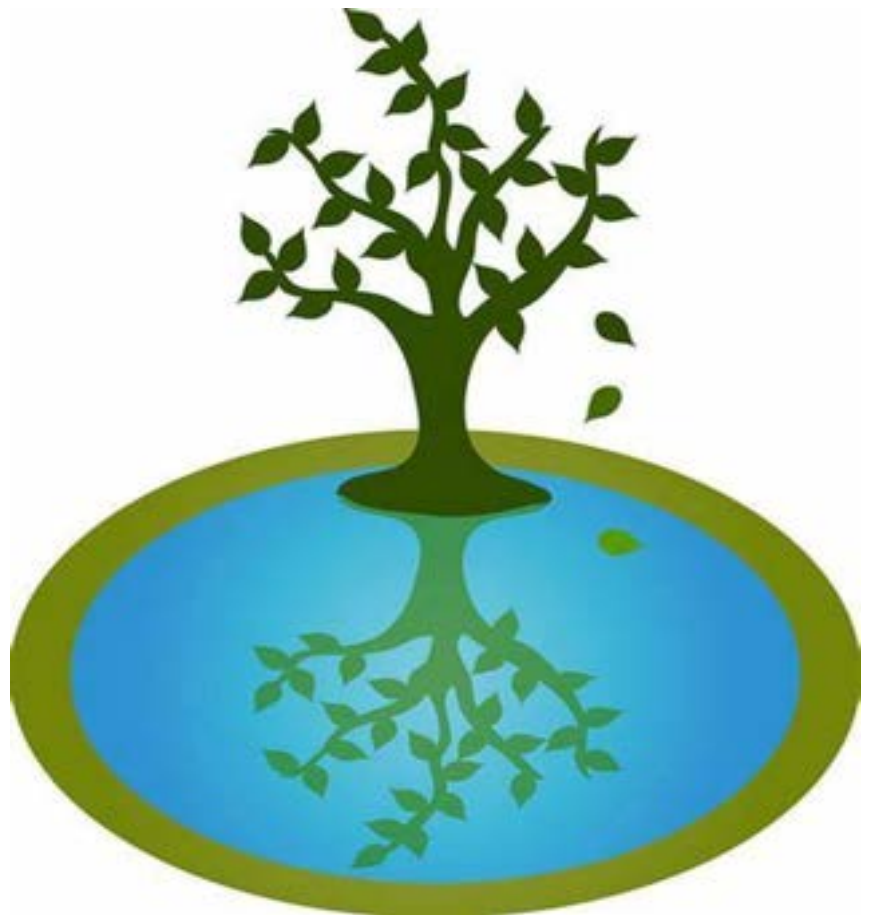




Reflecting on the past year, Friends of Tennessee's Babies with Special Needs is so grateful for our families, our donors and sponsors, our Board of Directors and Advisory Council, our staff and our many volunteers! This year we had a 25% increase in requests for families and a 35% increase in number of people attending events. It's because of our "village" that we are able to continue to provide programs and services to our wonderful families. Please read on to see all we've done in 2022. Thanks to everyone for making it all possible!





JAZZ BABY

Our annual Jazz Baby event was an enormous success! We'd like to thank all of our corporate sponsors; live and silent auction donors, as well as everyone who worked tirelessly to make this event so great!



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King and Denise Purnell

David and Jeanie Alley

Dr. and Mrs. William H. Merwin, Jr.

George & Carolyn McConaughy

Dan and Mary Holbrook

Volunteer of the Year

Our evening began with two special presentations. Don Thompson, Volunteer Executive Director, and Jackie Campbell, President of our Board of Directors, had the honor of presenting the first award to the Volunteer of the Year. This year's recipient was Cathy Thompson.

Cathy volunteered for many events and helped us in the office with mail outs. Thanks so much Cathy for your heart for our children and their families.



Young Hero Award



The Bill Williams Young Hero Award was then presented by Susie McCamy to Lauren Armstrong Harris. This annual award is presented to a young person with special needs who has overcome obstacles and achieved success. Lauren was born profoundly deaf and benefitted from TIPS program (now Tennessee Early Intervention Systems). Lauren always had a strong family support system, but she faced challenges from many who thought her hearing loss would limit her. However, Lauren's determination and passion to help others led her to study Audiology. She is currently in her fourth year of study and will graduate in May, 2023 with her Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Congratulations to both our award recipients!



Young Ambassadors

Parents, Katie Ritter and Sarah Glenn shared the many ways their children have been helped by FOT.



Katie Ritter
and daughter
Kimsey (Cici)



Sarah Glenn and her
daughter, Laurel-Jazz
Baby 2022



When our live auction began, our sign language interpreter's fingers were flying as she kept up with our auctioneer, David Alley. The auction was exciting and the bidders had fun trying to "win". The big winner was Friends of Tennessee's Babies with Special Needs! The money generated from both auctions, the "wine pull" and other donations will allow FOT to continue to provide services, equipment, and activities for our families.

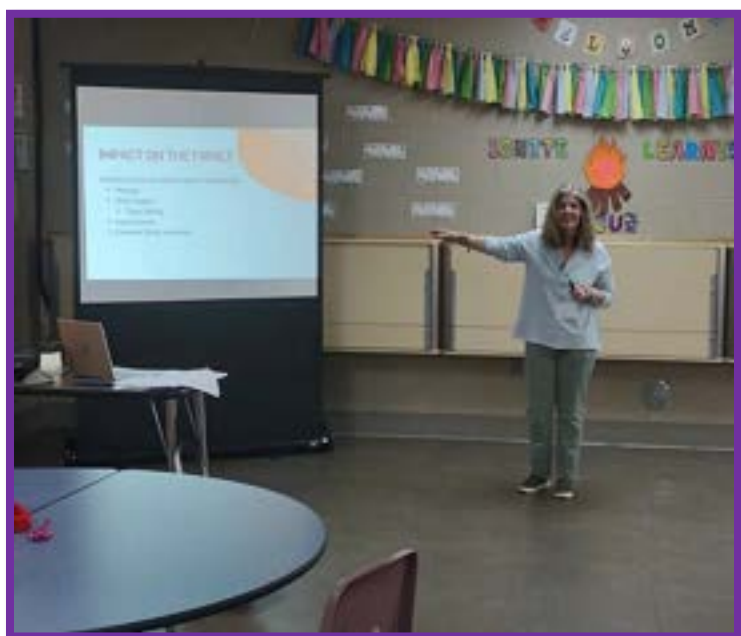


Family Encouragement Conference

Our first annual Karen Hollingsworth Family Encouragement Conference was held on July 23, 2022 and was a wonderful event. Approximately 80 parents attended and received information on a variety of topics, including transition, sensory needs, resiliency, advocacy, and emotional support (An Unplanned Journey). We want to thank our presenters and exhibitors for helping to empower and encourage these families.



The following are a couple of comments made by attendees: “So nice to hear someone share their heart and experiences so openly and genuinely. Thank you and bless you.” And, “It was great just to know we aren’t alone.” A big thank you to the Formall Company for their generous gift that made this opportunity possible. A special thank you to our Keynote speaker, Mary Donnet Johnson. Also, thanks to Luke Nelson who entertained families on his guitar and to Don Thompson who wrote and performed a song for the families. We look forward to offering this conference again next year!



Family Events

Smokies Baseball 2022

Our annual Smokies Baseball Game was held on May 21st and we had over 450 people attend! The theme for the evening was Star Wars and all of our families enjoyed seeing their favorite characters! A big thank you to Maryville Christian Baseball team for volunteering to help our families find their seats and serve food. The night was filled with smiles and laughter as they cheered on the Smokies. The evening came to an end with a beautiful firework show. Thank you to all that came/supported this awesome event.





Celebrate Sound

On September 11th, walkers (and virtual walkers) visited the UT Gardens to raise awareness for hearing health. The proceeds from the walk that Friends of Tennessee's Babies receives, as well as a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield, will be used to purchase hearing aids for our state wide loaner bank. We had exhibitors from Advanced Bionics and TN Hands and Voices. A big shout out to Greater Knoxville Sertoma Club for hosting this event!



Lindsay Nelson Golf Tournament

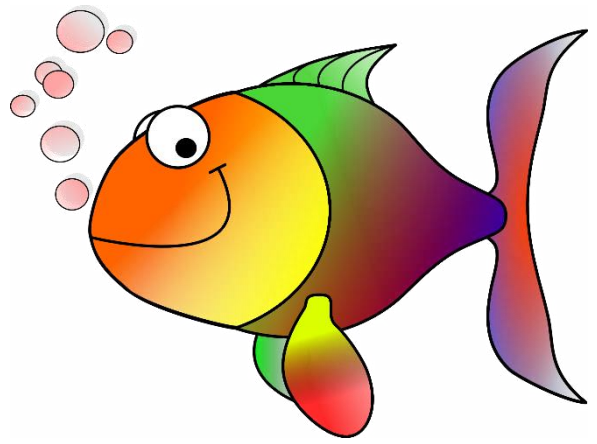


Thank you to the Concord/Farragut Sertoma Club for sponsoring our 32nd annual Lindsay Nelson Golf Tournament! We had the best attendance we have ever had! Over 100 golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at the Dead Horse Lake Golf Course! Everyone had a wonderful day of golf! **Thank you** to Axle Logistics - the Master Sponsor of this event; to TIS, Vanderbilt, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee, and TDS-the Hole-in-One sponsors; and to all of the participants and volunteers!



Ripley's Aquarium

Wow, just wow!! What a turn out we had for our Ripley's Aquarium Day on August 20th!! Approximately 1500 folks attended this event. Thank you to our sponsors for making this event so special: Pilot, Axle Logistics, Palmetto Homes, Performance Foods, TVA Credit Union, Tennessee State Bank, and Workshop Tools. A big *Thank You* to our very special volunteers from Apple!!!



Deep Well Farms Pumpkin Patch



On October 25th, over 700 moms, dads, and children were able to enjoy a fun filled day at the Pumpkin Patch! Kiddos enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities, which included a hayride to pick out a pumpkin.

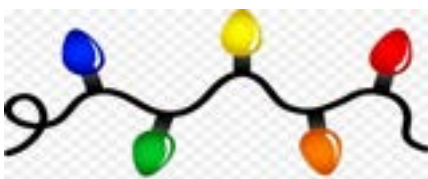
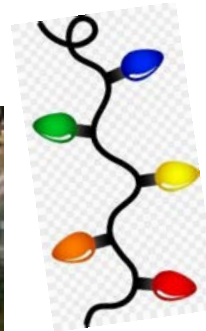


HO HO HO!



Rudolph's Remix

668 parents and children enjoyed the beauty of Fantasy of Trees at the Knoxville Convention Center on November 27th. The event took place prior to opening for the public, so our kiddos enjoyed a sensory friendly environment and a reduced crowd. Children enjoyed decorating cookies, making crafts and seeing the trees and lights. Oh, and Santa was a big hit!! Thanks to all of our volunteers too!





On December 16th, approximately 200 people attended **POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE NIGHT** at the Rio Revolution Church in Maryville. This event was open to people of all ages in the special needs community. After visiting Santa, the families enjoyed pizza and hot chocolate, face painting, crafts, and the movie. Our gift tables were full thanks to the generous donations from Pellissippi State Community College, Freedom Chiropractic, and Maryville Civitan. Each child went home with a special gift they chose for themselves and an additional goody bag. Everyone had a great time!





family



Respite Care:

"I was able to have free time to catch up on errands, house chores, and relax."

"It allowed me to pay someone so I could attend my son's game."

"FOT Respite funds allowed me to go to the grocery store on my own and I was able to have lunch with some mom friends."

"It helps so much to have extra support for my child with special needs."

Equipment and Travel:

"Baby bed tent and gas cards—helped keep our baby safe by providing a tent to restrict movement from crib. They also provided funds for travel so my child could attend a doctor's appointment in another city."

Family Encouragement Conference:

"It helps so much to know I am not alone!"

"Thank you for holding the Family Encouragement Conference today. I attended with my daughter and we received an abundant amount of valuable information."

The resource exhibits, speakers, breakfast/lunch, decorations, and snacks were perfect. Thank you for supporting families of children with differences."