

# Bright Ideas



Highlands Community Child Development Center

Spring 2026: [www.highlandscommunitychildcare.org](http://www.highlandscommunitychildcare.org)



L-R: Executive Director Demitra Passmore, Board President Diane Dickey, Founding Director Pat Hedden, and Pat's daughter Sarah Watson enjoy the celebration.

## New Beginnings!

A very special era is ending at the Highlands Community Child Development Center, and that was honored at a celebration by staff members, teachers, board members, and family on Thursday, January 29th at the center.

After 38 years of guiding the center with unwavering passion, wisdom, and generosity, Pat Hedden is stepping into the newly created role of Founding Director as Demitra Passmore takes over as HCCDC Executive Director. Demitra joined the center in May 2006 as a teacher in the One-Year-Old classroom, a position she held for 10 years. Later she served as administrative assistant and since 2020 she has been the Assistant Director to Pat.

In her new position, Pat will remain an essential part of HCCDC as she works with Demitra for a seamless transition for the students, parents, and teachers.

Congratulations to both of these outstanding women who have made HCCDC the pillar of our community it is today.



Flowers were all around HCCDC on St. Patrick's Day as each member of the staff received a fresh spring arrangement to honor their hard work and dedication over these last months. A special thanks goes to Ruth Claiborne who helped "arrange" the special surprise.

## Spring Update HCCDC Director Demitra Passmore



We are stepping into an exciting new season and can't wait for all the adventures ahead! After 20 years in various roles, I am thrilled to serve as Executive Director and continue growing with our wonderful children, families, and staff.

A heartfelt thank you to our former Executive Director, Pat Hedden, now Founding Director, for her guidance and continued support as she will begin transitioning toward retirement.

We are especially eager for warmer weather and look forward to spending more time outdoors—playing, exploring, and planting together!

Thank you to our amazing community for your trust and support. I am truly committed to the mission of HCCDC and excited for all that's to come!

### HCCDC Mission Statement

The Mission of the Highlands Community Child Development Center is to provide affordable high quality preschool childcare, and early childhood education to promote optimal cognitive, physical, emotional development, in a safe and loving environment to young children and their families, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, or financial status.

## Staff Spotlight Misty Barnes

Misty Barnes has worked at HCCDC for over 18 years. Currently she is the Director of HCCDC classrooms at the Church of the Incarnation and helps manage the kitchen on the main campus. Prior to these jobs, Misty was a teacher for 14 years of her time here. She was born in Franklin and graduated from Highlands School. She has an associates degree and her goal is to get a B-K degree. She and her husband live in the Satolah community and have three children (one is our own teacher Stephanie



Barnes) and two grandchildren that she loves spending time with. At work Misty enjoys seeing her HCCDC children learning, growing and having fun every day. She also enjoys her coworkers who she says are amazing. In her off hours, she loves to be with her family and spend time outdoors going to the creek and the river. Misty is definitely a bright spot for our children as well as her own!

This year we must replace our HVAC system which is no small expense.

Enter a very fun casino night fundraiser:

## Chips for Children!

Help us make it a huge success. Spread the word, plan to attend and encourage everyone you know to become a sponsor. Your support will be much appreciated!



Please Join Us At



## Chips for Children

A Fun Filled Casino Night Benefitting  
Highlands Community Child  
Development Center

Friday, June 12th - 6:30 pm  
Highlands Community Building  
869 N. 4th Street

Tickets Are \$150.00 Per Person  
And Include Beer, Wine, Heavy Appetizers &  
Chips for "Gambling"  
Cocktail Attire, Must Be 21 Years of Age

Please Scan the QR Code Below to Purchase

HCCDC is betting on you to support our mission to provide affordable, high quality preschool childcare and early childhood education at the only year-round, state-licensed, five days per week, ten hours per day child care program in the Highlands Township.



HCCDC is entering an exciting new era with the appointment of Demitra Passmore as Executive Director. Backed by two decades of experience and the invaluable guidance of her predecessor, Pat Hedden, Demitra's leadership promises a seamless and confident transition. Pat, now recognized as HCCDC's Founding Director, will continue supporting the center with her expertise in this new role. As HCCDC embarks on this new chapter, the community extends heartfelt gratitude to Pat Hedden for her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment. At the same time, there is great excitement for the future under Demitra Passmore's guidance. With a strong foundation built on years of dedication and collaboration, HCCDC is poised to continue providing exceptional early childhood education and care. Together, staff, families, and the Board look forward to supporting Demitra as she leads HCCDC into a promising future, ensuring the center remains a nurturing and inspiring place.

-Diane Dickey  
HCCDC Board President



# A Special Thank You for Helping Make Our Mission a Reality

Mary Jo Askew  
Anne & Tom Bailey  
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Michael Campbell  
Betty Fisher-Boggs  
Paula Jones  
Fred Carlton King  
Ann Sullivan

## **HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS**

*In Memory of Leigh Dicks*  
Jill & Roland  
Gammon  
Emily Goodman  
Kathryn McKey  
Catherine Moore  
Janet Overstreet  
Marilyn Polan  
Cathy & Hank Ross

*In Memory of Patsy Mullen*  
Kathryn McKey

*In Memory of Tom Smith*  
Catherine Moore

*In Honor of Amanda Barnes*  
Jane Tracy

*In Honor of Cathy Manning  
and Ann Flynn*  
Diane Dickey  
Frances Oakley

# Happenings Around HCCDC...



Crazy Hair Day during Reading Across America Week.



Toddler 2 working on fine motor skills and learning to cut play dough with scissors.



Play. Learn. Grow.

HCCDC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. For more information about your donation call 828-526-8905 or visit our website: [www.highlandscommunitychildcare.org](http://www.highlandscommunitychildcare.org) Mail donations to: HCCDC, P.O. Box 648, Highlands, NC 28741

Tax ID 47-0891422



Teachers Laurie Rostasllon, Misty Barnes, Zoe Staffelbach, and Chelsie Devito enjoy the treats at the Transition Celebration.

*Please donate to any of our current funds...*

- HVAC Fund*
- Claude Sullivan Continuing Education Fund*
- General Fund*

*Besides helping with our HVAC system and our teachers' continuing education, please know that gifts of any size can impact a child's life.*

- \$25 ...can provide craft supplies for a classroom
- \$50 ...provides meals for a child for one week
- \$75 ...pays Continuing Education for our teachers
- \$100 ...will buy a new tricycle or similar playground toy
- \$250 ...purchases seeds, pots, and plants for Demonstration Gardens
- \$1000 ...buys a new crib, bedding, and rocking chair
- \$2500

***Thank you for your generosity!***

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