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL CARE PROVIDED BY CRITCHLOW ADKINS.

From the moment I walked through their doors, I knew our son was in a safe and nurturing environment.

The teachers are not only professional but also warm and caring. Our son has grown and thrived under their care. Every day is filled with engaging activities and creative learning experiences. Critchlow has truly become an extension of our family, and I highly recommend them. **John Marrah**

WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE CRITCHLOW!

My 6-year old son Bronson attended summer camp during the summer of 2023 and it was the best experience! After attempting a few other local summer programs that were not a great fit, we enrolled with Critchlow Adkins hesitantly. It was clear within the first week that we had made a great choice.

Not only were the staff and teachers engaging and kind with my son who was understandably very anxious initially, they were very diligent in their communication with me throughout the entire summer.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, I APPRECIATE THE CACC STAFF.

Like all young kids, mine are still trying to figure out how to handle their emotions and work through outbursts and big feelings. I know their teachers show them kindness and empathy even when they are hard to deal with.

I feel like they are cared for the same way I would care for them. Even teachers who no longer have my kids in their classroom continue to show them love and support their creative and emotional development. **Julie Trommatter**

FOR US, CRITCHLOW HAS BEEN A LIFE SAVER.

Before and after school care allows me to drop my youngest off in St. Michaels and drive my oldest to school in Easton. Serafina is in her 2nd year at Critchlow. She is happy to see her friends in the morning, and is always smiling when she comes home. I am not "allowed" to pick her up before 4pm, because she loves the unstructured play time in the afternoon. The site director and staff members are wonderful. We are beyond grateful. **Serafina's Mom**



There were fun and educational activities planned for each week which kept him learning and exploring during the break from school. He came home every day eager and excited to share with me all the adventures he experienced with his new friends!

We will absolutely be returning for summer camp in 2024. Critchlow Adkins is the best! **Rebecca Wales**

YOU inspire our kids to overcome challenges!



Thanks to you, the students at our School Age Site in Easton recently had an important lesson in thinking outside of the... carton! The children were participating in an egg drop project where they designed and built vessels to protect an egg when dropped from a significant height.

On the first pass, all of the eggs broke, and the students were very upset. Site Director Keieve Colbert reminded them that when something doesn't work out, we should not consider it a failure, but a learning experience. She challenged the kids to look at what went wrong and try again.

Viewing the project from a different perspective gave the students renewed energy, and they worked feverishly in groups to re-engineer their egg vessels. The results? No cracked eggs the second time around! We are so proud of our children for persevering, and of Keieve for teaching them one of life's most valuable lessons!

A Note From our President

Dear Families and Friends,

As outgoing Critchlow Board President, I'd like to take the opportunity to highlight where we have been and what our future holds. As we reflect on our journey, we are proud to celebrate 52+ years of unwavering service to Talbot County and the Mid-Shore Community. Beginning with our founders, we have built a legacy of care and commitment to young people.

Our centers have grown into nurturing spaces that foster creativity, learning, and personal growth for children from all walks of life. This legacy of care and commitment is a testament to the community's enduring belief in the power of early childhood education.

We are fortunate to have cultivated longstanding relationships - and established new ones - with so many of you who believe in the importance of quality childcare. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have accomplished remarkable milestones over the years. Notably, we have been able to raise salaries for our dedicated staff, recognizing their invaluable role in shaping the lives of our children. This investment not only ensures a motivated workforce but also sets a higher standard for childcare professionals across the industry.

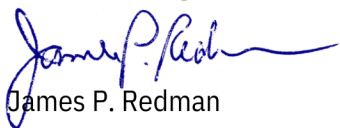
We have equipped our teachers with the latest tools and techniques to provide the best possible education. This commitment to professional development translates into a more enriching experience for the children in our care, fostering a love for learning that will serve them for a lifetime.

Our dedication to providing enriching educational experiences led us to introduce engaging STEAM* projects into our curriculum. These hands-on, interactive activities inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration, giving our students an early taste of the exciting possibilities that lie ahead in their academic journey.

Additionally, through strategic investments, grants, and planned giving, we have built a strong financial foundation for Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers. Your support plays a vital role in our ability to offer scholarships, maintain our facilities, and invest in innovative programs that shape the future of our community.

As we move forward, we invite you to join hands with us in making a lasting impact on the lives of children and families in our community. If you are ever near one of our centers, please stop by, so that you can see firsthand the work that we are so proud to show. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and belief in our mission.

With heartfelt gratitude,



James P. Redman

**STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics*

Celebrating 50+ years of CACC!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our 50th+ Anniversary Celebration on September 8th, 2022. It was a spectacular evening! We were so grateful for the opportunity to see so many of our wonderful supporters in person again, and to honor those who paved the way for us to reach this momentous milestone in CACC's history. Congratulations to our Legacy Award Winners: Ceci Nobel, Sandy Kaufman, Fayette and Bob Engstrom, and Christmas in St. Michaels. Here's to 50 more years of Building Brighter Futures together!



2022-2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Susan Wheeler

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Annetta Biscoe, White Marsh

Keieve Colbert, School Age

Melissa Johnson, Cordova

Marlene Thomas, St. Michaels

Our Mission

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

Established in 1970, CACC has cared for and educated more than 13,000 children and 4 generations of families from throughout the Mid-Shore!

Critchlow Adkins offers:

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
(AGES 2 TO 4)

BEFORE- and AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
(PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE)

SUMMER CAMP

Critchlow's five sites - located in Easton, St. Michaels, Cordova, and White Marsh (Trappe) - are Maryland State Department of Education Accredited and have earned the highest Maryland Excellence Counts in Early Learning and School-Age Care/ EXCELS Check Level 5 rating. Proudly, Critchlow has been awarded these or similar levels of excellence for over 30 years.



2022-23 by the Numbers



290+ children enrolled in our programs

47% of families received tuition assistance

4 generations of families served

40+ field trips

12 teachers with AA, BA or BS, Masters degrees, and/or Certification



Our amazing teaching staff is incredibly dedicated to our Critchlow Kids!

Annetta Biscoe	44 Years
Donna Austin	37 Years
Phyllis Greene	37 Years
Marlene Thomas	37 Years
Wendy Chandler	25 Years
Charlene Wilkins	21 Years
Sandy Barnett	19 Years
Keieve Colbert	19 Years
Marie Pitts	18 Years
Melissa Johnson	17 Years
Vanessa Roberts	16 Years



EXPENSES
\$2,692,357.81

84%

Program Services

9%

Management & General

7%

Fundraising

INCOME (GROSS):
\$3,177,230.06

29%

Parent Fees

28%

MSDE Child Care Scholarships

18%

Friends Fund

11%

Grants

7%

Federal Income
(Employee Retention Tax Credits)

4%

Events

2%

Childcare Food Program

1%

Business Partnerships

Reading Rocks!

Early childhood literacy is a priority here at Critchlow Adkins. This year, our 2, 3, and 4-year-olds participated in the Raising a Reader Program in partnership with Talbot County Public Schools. Every week, our children take home a bag of books to read with their loved ones. CACC preschoolers are also enrolled in Imagination Library of Talbot County, which sends them a brand new book each month until they are 5 years old. Reading with children helps with language development and encourages a lifelong love of reading!



CACC Centers of Excellence

Critchlow Adkins was chosen to receive a Maryland Rebuilds grant from the Maryland State Department of Education. Our Easton Preschool Site will become a Center of Excellence, welcoming providers from throughout the region to learn about our programs and the importance of the EXCELS and Accreditation processes.

In addition, our Preschool Site 4-year-old classroom is currently piloting the new Children Study Their World curriculum, while 3-year-old classrooms at all of our Sites are using the Children Explore Their World curriculum.

The Future is Bright!

We are in the process of having a new office built for the Site Director at our White Marsh Site. A new privacy fence has been installed around the Preschool Site playground, and we are raising the funds to resurface the entire playground and replace several pieces of the playground equipment. In addition, we are currently raising funds to build two classrooms and an office for our Cordova Site during the Chapel District Elementary School renovation which will begin in 2024. These new classrooms will allow us to serve up to 40 more children at that Site.



A Dedication Celebration

On March 23rd, we gathered to dedicate the classrooms at our new Easton School Age Site to two generous donors. Executive Director Cristy Morrell explained how a generous donation from Fayette and Bob Engstrom was crucial in helping CACC qualify for necessary state funding. She further recounted how at the start of the pandemic, Critchlow Adkins received an extraordinary gift from the estate of Eleanor and J. Thomas Requard ensuring that Critchlow could retain its staff and continue its programs during such uncertain times. After the ceremony, attendees joined our students for some fun STEAM activities!

A Village of Community Partners

It takes a village to raise a child, and our village includes more than 40 community partners that support and enrich our programs. Some of our wonderful partners are the Academy Art Museum, Easton Volunteer Fire Department, S.O.S Sink or Swim, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Chesapeake Maritime Museum, and Talbot County Public Schools and libraries to name a few. For a complete list of our Community Partners and their support of CACC, please visit our website at www.cacckids.org.



We recently partnered with Choptank Community Health to ensure that all of our children, staff, and their families can utilize Choptank's health clinics located in TCPS elementary schools, giving them immediate access to medical, dental, and mental health care. Choptank's mission is to provide access to exceptional, comprehensive, and integrated healthcare for all.

Our Business Partners are STARS!



★ PLATINUM ★ \$5,000+

Safehouse
Gay's Seafood
Blue Crab House
Livingston Septic Service

★ GOLD ★ \$2,500+

Anderson Wealth Mgmt
BSC Group, LLC
Shapers Salon

★ SILVER ★ \$1,250+

White Marsh Transport
Bluepoint Hospitality
What's Up Media
Shore United Bank
Tred Avon Family Wealth
Duco LLC

JRES
Patriot Cruises
Marasun Roofing
Sump & Associates
W&L Rentals

★ BRONZE ★ \$750+

Easton Utilities
Steve Moody's Entertainment Connection
Ewing, Dietz, Fountain & Kaludis
Avery Hall Insurance
Morgan Stanley Easton Group

★ GREEN ★ \$500

Talbot County Chamber of Commerce
DT Investments
Carpenter Street Saloon
Griffy's Lawn Service
Freestyle Fabrication
Coventry Motor Works
George's Green Thumb

Shore Sportsman
L&B Farms
Mid-Atlantic Seeds
RLE LLC
Benson & Mangold
Wild Rice, LLC
What's Good, LLC
Bartlett Tree Services

★ BLUE ★ \$250

Albright's Gun shop
Avon Dixon
Kitchen Creations
Laser Letters
Terrapin Group, LLC
Bullock's Deli
Charles C Powell Realty
Christopher Insurance
DRS Wealth Management
Cambridge Yacht Basin

Kleppinger Electric
Klineco
Mandalay Concrete Concepts
Moore Funeral Home
Power Solutions
Reliable Pest Control
Towers Concrete
State Farm - Frank Divilio
Higgins Crab House

To become a CACC STAR BUSINESS PARTNER, please call 410.822.8061 or visit WWW.CACCKIDS.ORG

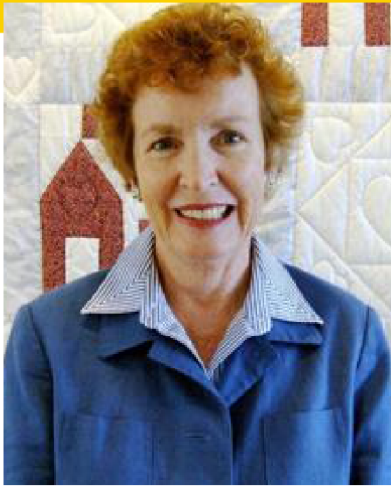
Foundation & Grant Partners

A.T. and Mary H. Blades Foundation
Bryan Brothers Foundation, Inc.
Christmas in St. Michaels
Fullwood Foundation
Maryland State Dept. of Education
Childcare Stabilization Grant
Mid-Shore Community Foundation
Mid-Shore Community Foundation Donor Advised Funds:
Ferree Fund
Hope Fulton and John C Leuchter Philanthropic Fund
Lamplighter Foundation Fund
Reynolds/Cristiano Fund
Philip A. Zaffere Foundation, Inc.
PNC Grow Up Great

Qlarant Foundation
Rural Maryland Council
St. John Foundation, Inc.
Talbot County American Rescue Plan Act
Grant for Nonprofits
Talbot Optimist Club
The Van Strum Foundation
Women & Girls Fund
Women & Girls - Ella Hand Anderson Fund
Women & Girls - Lucy Anderson Fund
Women & Girls - Rosemary Ruth Filhol Fund
Women & Girls - Tessa Hillenmeyer Fund
Women & Girls - McKenna and Alexa Fund



Critchlow's Lasting Legacy...



Celebrating Two Wonderful Lives

We were deeply saddened by the passing of longtime Critchlow supporters and leaders, Adrienne Rudge and Tom Fountain.

Both were integral to the success of Critchlow Adkins and our mission. We would not be where we are today without their wisdom and guidance.

We are deeply grateful for their passion and commitment to CACC, and we are honored to carry on their legacy.



Critchlow Kids to CACC Leaders



Critchlow Adkins has been serving children and families on the Mid-Shore for more than 50 years. Many of our former Critchlow Kids have gone on to become community leaders, including Brie Wooden and Patrick Fitzgerald, who currently serve as members of our Board of Directors. In addition to their service to Critchlow, Patrick owns his own law practice. Brie is the owner of Brie Nicole Art Studio and is a financial planner. Brie is also a Critchlow mom whose son attended our Easton Preschool Site and is now enrolled at our Easton School Age Site. We are proud of these remarkable Critchlow alumni!

**"I owe Critchlow so much. They helped me through my childhood and are still helping me through my adulthood."
~Brie Wooden**

What Will YOUR Legacy Be?

The 1970 Society was established in 2021 to honor past legacy gift donors and to recognize those who have committed to making a planned gift to Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers. By leaving a gift to Critchlow Adkins in your will, you leave a legacy that supports early childhood education and enriches our entire community.

"One of the most significant ways I could imagine giving back to my lifelong home of Talbot County was to include CACC in my estate plan. Please consider joining me as a member of the 1970 Society by making your own planned gift to Critchlow Adkins."

~Margaret Baker Rennels, M.D., Former Board President, CACC

MEMBERS OF THE 1970 SOCIETY

**Mr. and Mrs. Kim Cassady
Mr. W. Thomas Fountain
Mrs. Lynn Freeburger-Partridge
Mrs. Margaret Keller
Mr. Michael Klein
Dr. Margaret Rennels
Adrienne W. Rudge
Mrs. Katie Schroeder**

If you have made a planned gift to Critchlow and would like to join the 1970 Society, please let us know.

If you would like to join Dr. Rennels and many others as members of The 1970 Society, contact our Development Director, Liz Connelly, via email at lconnelly@cackids.org or by phone 410-822-8061 or visit our website at www.cacckids.org

Conor's Project 2022

Conor was a child in our program who passed away in 2017 in a pool-related accident. He loved his time at Critchlow and adored his teachers, so his grandfather, Rennie Gay, created Conor's Project to honor his memory. Each year, the community gathers for a skeet shoot tournament and crab feast to raise money for swim lessons and enrichment programming for our children.



Conor's Project 2022 raised more than \$40,000 for Critchlow Adkins! We are so grateful to Rennie and everyone who participates in this incredible community event.



Critchlow Gives Back!



One of the most valuable things we teach our students is that it is important to give back to the community and take care of our neighbors. They learn what it means to be a good citizen and to be involved in their community.

Inspired by the incredible generosity of wonderful donors and volunteers like YOU, our Critchlow Kids participated in lots of activities this year to support our community. Here are some of the highlights...

COLLECTING HOUSEHOLD GOODS
for area senior centers

TRIKE-A-THON TO RAISE MONEY
for St. Jude's Children's Hospital

VALENTINES FOR SENIORS
in partnership with Royal Oak Church

LIP SYNC VIDEO TO RAISE MONEY
for Talbot Interfaith Shelter

ADOPTED A FAMILY
during the holiday season

HOLIDAY SCROLL FOR VETERANS
and active duty military members