



The Sandbox

A newsletter for the families of Sandhills Children's Center
Exemplary - Early - Education

September 2021

From the CEO, Melanie Gayle

Hello Parents!

As we begin a new school year, we welcome this opportunity to share information with you about the Sandhills Children's Center program operation and its administrative personnel. I hope that you will find this and subsequent issues of The Sandbox both interesting and helpful as a consumer of the early education and child care services we offer.

I received my undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from the University of Virginia, and began my working career as a teacher of hearing impaired children. Several years later, I became a director and have followed this path ever since. I moved to Moore county in 1989 to accept what is now the CEO position of Sandhills Children's Center. As I approach 33 years of service to this organization, I am continually amazed at the daily achievements made by all of our children. Our classroom teachers and therapists are highly qualified professionals who are committed to providing the early education all children deserve. Our administrative team is experienced, accountable, and dedicated to ensuring effective and exemplary program operation.

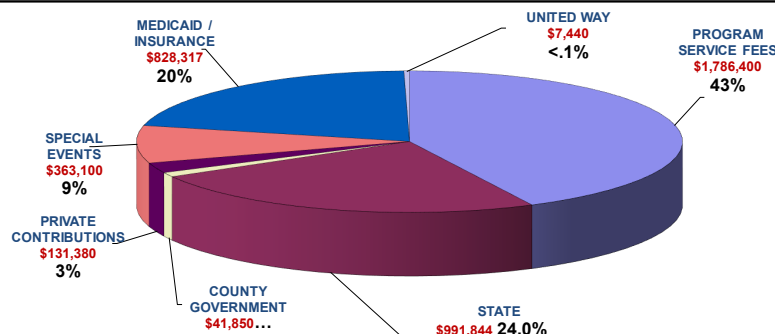
Sandhills Children's Center is a 501(c)3 private, non-profit organization and is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The 2021-2022 operating budget, approved by our board, is \$4,150,331. This is the total budget for the Southern Pines and Rockingham campuses. This budget covers care for 132 children at the Southern Pines Campus and up to 104 children at the Rockingham Campus. The Center has approximately 100 employees at this time. The pie chart below shows the local (48%), private (12%), and state/federal (40%) revenues that comprise the operating budget.

We are grateful to have your child(ren) in our care! When they succeed, we all succeed!



FY 2021-22 Operating Revenues

\$4,150,331



Rockingham Campus -

Jennifer Decker, Program Director

Hello, and welcome to another school year at SCC. I look forward to the year ahead of us and getting to know each family individually. We are truly honored that you have chosen us to be a part of your child's early education experience.

I currently live in Chatham County with my fiancé and our 2 dogs and 2 cats. In my free time I enjoy travelling with my family.

I began my career in education as a Teacher Assistant with Asheboro City Schools. During this time, I attended Greensboro College, where I received my BA in Birth-Kindergarten Education. I accepted a job as a Lead Teacher with Chatham Child Development Center (CCDC) in August of 2009. CCDC is a Developmental Day Center similar to SCC. I remained with CCDC as a lead teacher until 2015 when I became the Director. I stayed in that position until recently when I accepted the role of Program Director at SCC.

I know that together we will have a fantastic and successful school year. Please stop by and say hello anytime.

Southern Pines Campus -

Erin Newcomb, Program Director

As Director, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year at SCC! I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff have been planning and preparing for your child (ren).

I grew up in Florida and graduated from Florida State University in 2001. Go Noles! I received my Masters from ECU in 2012 in Special Education. I taught kindergarten and 1st grade before joining SCC in 2006. I also taught in a pre-school classroom here until I became director in 2014. I have two children, Ty who just entered 9th grade and Taylor who is in 8th grade this year. When time permits, I enjoy traveling with my kids.

It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your director. Please stop by and say hello. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

Assistant Director

Faye Quick, Rockingham

Hi, my name is Faye Quick and I am the Assistant Director at the Rockingham Campus. I have an associate degree in Early Childhood Education from Richmond Community College. I have worked for Sandhills Children's Center since 2013. I started my career in the one-year old room as a Lead Teacher and moved to the two-year old classroom before moving to the front office in 2016.

My job at the center includes working with NC Fast, Smart Start, QuickBooks, collecting immunization records, substitute scheduling, and child enrollment. My job can be a little challenging at times, but I enjoy a challenge.

If I can help you with anything just give me a call at 910-997-7160.

Auxiliary Services Manager -

Cassie Staufenberger

Hi, My name is Cassie Staufenberger. I have been at Sandhills Children's Center for 6 years and in my current position as Auxiliary Services Manager since January 2019.

One of my duties is to manage the food program. I will be sending out food program forms that we have to update annually. Please return them promptly.

If you need a fob please let me know and I can get one to you. They are 10 dollars each. If anyone is having trouble with their fob please let me know so I can get them fixed. Thank you!

I hope everyone has a wonderful school year!!

Enrollment -

Cathy Pierce

As my third year at SCC begins, I am so excited to continue on this journey! Seeing the growth in the children has been amazing. We recently relocated to the Greensboro area to be closer to family i.e. GRANDBABIES! Most of my work is done remotely, so feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns. I received my Masters in Early Childhood Education from UNC-G and am thrilled to be using it to benefit SCC.

A large portion of my job involves record keeping for the students. I would ask that you keep me advised of any changes regarding contact information, address/email changes, etc. In addition, I maintain immunization records that are required by the state. Please send me updated copies of your child's records as they receive updates.

Billing

Kelly Altman, So. Pines

Hi, I'm Kelly Altman and I have had the pleasure of working at Sandhills Children's Center for 8 years. I have been associated with this wonderful establishment since 1990 when my son began attending in the developmental day program. I feel fortunate to work in such a warm and caring environment and enjoy seeing the kids each day.

I received my degree in Business Administration from UNC-Charlotte and have worked in different business related fields in the years since graduating.

As we begin this new school year and welcome new families, feel free to reach out to me with any billing questions.

For families who are enrolled in **Child Care Aware**, the military subsidy program, please make sure to keep track of when your certificate expires so you are able to renew in a timely manner. At that time I will complete the Provider Cost Verification form for you to submit with your paperwork. Looking forward to a great year!

Save the Date!

Rockingham

Book Fair — October 4 - 8

Fall Festival — October 5, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat — October 29, 10:00 a.m.

Southern Pines

Book Fair — October 11 - 14 (activity room)

Fall Festival — October 12, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat — October 29, 10:00 a.m.



Both campuses of Sandhills Children's Center are working to complete the transition process to using Brightwheel. Brightwheel is a website and phone app tool for record keeping, school communication, photos, videos and much more. With both campuses and all administrators using the same program we hope to deliver a much better communication experience for families.

Beginning October 1, Brightwheel will be the main hub of communication for all things related to Sandhills Children's Center.

Fundraising Events

Jen Burns

Hi everyone! My name is Jen Burns and I joined the Children's Center in January as Director of Events and Community Relations. I graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a degree in Marketing and a love for helping people with special needs and disabilities.

Our events season is in full swing and we are busy planning for the 25th annual Festival of Trees! When it comes to our community, I have learned in a few short months of living and working here that the Children's Center has a very special place in so many hearts! Please reach out to me if you are interested in becoming a donor or if you'd like to volunteer at one of our events!

Visit the Festival of Trees website at www.FestivalofTrees.org.