



Heart of the Valley YMCA and the Huntsville Child Care Center merge to form YMCA Child Care Services Branch

Fourteen months ago, United Way of Madison County suggested the Heart of the Valley YMCA call the Huntsville Child Care Center (HCCC) to fulfill a need for placement of 43 students. Huntsville Child Care Center had 90 openings available at the time. That phone call was the first step, which eventually led to a merger of the two historic organizations. Huntsville Child Care Center will become one of three child care centers currently operated by the YMCA.

With increased regional demand for child care, this was a positive first step for the growth and the continued mission of licensed, affordable, quality child care in Madison County. "A high priority for the YMCA is developing programs and services that will expand child care opportunities within the service area of the YMCA including Madison, Marshall, Morgan, Limestone, and Jackson Counties.," says Scott Mounts, YMCA President/CEO. "I am extremely excited about the organizations future. Additionally, this merger would not have happened without the countless hours spent by the organizations' Boards and committees and the support of Huntsville's Mayor Loretta Spencer and Steve Kirkpatrick of the United Way."

Huntsville Child Care Center's Executive Director Kathy Keen is eager to join forces with the Heart of the Valley YMCA. Scott and Kathy both recognize that this "merger allows both organizations to consolidate management resources, boost the dollars that directly benefit the children, and maintains the long standing mission of both organizations by continuing to provide State Licensed affordable child care in Madison County." Affordable child care is a basic requirement of workforce development for our local community," says Kathy Keen. "Working parents will now have expanded access to a program offering licensed, affordable, child care." HCCC serves children ages 6 weeks through 5 years of age.

The Heart of the Valley YMCA offers a wide array of programs and services to our members and the community at large. Programs for children of pre-school, youth, and teen-age as well as adults and seniors, families and individuals and are focused on accomplishing our mission and teaching values such as caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. www.ymcahuntsville.org

The Huntsville Child Care Center provides services to extremely low and low-income families and currently is licensed for 67 children. The Huntsville Child Care Center was started in 1957 by the Grace Club and was originally incorporated as the Day Care Association of Huntsville and Madison County. The center is licensed as a full-time child care center by the State of Alabama through the Department of Human Resources. The HCCC is located inside the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Center Building at 2000 A Vernon Avenue. Their mission, since 1957, has been to provide safe, affordable, quality child care to low-income families and single parent families. Our primary recipients are low-income, single parents who are re-entering the work force and struggling with financial self-sufficiency. The majority of our clients (99%) are single female parents.