



2023
2024

ANNUAL REPORT





Annual Report 2023/2024

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TURNING THE PAGE



IN THE EYES OF A PARENT:

“My two children attended from infancy to Pre-K, and I was confident they received loving care, unique learning opportunities, and high-quality interactions with their teachers. As a parent, I was always valued and informed. The Children’s Center is truly one-of-a-kind and I’m so glad my kids had the experience of attending!” **-KELSEY B.**

FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I express our deepest gratitude to Rosalind Cutchins for her years of service and leadership at The Children’s Center. As she plans her retirement, we look back. Rosalind was with the original staff when The Children’s Center incorporated October 1983.

From the first days of Early Intervention services for children with disabilities while housed in a Sunday School classroom to today’s continuum of care, Rosalind embraced The Children’s Center’s mission that **We nurture and educate children and their families.**

It has always been our goal to listen and respond to the needs of the community’s children and seek valuable resources to meet them.

As we begin the next chapter of leadership, we do so with appreciation for our past and excitement for our future. For Rosalind, her grandchildren are the beginning of her next pathway. We wish her well and look forward to the possibilities. Children are our future.



-Jennifer

Jennifer Spencer
Board President



Annual Report 2023/2024

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



School Readiness & Education

Partnered with local public schools to provide field trips and registration events for rising kindergartners



Family & Community Engagement

Hosted monthly meetings, webinars, and trainings for parents and families.



- Collaborated with many community partners to support children and families including Blackwater and Suffolk Libraries, Early Childhood Western Tidewater and ECDC, Rhonda Culpepper, WB Philanthropy, VDOT, Salvation Army, Lisa Goodwin, Food Bank, Suffolk Commonwealth's Attorney's office, Franklin Southampton Charities, numerous churches, and many generous friends.
- Programs and activities including encouraging summer learning, male role model engagement, baby showers for pregnant moms, and literacy activities.
- Early Intervention hosted a play group for families.
- Parent leaders attended the state Head Start conference.

GROWING HEALTHY CHILDREN



Medical Exams

100% of Early Head Start children had a physical/well child check. 100% of Head Start children had a physical/well child check.



Vision Screenings

All Early Head Start and Head Start children are given a vision screening at our centers.



Dental Screenings

100% of Early Head Start children had a dental screening. 66% of Head Start children had a dental exam.



Average Monthly Enrollment

Average monthly enrollment in Early Head Start was 94%. Average monthly enrollment in Head Start was 95%.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,180
children served

The Children's Center serves a diverse Western Tidewater community including Franklin, Suffolk, Isle of Wight and Southampton counties.



Children Served in 2023-2024 by Program

	Suffolk	Franklin	IOW	SOCO	Other
Suffolk Childcare	31	0	3	0	4
Franklin Childcare	3	41	1	8	9
Early Head Start	101	93	28	20	18
Head Start	141	24	25	24	2
Early Intervention	349	40	71	29	2
Pediatric Therapy	303	47	76	32	9
Total	928	245	204	113	44

34%

Reaching Babies

34% of the projected number of eligible children in the community received Early Head Start services.

32%

Ready For School

32% of the projected number of eligible children in the community received Head Start services.

100%

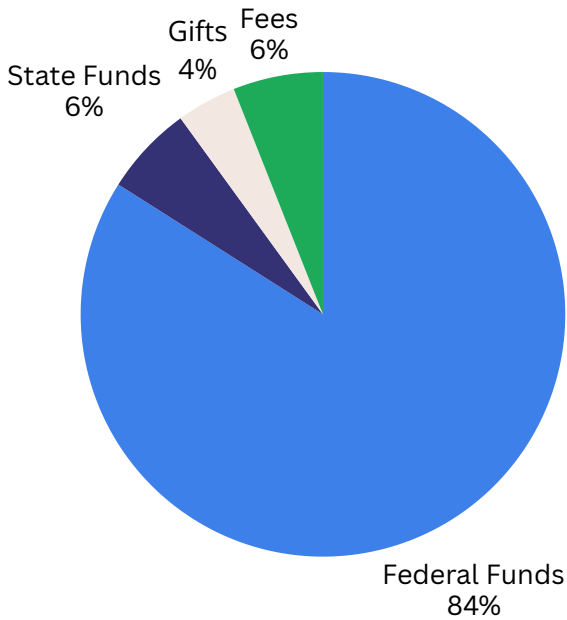
Involved Families

100% of families engaged in educational activities with their children.

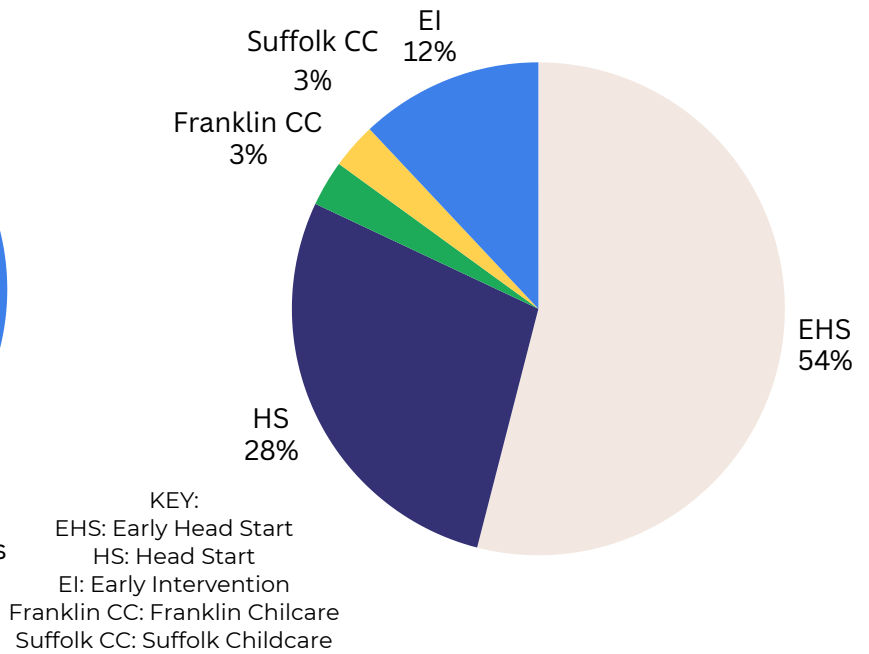
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The independent auditors' report expressed a qualified opinion on the financial statements of the Children's Center for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The qualification is based on the financial statements, which show fixed assets purchased with Head Start funds as fully depreciated in the year of acquisition. Property and equipment acquired for the Head Start programs are fully expensed in the year acquired, in accordance with Federal regulation 2 CFR 225, Appendix B(15)(b) (4). We are pleased to report the auditors' report on compliance for the Children's Center had no findings or areas of non-compliance for the Early Head Start and Head Start programs for the fiscal year 2023-2024. A copy of the Children's Center's audit is available upon request.

REVENUES BY SOURCE



EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



BUDGET BREAKDOWN



Early Head Start

Revenues	2024-2025		2023-2024	
	Budget	Budget %	Actual	Actual %
EHS Federal Funds	6,260,054	78%	6,919,453	94%
Other Federal Funds	0	0%	3,500	0%
USDA	210,000	3%	185,157	3%
Local Tax	3,750	0%	0	0%
United Way	21,000	0%	0	0%
Contributions	241,145	3%	236,727	3%
In-Kind Contributions	1,296,418	16%	0	0%

Total Revenues **8,032,367** **7,344,838**

Expenses	2024-2025		2023-2024	
	Budget	Budget %	Actual	Actual %
Salaries	4,651,510	58%	3,677,023	50%
Fringe	765,359	10%	648,164	9%
Travel	6,000	0%	10,716	0%
Equipment	40,000	0%	267,993	4%
Supplies	486,401	6%	553,216	8%
Contractual	99,000	1%	7,450	0%
Construction	0	0%	1,272,919	17%
Other	1,984,097	25%	907,358	12%

Total Expenses **8,032,367** **7,344,838**

Head Start

Revenues	2024-2025		2023-2024	
	Budget	Budget %	Actual	Actual %
HS Federal Funds	3,467,095	76%	3,552,119	91%
Other Federal Funds	0	0%	46,050	1%
USDA	205,000	5%	186,701	5%
Local Tax	3,750	0%	17,918	1%
United Way	14,000	0%	35,000	1%
Contributions	34,475	1%	51,285	1%
In-Kind	809,363	18%	0	0%
Contributions				

Total Revenues **4,533,683** **3,889,073**

Expenses	2024-2025		2023-2024	
	Budget	Budget %	Actual	Actual %
Salaries	2,414,444	53%	2,107,414	54%
Fringe	415,426	9%	371,562	10%
Travel	2,000	0%	2,161	0%
Equipment	39,493	1%	172,643	4%
Supplies	344,978	8%	344,808	9%
Contractual	0	0%	33,085	1%
Construction	0	0%	333,766	9%
Other	1,317,342	29%	523,634	13%

Total Expenses **4,533,683** **3,889,073**



LIZ & NATHAN

Nathan's struggles began at just two months old when his parents noticed concerning symptoms such as severe vomiting. Thinking it was reflux; Nathan's parents visited the pediatrician. After referrals to specialists, Nathan was admitted to a pediatric emergency room where he was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, caused by a mass on his brain. An emergency surgery to insert a shunt ensued and Nathan spent several weeks in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Nathan's doctors officially diagnosed him with a slow-growing brain tumor. Nathan's mom, Liz, remembers feeling shocked and terrified. "I didn't know it was possible for a newborn to have brain cancer. Our hopes and dreams of our healthy baby suddenly changed into a future of unknowns, and the question of Nathan's survival was always on our minds."

Nathan began chemotherapy at 3 months old. During that time, Nathan was hospitalized for seven months due to complications. He was referred to Early Intervention (EI) at The Children's Center and quickly began services. "Nathan is medically complex, and I had many things to learn about his diagnosis," Liz remembers. Nathan's parents learned how to be intentional when working with Nathan to strengthen his motor skills over time. "He didn't learn like a neuro-typical child. We had to learn to measure progress in "inchstones" instead of milestones, and to keep in mind that any progress, is still progress," says Liz.

"I was so grateful for the EI team's help, patience, and kindness while Nathan was in the program. I learned the skills I needed to navigate our new normal as a special needs mom." After Nathan started school, Liz began to look for a part-time job. Nathan's therapists encouraged her to apply at The Children's Center as a service coordinator in the EI program. "I was hesitant at first, but I am so glad I applied! It is my goal to provide hope, support and encouragement to other families who face a difficult diagnosis." We love having Liz on our team!

Nathan was discharged from EI right before his third birthday. He is currently attending a half-day special education classroom at Carrollton Elementary School, accompanied by his home health nurses. Nathan has had many setbacks over the last three years, but his tumor is stable.



MOM AND ADVOCATE

Ethel's journey is one that revolves around her children! Ethel was a mother of two and became worried when she realized her younger child, Nathan, was not yet speaking like other children his age. A neighbor recommended The Children's Center Early Intervention program. Nathan was quickly enrolled, and speech therapy began. The plan was for him to transition from home to attend the Early Head Start center-based program, but the pandemic brought that plan to a halt. Ethel and her family were enrolled in the virtual services through Early Head Start. Soon after, Ethel became pregnant with her third child, Valerie.

As an expecting mom with a young toddler, Ethel decided to enroll in the EHS Home Based program where she remembers the valuable information and resources her family advocate shared. Valerie was enrolled in EHS at 6 weeks old. With two children growing and learning at the Center, Ethel decided to share her parent voice to learn and guide the program. As a busy mom of three, she took the leap and joined The Children Center's Policy Council.

Ethel is an active member of Policy Council, accepting the Chair position this year. She enjoys representing parents in decisions and guiding the program with parent perspective. She shares her story with other families who can relate, especially moms who might need a helping hand to get through pregnancy or an encouraging voice to seek resources.

"I've gained a master's degree in parenting thanks to The Children's Center. Their love, care, and expertise have made parenting lighter and more rewarding." Ethel says she is grateful for her journey and loves being an advocate for children! We are grateful for Ethel!



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These gifts were given between July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

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