



WINTER 2017



December 7th through the 17th, Crittenton Centers will bring the 34th Annual Stocking Stuffer Store to Central Illinois! Our stores are located at The Shoppes at Grand Prairie and Northwoods Mall. For as little as \$1 (and no more than \$8), your little one can buy a gift for every person on their list. Volunteers will assist each child as they purchase, wrap and pay for their gifts (which includes some REALLY cool stuff this year). We only have one rule – no adults allowed in the store – IT'S FOR KIDS ONLY!

All proceeds from the Stocking Stuffer Store benefit Crittenton Centers. For more information please call 309.674.0105 or visit [www.crittentoncenters.org](http://www.crittentoncenters.org). Hope to see you there!



## The 34th Annual Stocking Stuffer Store

December 7-17, 2017  
 Northwoods Mall  
 Thursday & Friday 4 – 8pm  
 Saturday - 10am – 8pm  
 Sunday - Noon – 5pm

The Shoppes at Grand Prairie  
 Saturday & Sunday - Noon – 5pm



## The 9th Annual Festival of Trees

Presented by **RLI**  
 DIFFERENT WORKS

With special thanks to Joan & Jay Janssen and Marilyn Ullman

November 17-19  
 First Federated Life Together Center  
 (Corner of War Memorial & Sheridan)

Friday - 10am – 6pm  
 Saturday - 11am – 6pm  
 Sunday - 11am – 4pm

**Gold Sponsors:** Mr. Eugene Johnston and Mrs. Kristin Mc-Hugh Johnston

**Silver Sponsors:** Federal Companies, Ernst & Young, CGN Global

**Bronze Sponsors:** OSF Children's Hospital, State Bank of Speer, David Vaughn Investments, Kuhl Insurance, Hilltop Wealth Management, Butler, Giraud, and Meister P.C., CEFCU, First Mid Illinois Bank & Trust, Northwestern Mutual

**Media Sponsors:** WEEK, MIX106, Adams Outdoor

On Saturday, July 29th, we hosted our 11th Annual Kids' Day at the East Peoria Levee District. We greeted over 1,000 families and enjoyed live entertainment from Nitsche Theater Arts, Katelyn Kocher, and Nikki Wilken.

Bounce houses and games were also on hand to add to the fun. The runners in our annual 5k Fun Run and Kids' Dash looped through the streets of the Levee District bringing awareness to the event and Crittenton Centers. All of the funds raised helped us fulfill our mission of protecting and nurturing children and families! A BIG thank you goes to all our sponsors and the community for supporting this wonderful event.

Thank you to our sponsors: RLI, OSF Children's Hospital, Methodist UnityPoint, Busey Bank, G&D Integrated, Cullinan Properties, Kuhl Insurance, Sprinkmann Insulation, Peoria Plaza Tire, AlignLife, Alwan & Sons, CEFCU, Getz Fire, Just Kidz Dentistry, Jumpstart Gymnastics, Kids First Dental, Mike Miller Auto Park, Molina Healthcare, and Renewal by Andersen.



## Family Services: Family Advocacy Center

The Family Advocacy Center opened on June 1st, 2017, and in the past five months, we have connected with twenty families in Central Illinois. One family in particular has been working hard towards reunification with their two children. They were able to connect with a Family Advocate right away who offers professional guidance as they begin the journey to reunification.

In a few short months, this mom and dad have completed a 6-week parenting education course, an anger management course, as well as ongoing individual, couples and family counseling to address domestic violence, stress management and coping skills! They have supervised visitation twice a week, which the Family Advocate attends.

The Advocate is able to observe parent/child interactions and offer parenting techniques and tips for the parents to try. This hands-on educational approach is extremely effective and allows the parents to practice skills that will enhance their family bond.

They are diligently pursuing supports that can strengthen their family, including working closely with their attorney, case management agency and Family Advocate. This month, the family will attend a court hearing in which they will be given a "return home" goal for their children. This process can be incredibly gut-wrenching, but the Family Advocacy Center team has been there to support, answer questions, and guide them through the process. Overall we want our clients to feel their voices are heard, so we can advocate for any services that would strengthen their family and ensure a safe environment for the children. Stay tuned for more on this family's reunification with their children!



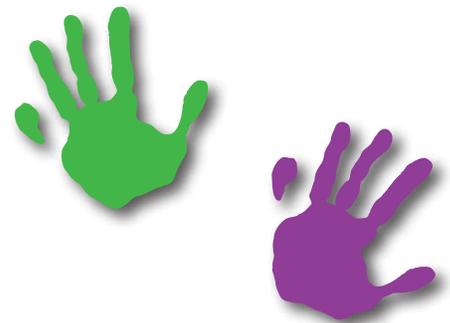
## Child Development Center: Accelerated Enrollment Program

Families who utilize Child Development Center (CDC) services work or attend school—and in some cases, both. In order to obtain safe, affordable child care, the majority of families apply to receive a subsidy through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Once families are approved, they are responsible for paying the monthly co-pay based on their family's household size and income. For some families, one significant challenge is that it can take three to six weeks to receive approval for these subsidy funds. This means the parent is responsible for 100% of the tuition cost for child care, if they can even afford that. Most parents utilizing CDC services do not make enough money to cover this cost and, as a result, must turn to less reliable child care options, some unsafe, during the waiting period.

This is why we are so thankful to the generous donor who has made it possible to offer the Accelerated Enrollment Program. This program allows families to immediately enroll their child(ren) into the CDC with tuition cost based on income. The program provides the remainder of the funding needed for care for up to six weeks. It concludes once the family receives notification that they have been approved for, or denied, the child care subsidy.

The Accelerated Enrollment Program launched in July 2017. Tayanna Henderson and her beautiful, energetic, and sweet one-year-old daughter Tyera were the first enrollees in the program! Tayanna and Tyera (pictured here) were living in Springfield, Illinois and planned on relocating to Peoria once Tayanna's job transfer was approved. Because of the Accelerated Enrollment Program, Tayanna was able to transfer jobs, move, and enroll Tyera in CDC services in a matter of a few days rather than waiting six weeks for full CCAP approval. This was a huge relief to Tayanna because she is also working hard to get everything in order for the arrival of her second baby girl, due in early December.

To date, 13 families, with a total of 16 children, have benefited from the Accelerated Enrollment Program. These families were able to access high quality child care, at just the time they needed it, at a cost they could afford. Another example of how Crittenton Centers is able to protect and nurture children and families thanks to the generous support of donors like you.



## Day of Caring

On Friday, September 8th, a team of volunteers came to Crittenton Centers as participants in the Heart of Illinois United Way's Day of Caring. Volunteers from Caterpillar and Bradley University spent the morning spreading mulch and compost, clearing debris, and cleaning and power washing the building. The support offered that day allowed us to do a much needed fall clean-up of our grounds. And when they left, it looked beautiful! We are so grateful that they chose to spend their time with us and are thankful for the continued support of the community in advancing our mission.



## Crisis Nursery: A Medical Emergency

When you take on the role of "on-call" staff for the Crisis Nursery, you never know what the week will bring! Recently, our on-call staff member had to make a daunting, yet very necessary, phone call to 9-1-1. A mother who called the Crisis Nursery hotline was very ill. During the course of the conversation, she lost the ability to speak. Her children could be heard saying, "Mommy can't come to the phone. She is lying on the floor." At that time, we knew we needed to get help to that house right away!

When the ambulance arrived, the Mother was conscious enough to tell the AMT workers that her children could go to Crisis Nursery. Thankfully, the children arrived safe and sound, and our amazing Crisis Nursery staff got right to work! They were able to get all four children settled and ready for bed within an hour. Thankfully, the children were easily calmed and happy to be coming to Crisis Nursery, which they know and love.

The children stayed for an extended period of time while the mother was in and out of Intensive Care at the hospital. Staff of the Child Development Center (CDC) collaborated with Crisis Nursery staff to provide seamless care and service during this time period. Three of the children were already enrolled in CDC services, so they were able to transition easily. They would go to child care each morning, and back to Crisis Nursery each evening without ever leaving the building! The oldest child attends Kindergarten at a local school, so Crisis Nursery staff transported her to and from school each day. Keeping children in familiar and consistent routines is critical, so staff really strived to make that happen in the midst of this family's crisis.

Whenever possible, the mother called to check on her children. She wanted to make sure they were all doing well. During one of our conversations she said, "I could call my sister, but I know that she doesn't want them and I don't know where they would go if she picked them up." We assured the mother that the children were safe and cared for, and she only needed to focus on regaining her strength and getting well.

Through collaboration, teamwork, and commitment to our mission – we were able to be a safe haven for these children who had experienced a very scary situation. When the mother was released from the hospital and came to get her children, they were all so excited to see her! Her youngest clung to her neck while her oldest children told her all about the things they had done while at Crisis Nursery.

## Girl Scouts Unite!

Congratulations to the Girl Scouts Troop 4754 for earning their Bronze Award – the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve! These girls earned their award by building a wooden swing for the children and families of Crittenton Centers to enjoy. Since receiving the gift, the staff and children have read books outside, rocked in the sunshine, and simply enjoyed the outdoors. We are so thankful for this troop's thoughtful gift and their hard work in putting it together!



## Skilled Volunteers

Local 34 and IBEW Local 51, along with Wright Tree Service, are some of our biggest supporters. Not only do they sponsor our special events, host third party donation collections and support our Holiday Assistance Program, but they also give of their time and talent as they put their carefully honed skills to work! On July 29th, with the help of the Heart of Illinois United Way, they removed dangerous trees and debris from our grounds. We are so grateful for their hard work and effort. Their generosity helped keep the yard safe for children to play outside, and their donation saved the Center over \$10,000!





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**DECEMBER 7-17, 2017**

**Northwoods Mall**  
Thurs & Fri 4pm-8pm  
Sat 10am-8pm  
Sun 12pm-5pm

**The Shoppes at  
Grand Prairie**  
Sat & Sun  
12pm-5pm



Website Design, Development, & Hosting by  
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