

2026 I

IMPACT

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

THE IMPACT OF
VISION



THE LEARNING TREE
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

Jimmie Brown
Dr. John Caldwell

Katie Dougherty
Nathan Handmacher

Allison Kendall
Dr. Marcia Rossi

Alan Taunton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Marc Williams

ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Erin Wofford

ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR - ANNISTON/JACKSONVILLE

Aimee Spruill

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - TALLASSEE

Kayla Hayes

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - BIRMINGHAM/PELHAM

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DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL ABA SERVICES

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Ben Rogers

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Sheila Sears

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Catherine Tucker

GROWING INDEPENDENCE BEHAVIORAL SERVICES - PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Heather Fulford

SCHOOL CONSULTATION & COLLABORATION PROGRAM - PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Stephanie Remington

From the Executive Director

The Impact of Vision

2025 has been a wonderful year for The Learning Tree. Across Alabama, we have seen many great things throughout our programs, and I am incredibly proud of the growth and dedication displayed by our teams. I am thrilled to have Kayla Hayes stepping into the role of Interim Regional Director in Tallassee and Rod Cox serving as Interim Regional Director in Pelham. Both individuals have been with The Learning Tree for an extended period in various roles and locations. They bring to their new positions many positive leadership attributes, but most of all, I am excited to see their visions for these campuses come to life.

Vision is more than an idea; it is the ability to see potential before it is fully realized. It guides our decisions, shapes our culture, and inspires us to continually strive for excellence. At The Learning Tree, our vision has always been rooted in creating safe, nurturing, and enriching environments where children can grow academically, socially, and emotionally for everyday life.

As we move forward, strong leadership and a shared sense of purpose will continue to be the foundation of our success. Every campus, classroom, clinic, and team member plays a vital role in bringing our collective vision to life.

Thank you to our board, donors, families, and staff for your dedication and belief in our mission. The impact you make each day is meaningful, and together, through vision and collaboration, we will continue to strengthen The Learning Tree and the communities we serve.

With Sincerest Appreciation,
Marc

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

The Learning Tree, Inc. Administrative Office | 19 Sistrunk Street, Tallassee, AL 36078 | 334-252-0025

Holiday Heroes Campaign a Success

The Learning Tree’s Holiday Heroes campaign proved to be a meaningful success, bringing comfort, joy, and a strong sense of community to children and young adults we serve. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, schools, and community groups, children living in our residential education programs were able to experience the magic of Christmas in a big way.



Holiday Heroes was launched as a fresh approach to Christmas giving—one focused not just on gifts, but on connection and compassion. Donations of toys, clothing, art supplies, and funds directly supported children in our program. Each contribution helped ensure that every child felt remembered, valued, and celebrated. The success of Holiday Heroes is a testament to the power of community. Across Alabama donors stepped up to meet a need, embodying the spirit of the season. Because of their generosity, countless smiles were shared, special moments were created, and the holidays were brighter.

Special thank you to America’s First Credit Union, Bradford’s Chapel, Edgewood Baptist Church, Inspirien, iXL Real Estate, Kilborn’s Kids, Parker Hannifin, Parker Instrumentation Products, Shelby County Women’s Business Council, VFW Post 5035, Wade Segrest, Young Brothers Roofing, along with many individual and anonymous donors.

The Learning Tree extends heartfelt thanks to every Holiday Hero who helped make this season memorable. Your kindness made a lasting impact, and that is the greatest gift of all.



The Learning Tree Community Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for The Learning Tree Community Scholarship, established in partnership with the Central Alabama Community Foundation, Inc. Building on a successful inaugural year, the program is now accepting applications from graduating high school seniors residing in The Learning Tree’s service areas, including Calhoun, Elmore, Jefferson, Mobile, Montgomery, Shelby, and Tallapoosa counties.

The scholarship is designed to support students who plan to attend an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or trade school and pursue studies in education, healthcare administration, speech-language pathology, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, or social work. Applicants must have a minimum ACT score of 20. Up to four scholarships of \$2,000 each may be awarded annually. Application requirements include a high school transcript, a personal statement essay, and references. The application deadline is March 1. For additional information and to apply, please visit cacfinfo.org/scholarships.



CENTRAL ALABAMA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Spirit of Christmas



During the Christmas season, The Learning Tree is filled with warmth, growth, and connection across communities throughout Alabama. For the children and young adults we serve this time of year can bring big feelings. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to create safe, structured, and joyful experiences that help each child feel valued, understood, and celebrated.

Throughout December, our classrooms and programs come alive with festive activities designed to meet our students where they are. From holiday crafts and decorating spaces together, to practicing kindness, patience, and teamwork, every activity is thoughtfully planned with each child's unique needs in mind.

The Learning Tree is grateful for the continued support of our communities during this season of giving. Together, we are helping them build brighter futures this holiday season and all year long.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Volunteer Day



The Learning Tree is incredibly grateful to the men of the Rho Alpha and Zeta Kappa Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for dedicating their volunteer day to serving our organization in Mobile. Their generosity, teamwork, and commitment to service made a meaningful difference for both our staff and the children we support.

Service and community are at the heart of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and their efforts at The Learning Tree truly reflected those values. Throughout the day, the Omega Psi Phi volunteers went above and beyond—assembling shelves, organizing closets, and hauling unwanted items to the dump. Their hard work transformed our space, creating a cleaner, safer, and more organized environment that better supports learning, growth, and daily activities.

We extend our sincere thanks to the men of Rho Alpha and Zeta Kappa for their time, energy, and commitment to making a positive impact. Partnerships like these strengthen our mission and remind us of the power of community support.

Our Team Is Full of Rock Stars

Who's a ROCK STAR? At The Learning Tree, it's our incredible staff! Our staff proudly rocked their new "Rock Star" tees and laptop bags, bringing energy, smiles, and a whole lot of spirit to our campuses. More than just a fun theme, this appreciation moment was a small way to recognize the hard work, patience, and commitment our team shows while supporting children and young adults with complex needs. Day in and day out, our staff go above and beyond teaching, mentoring, encouraging, and creating safe spaces where students can thrive. Their dedication truly sets the tone for success.

To our Learning Tree rock stars: thank you for all that you do. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and we are grateful to have such an amazing team. ROCK ON!



Fall Fun with The Learning Tree

Fall brought excitement, laughter, and plenty of seasonal fun to The Learning Tree as our children enjoyed all the best parts of autumn. From visits to the pumpkin patch to festive trick-or-treating activities to Thanksgiving celebrations, the season was filled with meaningful experiences that encouraged joy, learning, and connection.



Mobile Residential kids enjoying a fall day at the pumpkin patch



Growing Independence Behavioral Services staff from our Montgomery location gearing up for Thanksgiving



Growing Independence Behavioral Services staff from our Albertville location set up for Trunk or Treat



Growing Independence Behavioral Services staff from our Montgomery location enjoying Halloween fun



Celebrating 20 Years



The past year marked a remarkable milestone as we celebrate twenty years of dedicated service from our Executive Director, Dr. Marc Williams and Director of Operations, Ben Rogers. Together, their steady leadership has shaped not only the growth of our organization, but the lives of countless children and families. Through changing times and evolving needs, they have remained anchored in the mission, leading with integrity and compassion.

Twenty years of service represents more than longevity; it reflects a legacy of dedication and heart. As we honor this milestone, we celebrate leaders who have turned vision into action and commitment into meaningful outcomes. Their example reminds us that impactful leadership is measured not just in years served, but in lives changed along the way.

Autism Shines Gala



The Learning Tree was a proud Gold Sponsor at the 2025 Autism Shines Gala.



Jim Sears and Marc Williams



Grant and Stephanie Remington



Heather and Ryan Fulford



Shane and Paula Bragg



Sheila and Jim Sears

Make Your IMPACT

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



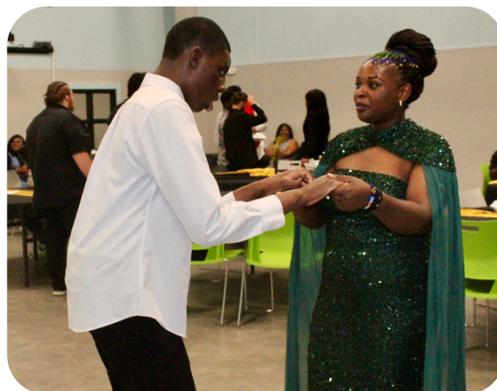
Your contributions allow The Learning Tree to continue offering exceptional services and grow new and existing programs. All donations are tax deductible and go directly to provide resources for the individuals served.

Thank you!



Creative Days and Contagious Smiles

Our kids have been staying busy and having a blast with activities like cupcake decorating, painting pumpkins, outdoor games, dances, and more. These hands-on experiences have sparked creativity, encouraged teamwork, and made learning fun while creating great memories for everyone involved.



22nd Annual Autism Crawfish Boil



Benefitting Easterseals Central Alabama

Live music ● All-you-can-eat

Saturday, April 11
Riverwalk Stadium

TICKET INFO COMING SOON! SAVE THE DATE

mudbugball.com



The Learning Tree was thrilled to be a gold sponsor of Alabama Association for Behavior Analysis' 2025 Annual Convention in Birmingham.



The Learning Tree's Mobile staff in attendance of United Way of Southwest Alabama's 2025 Annual Meeting.

Join Our Team

Hiring Across Alabama

- **Positions Available In**
Outpatient Clinics, Residential Programs, Education Programs
- **Who We Hire**
Direct Care Professionals, Teachers, Nurses and Other Medical Professionals, Management Staff, Board Certified Behavioral Analysts, Therapists, Administrative Professionals And More.....
- **Benefits Include**
Competitive salary, generous personal leave time, health insurance with supplemental coverage options, matched retirement plan, paid conference and professional development attendance, paid required certifications and licenses, education reimbursement.

learning-tree.org/careers

The Learning Tree Charity Classic

The Learning Tree Charity Classic Truck Roping is set for May 2 -3, 2026 at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville.

This two-day roping event, produced by Allen's Roping Productions, brings together some serious talent for a great cause. Ropers will be competing for one incredible prize: a 2026 Chevrolet 3500HD 4x4 diesel 4-door dually, sponsored by Pete Moore Chevrolet of Pensacola, Florida! What really makes this event special, though, is where the money goes. Every dollar raised benefits children with autism and developmental disabilities from across Alabama. The Learning Tree Charity Classic is about more than who wins the truck; it's about giving kids and families access to support and opportunities that truly make a difference.

The event committee is actively seeking sponsors who want to be part of something impactful. Local businesses, individuals, and organizations are encouraged to get involved and show their support while gaining visibility. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities please contact Erica Brown at 256-490-1648 or ebrown@learning-tree.org.

Fans and families are welcome to come watch the action, cheer on the ropers, and be part of an event that blends competition with purpose. Whether you're deeply involved in roping or just enjoy a good weekend event that supports a meaningful cause, this is one worth your involvement.

Re-Cap from 2025 Event

MAY 4, 2025 LEARNING TREE CHARITY CLASSIC DUGGER MOUNTAIN ARENA

10 SLIDE ROPING

PLACE	Header - Heeler	AMOUNT	SPLIT
1ST	Colton Allen - Tyler Boatwright	\$2,720	\$1,360
2ND	Logan Thomas - Mark Gentry	\$1,910	\$955
3RD	Colton Allen - TJ Allen	\$1,450	\$725
4TH	Nick Griffith - Dillon Black	\$1,090	\$545
5TH	Houston Childers - Kaynon Presley	\$820	\$410
6TH	Jon Wes Lovelace - Dillon Black	\$640	\$320
7TH	Dustin Hooper - Justin Ethridge	\$450	\$225
FAST TIME SGO			
1ST	Paul Crowe - Zack Mabry	\$240	\$120
2ND	Rylan Rogers - Tyler Boatwright	\$120	\$60

MAY 4, 2025 LEARNING TREE CHARITY CLASSIC DUGGER MOUNTAIN ARENA

13 SLIDE ROPING

PLACE	Header - Heeler	AMOUNT	SPLIT
1ST	Devan Gilbert - Zack Mabry	\$2,510	\$1,255
2ND	Jake Wells - Luke Denney	\$1,800	\$900
3RD	Jake Wells - TJ Allen	\$1,360	\$680
4TH	Ethan Wheeler - Waylon Buskirk	\$1,010	\$505
5TH	Devan Gilbert - Colton Allen	\$500	\$250
FAST TIME SGO			
1ST	Teigan Orr - Coleman Reid	\$200	\$100

256-490-1648
www.learning-tree.org/charityclassic

CONGRATULATIONS!

MAY 4, 2025 LEARNING TREE CHARITY CLASSIC DUGGER MOUNTAIN ARENA

8 SADDLE ROPING

PLACE	Header - Heeler	AMOUNT	SPLIT
1ST	Lily Duncan - Cody Raburn	\$2,180	\$1,090
2ND	Kim Duncan - Rick Raburn	\$1,630	\$815
3RD	Kim Duncan - Levi Pettijohn	\$1,090	\$545
4TH	Thomas Oliver - Bruce Duncan	\$540	\$270
FAST TIME SGO			
1ST	Lily Duncan - Cody Raburn	\$200	\$100

256-490-1648
www.learning-tree.org/charityclassic

CONGRATULATIONS!



10 Slide Stretch Roping presented by Stretch Roping Dummy
Winners - Colton Allen and Tyler Boatwright



13 Slide Roping with custom trophy breast collars to the winners provided by Dale McAdams
Winners - Devan Gilbert and Zack Mabry



8 Saddle Roping with saddles provided by Dale McAdams
Winners Lily Duncan and Cody Rayburn

MAY 3, 2025

LEARNING TREE
CHARITY CLASSIC

DUGGER
MOUNTAIN ARENA

10.5 TRUCK ROPING

PLACE	Header - Heeler	AMOUNT	SPLIT	POINTS
1ST	Rodney Nelson - Jack Hollingsworth	\$8,000	\$4,000	200
2ND	Andrew Trussell - Braylon Hester	\$6,000	\$3,000	190
3RD	Warren Hillhouse - Trevor Leggett	\$4,000	\$2,000	180
4TH	Trenton Leggett - Ronnie Davis	\$3,500	\$1,750	170
5TH	Morgan Mills - Josh Crews	\$2,800	\$1,400	160
6TH	Colten Brown - Colt Voegel	\$2,300	\$1,150	150
7TH	Jeremy Grizzle - Braylon Hester	\$2,000	\$1,000	140

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CONGRATULATIONS!

MAY 3, 2025

CONTINUED

10.5 TRUCK ROPING

PLACE	Header - Heeler	AMOUNT	SPLIT	POINTS
8TH	Keaton Locke - Trevor Leggett	\$1,800	\$900	130
9TH	Scott Stoker - Cole Shook	\$1,400	\$700	120
10TH	Dustin Reid - Bubba Bozeman	\$1,400	\$700	110
11TH	Jimmy B Peele - Cole Shook	\$1,000	\$500	100
12TH	Trenton Leggett - Coleman Reid	\$1,000	\$500	90
13TH	Joiner Peoples - Tim Pharr	\$1,000	\$500	80
14TH	Taylor Hudson - Little Pat Wells	\$400	\$200	70
15TH	Rylan Rogers - Jess Davis	\$400	\$200	60

MAY 3, 2025

CONTINUED

10.5 TRUCK ROPING

PLACE	Header - Heeler	AMOUNT	SPLIT	POINTS
16TH	Morgan Mills - Chris Mills	\$0	\$0	50
17TH	Charles Shook - Cole Shook	\$0	\$0	40
18TH	Trenton Leggett - Little Pat Wells	\$0	\$0	30
19TH	Tatum Covington - Cole Shook	\$0	\$0	20
20TH	Jacky Barnett - Leon Weldon	\$0	\$0	10

FAST TIME SGO

1ST	LJ Rossen - Chris Hudson	\$600	\$300	10
2ND	Rylan Rogers - Braylon Hester	\$400	\$200	5



Truck Winner: Braylon Hester



First Place- won Saddles by Dale McAdams
Rodney Nelson and Jack Hollingsworth





THE LEARNING TREE

Resource Development Office
PO Box 360476
Birmingham, AL 35236

Across Alabama

2025 Impact Numbers

Residential Programs

Anniston | Birmingham | Mobile | Tallassee

School Consultation Services

Throughout Alabama

Outpatient Clinics

Albertville | Anniston | Mobile | Montgomery

 74/28

74 Residential School Children
28 Group Homes Across Alabama

 18/202

School Consultation Services Provided
in 18 Alabama School Districts to 202
Public School Students

 25,419

25,419 Trips for Residential Children
Across Alabama

 40,700/76

Four Growing Independence Behavioral
Clinics Services Provided 40,700
Behavior Therapy Hours for 76 Children



334-252-0025



learning-tree.org



[learningtree.alabama](https://www.facebook.com/learningtree.alabama)



[thelearningtree_al](https://www.instagram.com/thelearningtree_al)