



Critchlow Adkins
Children's Centers

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

ADVOCACY & HONORS

On May 26th, our Executive Director, Cristy Morrell, attended Maryland's final bill-signing session of the year in Annapolis. Along with other childcare providers from across the state, Cristy has been tirelessly advocating for legislation that will make childcare accessible to more families. The bills signed into law will allow an additional 3,200+ families to receive childcare scholarships, fund the scholarship program through fiscal year 2027, and reinstate funding for the EXCELS credentialing program which incentivizes higher quality care.

During his remarks, Governor Moore specifically recognized both Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers for its decades of service to Mid-Shore families and Cristy for her leadership and advocacy. Cristy was invited up to the podium and presented with the ceremonial signing pen.

"Since 1970, [Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers]... have been the place that our Mid-Shore families have leaned on, and that our families trust with the people that they love the most - their children. Every day, Cristy's team lets a parent go to work, knowing that their child will be safe... that they will be cared for, and also that they're learning."

Governor Wes Moore



ADDITIONAL 2025-2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Named **Nonprofit of the Year** at the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce Best in Business Awards
- Voted **Best Preschool** and **Best Childcare** in the **2025 APG Best of the Best** and **2026 What's Up Best of the Eastern Shore**
- Preschool Site awarded a **Pre-K Expansion Grant** by the Maryland State Dept. of Education
- Cristy graduated from the 2025 **Leadership Maryland Executive Program**
- School Age Site Director, Keieve Colbert, graduated from the **2025 Shore Leadership Program** and earned the **Future Leader Award**
- Completed the **Preschool Site playground renovation** project with significant support from the Philip A. Zaffere Foundation.



A SPECIAL MESSAGE

From time to time, you may ask yourself, “What difference can I make in this world?” I can confidently tell you that by investing in Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers either through a financial contribution or a contribution of your time, you are investing in our collective future. Our future is dependent on the strength, imagination, intelligence and emotional health of our children. Critchlow Adkins’ primary focus is nurturing and challenging children to achieve their potential. Via our full time preschool, before/after school care and summer camps, children **ages 2-12** thrive in an environment where they feel safe, seen, valued and believed in.

In our preschool, a stimulating environment is created so that children are encouraged to enjoy reading and creative problem-solving. Preschoolers and their families actively participate in **“Raising a Reader”**, a national program that provides books and parental guidance to encourage children to read. Every week each child receives 4 books that they can take home and read with an adult creating a reading routine in the home. Research has shown that programs like “Raising a Reader” translate into higher reading scores and a lifetime love of reading.

In Critchlow Adkins’ before/after school programs, school-aged students participate in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) projects designed to expand their creative problem-solving skills and teamwork.

We are proud to be recognized, not only by families whose children attend our programs, but also by the State of Maryland which has awarded our sites an EXCELS (Excellence Counts in Early Learning and School Age Care) Level 5 rating or similar honors for the last 30 years. A Level 5 rating is the highest possible rating and recognizes exceptional teacher-child interactions and program excellence. We are committed to continuing to provide the highest possible care for our children, families and community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for believing in Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers and in the promise of every child. Together, we are not only helping children build brighter futures, we are making a positive difference in the world.

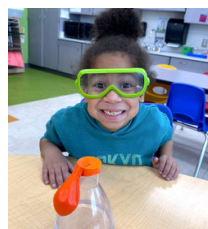
Sincerely,



Critchlow Adkins Board President



Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers is dedicated to nurturing children and their families by providing quality educationally-based and financially accessible childcare in a safe diverse and enriching environment.



2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CELEBRATING CACC

We were honored to see so many community members championing our mission at events throughout the year! From highly-anticipated annual traditions to fun new gatherings, our calendar was full of exciting opportunities to spend time together and support the families we serve! Thank you for joining us in celebration!

CONOR'S PROJECT



Rennie Gay founded the Eastern Shore favorite, Conor's Project Sporting Clay Shoot and Crab Feast, in memory of his grandson, Conor, who was a student at Critchlow Adkins. We are humbled to be the beneficiary of this very special outing, with proceeds funding transportation for our summer swimming lessons with SOS Sink or Swim and educational enrichment programming for the children in our programs.

Held on September 7th, 2025 the 8th Annual Conor's Project raised more than \$95,000 for Critchlow Adkins! We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Rennie, his family, and everyone who came together to honor Conor's legacy by making a difference in the lives of hundreds of children!



"Conor's Project started as a way to honor Conor's legacy by helping Critchlow Adkins children learn to swim. It has grown into something bigger than we could have imagined, and we are overwhelmed by the incredible support from our community."

Rennie Gay, Conor's Project

CACC TRIVIA NIGHT



Our 2025 Annual Trivia Night was extra special, as we gathered to celebrate 55 years of providing exceptional, affordable childcare for Mid-Shore families. Cocktail hour featured interactive STEAM activities and a silent auction featuring one-of-a-kind items and opportunities. After a delicious dinner, it was time for the annual Fund-A-Need paddle raise. Our goal was to raise \$75,000 to provide additional tuition assistance to help offset the financial impact of the MD Child Care Scholarship freeze and fund enrichment programming with partners such as For All Seasons. A rousing game of Trivia rounded out a spectacular evening.

At the end of the night, we had raised a record-breaking \$100,005! Thank you to all who attended - not just for your generosity, but for the care and compassion you show the families we serve and your desire to give our children the best possible start in life.



PLAY IT FORWARD MAHJONG TOURNAMENT

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us at the Easton Fire Hall on September 10, 2025, for our inaugural Play It Forward American Mahjong Tournament! Mahjong masters at all levels came together to go all in to Build Brighter Futures for our Critchlow Adkins Kids. Thank you to Board Member Zandi Nammack for creating this wonderful event and working tirelessly to rally the local mahjong community!

CRUISIN' INTO CHRISTMAS WITH CRITCHLOW ADKINS

Board Member Bicky Warrington and her husband Dan served up some early holiday fun on Tuckahoe Creek on November 9, 2025! The festivities began at their home with a classic car show, dazzling Christmas decorations, hot chocolate, and family photos with Santa. In the evening, it was off to the Cordova Fire House for a drive-in showing of the Christmas classic, *Elf*!

CRITCHLOW ADKINS COUTURE LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW

Our inaugural Critchlow Adkins Couture event was an incredible success! Thank you to our event hosts, Board Members Anna Fichtner and Annie Witte Raymond, fashion show organizer extraordinaire Marc Randall, presenting sponsor Catherine Joyce of Morgan Stanley, and Scossa Restaurant and Lounge for providing a delectable lunch and impeccable venue! Stay tuned for Critchlow Adkins Couture 2027!

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION FRIENDRAISER EVENTS

Throughout the year, steadfast supporters invited friends and family to join us and learn more about our important mission. It has truly been a pleasure welcoming so many new members to our Critchlow Adkins family! Thank you to event hosts, Dr. Eva Smorzaniuk, Board Member Gaither Kyhos and Ed Tarbuton of JP Morgan, and past Board Members Ellen Bodorff and Kay Perkins!



"What inspires me to support Critchlow Adkins is, first, my desire to strengthen the organizations that are the fabric of our community. Second is my belief that investing in children is investing in the community at large."

Dr. Eva Smorzaniuk



**Learn More About
Events & Register!**

**Scan the
QR Code!**



2025-2026 DONORS



Honorary Gifts

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Elizabeth Adkins Neumann
- In Honor of Gracie and Kevin Anderson**
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- In Honor of Della Andrew**
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Byron and Linda Reilly

In Memory of Margaret Tatusko
Anna and Chip Fichtner

"It gives me great joy
to further the aims of
CACC, helping
young children learn
and grow and be
well prepared for
entering school."

George E. Weckel

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Susan Gold
Laresa Harrison
Leigh Hay
Keasha Haythe

"Thank you for your
love, compassion,
and care while
helping us raise
the next
generation."

**Tissier "Tee"
Moaney, Mom**

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Patty and Jay Heim
Mo and Brad Herbert
Jane and Frank Hopkinson
Amy Horne
Bill and Millie Houck
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This list reflects donations made between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Every effort has been made to assure a complete and accurate listing of our generous supporters and friends. If your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled, please contact us at 410.822.8061.

GRANT PARTNERS

Thank you to the generous organizations who provided crucial grant funding for our tuition assistance program, field trips, site improvements, supplies and materials for classrooms, enrichment programming, and other initiatives between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026!

American Legion Blake Blackston Post #77 • Bryan Brothers Foundation • Christmas in St. Michaels
Christ Church St. Michaels • Christopher Foundation for Life • Church of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Women
Dock Street Foundation • Fullwood Foundation • Grayce B. Kerr Foundation • Maryland State Department of Education
Mid-Shore Community Foundation • MSCF Donor Advised Funds: *Cassady Family Fund FBO Critchlow Adkins*,
Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers Endowment, Ferree Fund, Katra Fund, Reynolds/Cristiano Fund
Philip A. Zaffere Foundation • Ridgeway Family Charitable Trust • Rotary Club of Easton
St. John Foundation • St. Michaels After School Help • Talbot County Health Department •
Van Strum Foundation • Women & Girls Fund and WGF Daisy Funds



Grant Partner Spotlight: Philip A. Zaffere Foundation, Inc.

The Philip A. Zaffere Foundation has generously supported our children and their families for many years. This year, they helped us transform the main playground area at our Easton Preschool Site, including resurfacing the entire playground and installing brand new, interactive play structures and exploration stations. Our children are loving the new space, where they can learn, play, and grow together for many years to come. We are incredibly grateful for Board Member Cindy Orban's connection to the Philip A. Zaffere Foundation and all of our amazing Grant Partners for making projects like these possible!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

"I have witnessed firsthand the nurturing environment that encourages growth and creativity... Knowing my child is surrounded by supportive peers and engaged in enriching activities gives me peace of mind. It truly feels like an extended family, and I couldn't ask for a better place for my little one to learn and thrive."

Amanda Adkins

Each year, we work with dozens of businesses and organizations from across our community to provide the most well-rounded experience possible for the children we serve. We now have more than 50 Community Partners, including:

Academy Art Museum • Adkins Arboretum • Candle Light Cove
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum • Choptank Community Health
Emily's Produce • Family Affair Farm • For All Seasons
Healthy Talbot • Imagination Library • Judy Center
Jump Start with the Arts • Kiln Born • Maryland Zoo
Police, Fire, and EMS Departments • Positive Strides Therapeutic Riding
Project Right Steps • Shore Lit • SOS Sink or Swim
Talbot County Parks and Recreation • Talbot County Public Schools
Talbot Humane • Talbot Interfaith Shelter • Talbot Thrive • 4-H



BUSINESS PARTNERS

★ DIAMOND \$10,000+

Blue Crab House • Bryan & Sons • DuCo LLC
Gay's Seafood • Preston Automotive Group • Warrington Builders

★ PLATINUM \$5,000+

BSC Group, LLC • G.W. Hall and Sons • J Duffy Construction
The Oaks • The Point at Pintail • Shapers Salon
White Marsh Transport

★ GOLD \$2,500+

Adkins Flooring • Anderson Wealth Management
Michael Brennan - Miles & Stockbridge • Catering by Jamie
Cunningham Recreation • Easton Utilities • Pamela P Gardner, AIA, LLC
Catherine Joyce - Morgan Stanley • Livingston Septic Service
Marasun • Out Of the Fire • What's Up? Media

★ SILVER \$1,250+

4C, Inc. • Aging at Home Solution • Avery Hall • B.B. Landscaping, LLC
Beane, Smith, & Associates - Merrill Lynch Wealth • Bluepoint Hospitality
Cianci Chiropractic Center • Doc's Downtown Grille • Dynamic Diesel
Higgins Crab House • James Real Estate Services • KlineCo • KR Farms
Janet Larson - Benson & Mangold • Chuck Mangold - Benson & Mangold
Morgan Stanley • PNC Private Bank Shore Sportsman • Shore United Bank
Spring & Associates • Sump & Associates • Talbot Hospitality
W&L Enterprises • West & Callahan • Willow Construction



"I believe so much in their mission because my children attend Critchlow Adkins, and I see every day how incredible the organization is... Your support ensures the best possible future for our community."

Darian Sump, Sump & Associates

★ BRONZE \$750+

Albrights Gun Shop • Avon Dixon - An Alera Group Agency • Bullock's Deli
Chesapeake Landing Seafood Market & Restaurant • Christopher Insurance
Ewing, Dietz, Fountain, & Kaludis, P.A. • Jeffrey C. Fuge & Associates
Kleppinger Electric Co. • L&L Charters • Mandalay Concrete Concepts
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Slayden's Excavating and Hauling, LLC • Smith & Weston Construction, LLC
Terrapin Security • Towers Concrete Products
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★ BLUE \$500+

Caraballo Farms, LLC • DT Investment Partners, LLC • Eastern Shore Title Company
Good Life Lawn Care & Landscaping • Kitchen Creations • Laser Letters
Morgan Stanley - The Easton Group • Reynolds Excavating, Inc.
Roto Rooter • Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

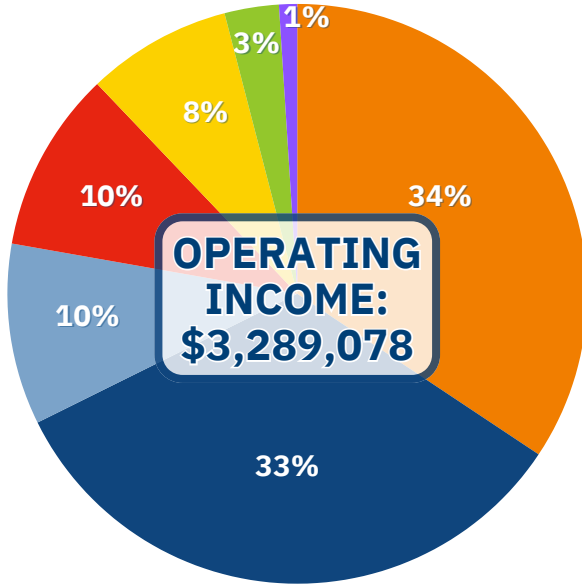
★ GREEN \$250+

Ball Greenhouses • Benson and Mangold Real Estate • Bramble's Electric • Carpenter Street Saloon
Chesapeake Blooms • Chick-fil-A • Coventry Motor Works • Crackerjacks • Dairy Queen of Denton
Dragonfly Boutique • Easton Music Academy • L. Lucke Designs • Moore Funeral Home
PeachBlossoms Events • RLE LLC | Salt & Light Entertainment • Storm & Daughters Ice Cream
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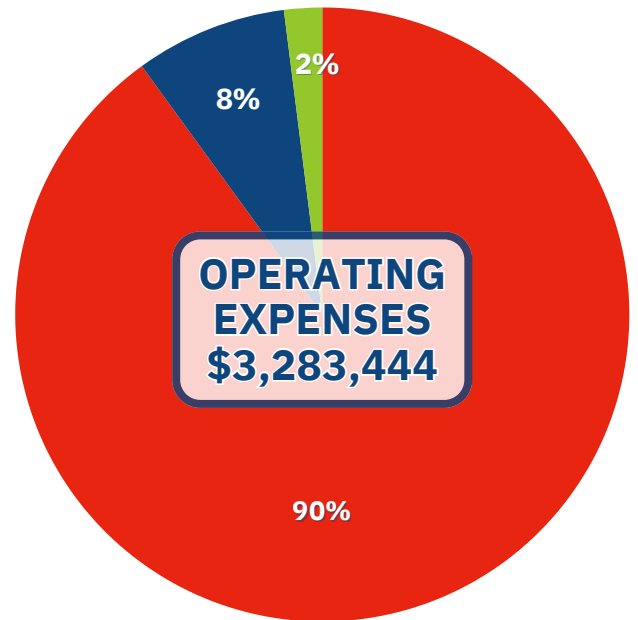
To become a CACC STAR BUSINESS PARTNER, please call 410.822.8061 or visit WWW.CACCKIDS.ORG

BY THE NUMBERS

- Parent Fees
- State Childcare Scholarships
- Grants
- Friends Fund
- Events
- Foundations
- Business Partnerships & Other



- Program Services
- Administration
- Grants/Fundraising



5 SITES IN TALBOT COUNTY

Cordova, Easton (2), St. Michaels, Trappe

MD STATE RECOGNITION

Accreditation & EXCELS Level 5 Ratings

400+ CHILDREN

playing, exploring, and learning together

100+ BUSINESSES

supported through reliable childcare

\$120,000

in tuition assistance provided

4 GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES

served and counting

169 TOTAL SITE DIRECTOR

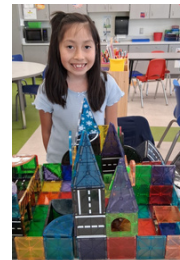
years of experience

10 TEACHERS

with more than 20 years at CACC

"You're not just staff, not just teachers, you are family to us. You love my children as if they were your own, and that is something I will always hold close."

JaMaia B., Mom



YOUR LEGACY



Sam and Martha Harrison are former Critchlow Adkins Kids who attended our Cordova Site. They are on their way to Bright Futures, thanks to you!

Sam thinks back fondly on summer swimming lessons and playground time with friends, while Martha loved learning through art and play, as well as the many community partners who visited the classroom.

At 24 years old, Sam still cherishes the friends he met through his time at CACC. Martha loved that she had the opportunity to make friends with older children, recalling that, as a child, she had an older brother at home and lots of older sisters at Critchlow Adkins.

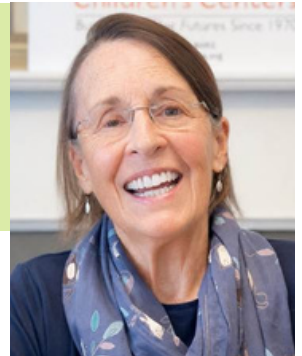
Sam is now a Nutrient Management Advisor through the University of Maryland Extension, working with local farmers. He also helps on the family's 4th-generation farm. Critchlow Adkins is even a part of Martha's working life. Her first job was working at the Easton Farmer's Market with one of her former teachers, and she now works at the accounting office of a current Critchlow Adkins Board Member!

1970 SOCIETY

"I think that's a wonderful legacy, that [Critchlow Adkins] has served so many families... And a testimonial to the program that families continue to send their children, and their children's children."

Spring Swinehart, Daughter of Happy Critchlow

We are grateful that Spring has chosen to carry on her mother's legacy by joining our 1970 Society with a planned gift to Critchlow Adkins! If you have made a planned gift and would like to join Spring and others in the 1970 Society, please reach out and let us know!



THE 1970 SOCIETY
MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Kim Cassady • Dr. Fayette and Mr. Robert Engstrom
Mrs. Margaret Keller • Mr. Michael Klein
Mrs. Lynn Freeburger-Partridge • Dr. Margaret Rennels
Alice Ryan • Mrs. Katie Schroeder • Peter and Spring Swinehart

Scan To
Learn
More!



CACC GIVES BACK



We are incredibly proud of our students for helping make our community a better place by participating in charitable activities, including:

COLLECTING CHANGE
to benefit Talbot Hospice

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

LIP SYNC VIDEO TO RAISE MONEY
for Talbot Interfaith Shelter

HELPING THE ROTARY CLUB
with Operation Christmas

FOOD, TOY, & BLANKET DRIVE
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