A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AND SUPPORTERS OF THE LEARNING TREE

## CELEBRATING

a superior of



YEARS OF SERVICE



LEARNING-TREE.ORG

Established in 1983, The Learning Tree, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to children and adolescents with significant educational, medical, and behavioral challenges; helping them develop and maintain a quality of life expected by non-disabled members of their family and community. The Learning Tree, Inc. and its programs admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin. The Learning Tree is governed by a volunteer board of directors, representative of the primary service areas in the State of Alabama.

#### **Board of Directors**

limmie Brown Dr. John Caldwell Katie Dougherty Nathan Handmacher Allison Kendall lennifer Owens Dr. Marcia Rossi Alan Taunton

This newsletter is published by The Learning Tree, Resource Development Department compiled and distributed by coordinating offices located in these Alabama cities: Anniston, Jacksonville, Tallassee, Birmingham, Mobile, and Montgomery.

#### Learning Tree, Inc. Administrative Office

101 S. Dubois Street PO Box 780639 Tallassee, AL 36078 334-252-0025

#### **Executive Director**

Dr. Marc Williams **Assistant to the Executive Director** Erin Wofford **Regional Director-Anniston/Jacksonville** Aimee Spruill **Regional Director-Tallassee** Ramona-Heil Norris **Regional Director-Birmingham** Allen Richardson **Regional Director-Mobile Kimberly Hill Director of Residential ABA Services** Karen Rader **Director of Operations** Ben Rogers **Director of Resource Development** Sheila Sears **Growing Independence Behavioral Services** - Program Director Heather Fulford **School Consultation and Collaboration Program - Program Director** Stephanie Remington

## A Message From the Executive Director, Dr. Marc Williams



As we announced in our last newsletter, we are celebrating 40 years of service on behalf of children and families from across Alabama and the Southeast. Be sure to join in on any of our special events throughout the year to help us celebrate. Also, take note of our newly branded logo, signage, and other materials as they are completed and give us your feedback!

In new developments I am pleased to announce the opening of the new program building in Mobile on Able Ct. following many months of construction. The 15,190 sq ft building boasts new office spaces for residential and educational program staff, a nursing clinic, training areas, and a beautiful cafeteria. This is a huge improvement for us in that area. This space was designed according to what we need to best serve the children, rather than just adapting our work to the space. We appreciate the Cummings Architecture group and Ben Rogers, our Operations Director, for their work on the project.

In other news, welcome nurse Kellie Pruitt to the Pelham Team and Crystal Smart in Tallassee.

Make Your Impact!

Once again, I hope we will all continue to think about our personal impact in our work, our work relationships, and the families we serve. A simple "thank you" or another kind word can go a long way during our work routines. Let us truly be representatives of our strong history and new brand. . .as we grow together.

Many thanks to our volunteer board of directors and our staff for your time, dedication, and contributions to our program.

Have a great Summer!

Marc

United Way

of Southwest Alabama





BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama



United Way of East Central Alabama







#### Joint Campus Night with the Barons

Birmingham and Jacksonville kids and staff enjoyed a night of baseball with the Barons, on April 30. The Birmingham Barons held "Autism Awareness Night". This sensoryfriendly game offered a calmer and quieter atmosphere and featured resources for families of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Birmingham Baron's partners with nonprofit organizations throughout central Alabama each year making this worthwhile event completely inclusive.

#### The IMPACT of Caring



1. The Day of Caring team from the Mobile Airport Authority spent a morning landscaping at The Learning Tree's (TLT) Growing Independence Behavioral Services (GIBS) clinic in Mobile. 2. TLT's Mobile Campus Celebrated the opening of their remodeled multipurpose building. 3&4. Erica Brown, Samantha Hollis, Andrea VanAkin, and Stephanie Remington represented TLT at the ABAI Conference in Denver, CO. 5. A surprise visit from our friends and supporter, the Anniston Police Department. 6. Regional Director, Amiee Spruill pictured with Mayor Johnny Smith as City of Jacksonville declared April Autism Awareness Month in honor of TLT. 7. GIBS Program Director, Heather Fulford represented TLT at the University of Alabama's Autism Conference. 8. Payton Thomas accepted grant funds awarded by Central Alabama Community Foundation. 9. Markis' Edwards accepted \$2,500 awarded by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. 10. Heather Fulford and Payton Thomas represented TLT at the River Region Disabilities Resource Fair in Montgomery.

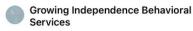
## Alabama State Fair

Kids and staff from Birmingham and Anniston locations attended the Alabama State Fair where they experienced a thrilling evening with new friends!



#### Find Us on Social Media





GIBS Anniston is splashing into SUMMER! 💦

#springfever #focusonyourself #GIBS #aba #abalife #challengeyourself #tltrocks 🤘 #gibs #funfriday #lookgoodfeelgood #proudofyou #autismacceptance





It was an exciting day for TLT at the Mobile Campus today. A ribbon cutting was held for the opening of our new building located on Able Court. Campus staff joined Marc Williams, Executive Director, in the opening ceremony. Jana Blades and Regional Director, Kim Hill performed the ribbon cutting.

Many thanks to Molly Dolan, Resource Development Coordinator for putting together the arrangements for the day, including refreshments. Well done!



call of duty daily.

your dedication!

Growing Independence Behavioral Services

The Learning Tree, Inc.

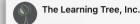
Our administration staff goes above and beyond the

Thank you, Anita, Birmingham Office Manager, for

GIBS Birmingham is transforming into 'Under The Sea'....

"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

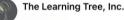
#tltrocks 🤘 #GIBS #BeeMine 🙀 #loveyou #igotyoubabe #sea #sealife #seascape #aba #abatherapy



🔆 Mid-week outing to Pelicans Sno Ball 🔮

#40years #proudofyou #tltrocks #bekindtoeveryone #AutismMonth #abatherapy #riseandshine #directcareservices #jsu #residentialcare #abalife #directcaresupportstaff #specialneedseducation #Alabama







United Way of Southwest Alabama Southwest Alabama

The Day of Caring team from the Mobile Airport Authority spent the morning landscaping at The Learning Tree, Inc. in Mobile. Thank you for your time and hard work.

#DOC23 #TLTMobile #LiveUnited #MOBAirport





#### Summer Bash

Residential coordinators from across Alabama planned a summer gathering where students enjoyed fun in the sun while sporting their assigned campus color. Blue: Mobile, Red: Jacksonville, Yellow: Birmingham, Green: Tallassee.

### Thank You! Employee and Supervisor of the Year

Maya Mitchell is The Learning Tree's state-wide Supervisor of the Year. She currently serves as Coordinator of Residential Services for the Anniston/Jacksonville region. Maya began her career with TLT at age 18. She credits her six years with the organization for making her the person she is today, both as a mother and a member of society. As a supervisor, Maya's favorite part in her role is being able to connect with staff and help guide them into a successful career path with TLT.





Maya Mitchell

#### Stephanie Clark

After just over a year with The Learning Tree, Stephanie Clark was chosen as state-wide Employee of the Year. She serves as Teaching Assistant for the Birmingham region and has been thrilled to assist with other TLT locations as needed. Stephanie feels that her biggest impact is made when interacting with students. She feels that her time with TLT has taught her patience and how to work with behaviors. She hopes to take part in helping her region grow and thrive.



## **Staying Active**

Funding from the Treadwell Foundation and Kilborn's Kids allowed TLT's Mobile campus participation in cooking classes, art lessons, gymnastics, dance, and yoga.



## Celebrating Mother's Day with the Community

Birmingham students and staff took the time to make flower arragements for the ladies at The Gardens of Pelham Assisted Living. This project offered the opportunity to work as a group to make an impact in the local community.



### Just Give it a Shot with The Learning Tree

The Learning Tree, Inc. was excited to host its third annual basketball tournament on Thursday, May 18th at the University of Mobile for the city of Mobile and surrounding areas. The tournament comprises residential providers from throughout Mobile County and the Birmingham, Jacksonville, and Tallassee Learning Tree campuses. Students and staff from all over look forward to this event each year, bringing smiles to the faces of our students and staff.



#### **Growing Independence Behavioral Services**

The Learning Tree's Growing Independence Behavioral Services outpatient clinic program has seen positive growth in all of our locations (Anniston, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile). We are thrilled to welcome new Board Certified Behavior Analysts to Birmingham and Montgomery. Pictured below: Mother's Day and July Fourth celebrations in Anniston and learning and recreation in Birmingham.



#### The Honor Roll Thank you to our friends and supporters.

**AES Industries** Alabama Power Service Dalal Alkordi Amazon Smile Donations America's First Federal Credit Union - Pelham Kristin Armstrong Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Autism Society of Alabama Ali Badri Emily Bain-Leonard Bama Budweiser of Montgomery, Inc. Thomas and JessicaAES Industries Alabama Power Service Org Barry Ali Badri Alice Harvill and Lewis F. Harvill Altec/Styslinger Foundation Amanda Danis Amazon Smile Donations Amber Tolbert America's First Credit Union-Birmingham America's First Federal Credit Union - Pelham Andrea and Jacob Van Akin Angela Waites Anglia Bradford AS Mitchell Foundation Ashleigh Whatley Ashley Chaundran Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Autism Society of Alabama Bama Budweiser of Montgomery, Inc. Barbara Handmacher Beatriz Gonzalez Ben May Charitable Trust Benjamin Rogers Bill Wakefield Billy Smith Birmingham Christian Family Publication Birmingham Parent Magazine Blueridge Mountain Water Bruce Koppenhoefer Carla Reed Carter's Environmental. LLC Catherine Quackenbush Cecillia Johnson and Samuel Johnson Central Alabama Community Foundation Channing L Charles and Michelle Winstead Charles Guntharp, Jr. Charlie McBee Cj Nwimo **Climate Flow LLC** Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama Courtesy Ford of Rome Dalal Alkordi DaMesia Pope Dan and Beverly Marson Davis Industrial Machine, LLC Deann League Donna Cochran Doug Flutie Foundation Jr. Foundation for Autism, Inc. E&I, Inc. Elena Deenihan Ellen Tavlor Emily Bain **Emily Camp** Ernest and Shanita Smith

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#### Make Your IMPACT



Scan the QR code or visit learning-tree.org to make an online donation.

Nigle and Linda Matthews North Georgia Equipment Heating and Air Conditioning Nova Espresso LLC Payton Thomas Pediatric Dentistry East Pc Phillip Johns PSE Construction LLC Quality Cuts Lawn Care and Landscaping Ramona Heil-Norris Robert Hall Rooted & Grounded Coffee House Saidy Stoddard Sandra Gilliland Shaquana and Antonio Birch Sharonda Major SheKeva Pope Southern Girl Coffee Co Stanley Pelfrey Stephanie Remington Susie and Noah Griggs Susie Olson The C.D., Helen and Jeff Glaze Foundation The Caring Foundation of BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama The Empty Stocking, Inc. Thomas and Jessica Bates Thomas Cargile Thomas Denton **Tiffany Miles** Timothy Denton, LLC Tina and Joe Scarborough Tony Burdett Tony Ingram Traditions Health, LLC Turenne PharMedCo Tyquez Taylor United Community Bank United Parcel Service United Way of East Central Alabama United Way of Southwest Alabama Vera Cowan Vincent Kilborn Vivian Autry OGS Tournaments Walmart Distribution Center #7067 Walmart Neighborhood Market #5740 Wanda Sands Wayne Williams Will Smythe



THE LEARNING TREE Resource Development Office PO Box 360476 Birmingham, AL 35236

#### Save the Date!

40 Year Celebration | August 24, 2023 | Apothecary Draft House, Jacksonville, AL | 6:00PM-8:00PM Cruise-In Car Show Benefitting TLT | October 28, 2023 | Adairsville, GA | More Information to Come Anglers for Autism Bass Tournament | Fall 2023 | Details Coming Soon

# Across Alabama

## **Residential Programs**

Anniston | Birmingham | Mobile | Tallassee

## Preschool Program

Outpatient Clinics Anniston | Birmingham | Mobile | Montgomery

Consultation Services

## **Connect with us!**



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