



# TCEC Times

HOLIDAY 2018



## WELCOME MELANIE POWELL!



Since September 1, Melanie has been working to meet area residents, review programs, and plan new ways to enhance the Tutwiler Community Education Center (TCEC). Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to meet her soon.

We are pleased that Melanie brings nonprofit management and leadership to TCEC. The Mississippi native has come to the Mississippi Delta after more than 20 years in Ohio. We look forward to moving the TCEC ahead with Melanie leading the way!

Linda Lee, Board Chair

### IN THIS ISSUE ...

Summer Events | Back to School | Holiday Happenings | Music Program  
Teen Helpers | Tutwiler Quilters | Senior Citizen Activities

*"As the executive director of the TCEC, it is my desire to continue the legacy that was started 28 years ago. I am excited to have this opportunity to work with the Tutwiler Community."*

*– Melanie Powell*

### MISSION:

The Tutwiler Community Education Center strengthens children and families by developing programs that address the needs of the community.

### VISION:

We envision a community working together that helps to enrich the lives of children and families.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Shelley Ricker,

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Tracey Thomas, Teen Program

Mary Ann Willis-Mackey,

Quilt Director

Cynthia Wright, Coach

Gloria Young, Facilities Care

Peggy Young,

Program Coordinator



## SUMMER ADVENTURES

Our seven-week summer program was packed with activities for area children each afternoon.

These activities included fun, engaging outings like skating and arcade games in nearby Cleveland, MS. Mr. Tommy Thompson worked with the children to improve their vocal music skills, and they learned new songs to entertain family and friends at the closing program for the summer. Rev. J. J. Johnson spent a week teaching tennis to our children. Ms. Leslie Turner helped the children actively engage in community development by updating the beautiful downtown murals that were gravely deteriorated. It was fun to paint the beautiful colors on the mural Ms. Turner designed after listening to the children share their ideas. Angela Harris led all the children in amazing workouts each day in the gym. The children had so much fun without even realizing how much "exercise" they were getting. Mrs. Pearlina Watts educated our students on the hazards of smoking and actively engaged the children in the discussion on the dangers of tobacco use.



# BACK TO SCHOOL SURPRISE

A former after-school student volunteered to sponsor a Back-to-School Backpack Project for the TCEC students. Of course, we accepted the offer! Korie Peace and his family brought a carload of school supplies and new backpacks. Their timing was perfect as we were able to hand out the “stuffed” backpacks right after our Summer Program Family Night, a few days before the Tutwiler children returned to school.

Peace attended the Tutwiler Center after-school program until he was 12 years old. He shared about the “time capsule” that is buried under a fence post in our empty lot across the street. Sounds like a “ceremony” is in the works to uncover the “buried treasure” and read the enclosed notes and letters. Peace is a 2005 graduate of West Tally High School and owns Korie’s Auto Spa in Horn Lake, MS. Many thanks to Korie, his fiancé, his son, his mother, and his grandmother for helping to prepare and distribute the backpacks.

*Each day, 35 to 50 children (ages 7-12 years old) come to TCEC for a safe haven to learn, exercise, socialize, and have a healthy snack. Gym activities are always fun! We aren’t sure the children realize how much “exercise” they get by playing (Dance Dance Revolution)!*



## CENTER NEEDS

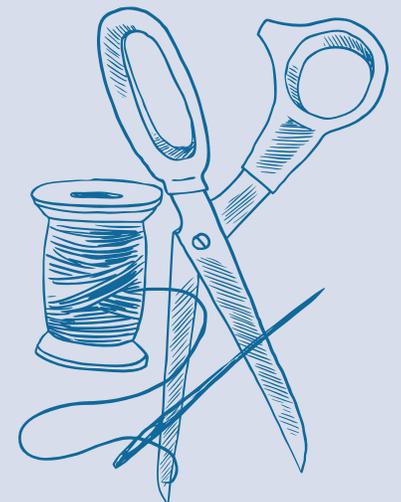
- Backpacks
- Balls (basketballs and footballs)
- Games (Uno, Checkers, Chess, Connect Four, and Playing Cards)
- Gift cards (McDonalds, Subway, KFC, Pizza Hut, Wal-Mart, Dollar General and gas cards to purchase fuel for TCEC Vans)
- Personal care items
- Reading Glasses
- School supplies
- Slippers
- Sponsors for enrichment field trips
- Stationery
- Towels
- Cotton and cotton blend printed fabrics
- Cotton fabrics printed with music designs
- Corduroy solid colors/1-yard minimum
- Flat bedsheets (cotton/cotton blend)
- Quilting thread (all colors)
- Needles, fabric scissors and roller cutters

### FROM A DONOR ...

*“My small gift comes to you each year at this time in honor of my sister, Linda, who volunteered a few summers in Tutwiler, while her health permitted. Happy Birthday, dear Linda!” – Susan, WI*

**Your donations provide much needed support for the Tutwiler Community Education Center to help strengthen children and families. Your support makes our work possible.**

Contact the center at 662-345-8393 or [info@tutwilercenter.org](mailto:info@tutwilercenter.org).





## CHRISTMAS IN TUTWILER

Last year, our many donors made sure the TCEC had a great Christmas. To our amazing donors, we say thank you! In addition to providing gifts for the students who attend our after school program, we make sure as many Tutwiler area residents as possible are remembered at Christmas. With the help from you, our donors, we will always accomplish our goals.

*"I enjoyed working with the kids because I love to be loved."*

- Teen Helper Sherkila, age 16

After the children select toys from the donations we receive, they "shop" for family members at the TCEC Christmas Store. Teen Helpers are on hand to assist the children with their shopping AND with wrapping the gift selected for a loved one.

We make sure senior citizens receive a nice gift bag, too. Fluffy throws, new towels, warm fuzzy socks, hand lotions and soaps are appreciated by the seniors. We thank all of you who donated to help us provide Christmas for so many.

The downtown Tutwiler Christmas Parade is always fun! TCEC vans are decorated and children ride in the vans and wave to area residents lining the parade route.

Our Christmas Pageant brings many family members and town residents to the Center to hear poems, songs and readings, and to watch the children perform in the Christmas themed play. Of course, Santa arrives, and all of the children go home with a toy.

Like the children, we look forward to the holidays and hearing from you is always greatly appreciated. We love the updates many of you send. Happy Holidays!



# MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Our Music Program founder, Jon Gindick, came to the Center in September to visit with TCEC staff and to meet our new director, Melanie Powell. Gindick hosts two harmonica camps per year at the Shack Up Inn just outside Clarksdale. He brings the campers to visit Sonny Boy Williamson's grave on the edge of Tutwiler. Gindick also has the campers tour the Tutwiler Center and learn about the work we do. This past fall, one of the campers issued a challenge to the other campers to raise \$10,000 to purchase new computers for TCEC's computer lab! Many of the computers were no longer working properly. Within a week, Jon Gindick's campers, former campers, and his friends met, and exceeded, the \$10,000 challenge.

This project will ensure good, working computers for our students' use and for town folks to use for filling out forms, applying for jobs, and fulfilling class assignments. We appreciate the "music folks" recognizing the variety of needs at TCEC. Our children enjoy the music instruction each week during our after school program. For most students, this is the only opportunity they get to experiment and learn music with a variety of instruments. Former Teen Helper and blues performer, David Dunavent shares his talents with our students each week!



## TEEN HELPERS

- Robmeisha Bailey
- Keyshon Dill
- LaKedric Fultz
- Savannah Guilty
- Aaliyah Jenkins
- Kayla Little
- Makayla Thomas
- Corleshia Young

*"I learned leadership skills and how to be more responsible. I liked how the staff always thought about the kids and Teen helpers when doing activities."*

– Teen Helper Kiara, age 18

## TEEN HELPERS TALK

*"Thank you so much. Working at TCEC taught me responsibility and what things would be like in a professional work environment. I experienced being outside my comfort zone."*

– Teen Helper Corleshia, age 17

*"Thank you for funding this program. It has been a tremendous help to me and my parents going into my senior year of high school. The teen helper program helped me become a better person. It taught me patience and I appreciate that."*

– Teen Helper Jarvis, age 17

*"This was my first job and there were some things that I was new at, like cashing my first paycheck."*

– Teen Helper Travion, age 17

*"Being a Teen Helper taught me how to save money."*

– Teen Helper Radreona



## TUTWILER QUILTERS

The Tutwiler Quilters continue to bring recognition to the Tutwiler Community Education Center with the beautiful quilted works they create. Our potholders, wall hangings, lanyards, placemats, and bags continue to sell well at the new Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson. Gift Shop manager, Haley Yurkow, said the Tutwiler Quilters pot holders are their best

selling item in the shop! This spring, the trusty Tutwiler Center vans took 29 senior citizens to the museums. What an education! The Two Museums (The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and The Mississippi History Museum) are excellent facilities with fantastic exhibits.

When you enter the Mississippi History Museum, one of the beautifully hand quilted Tutwiler Quilts is hanging alone in a lighted glass case. It takes your breath away!

A group of Clarksdale residents are restoring a building in downtown Clarksdale to create the Travelers Hotel. They have purchased Tutwiler Quilts for each of the 20 beds in the new hotel. That kept our quilters very busy all fall. What an honor! We are anxiously awaiting the opening of the hotel and seeing our quilts in every room.

During the summer, a group of quilters from the Pearl Street A.M.E. Church in Jackson, MS, came to the Tutwiler Center to meet the quilters. The Jackson guests treated the Tutwiler Quilters like "rock stars!" The guests were absolutely enthralled with the beauty of the work created by the Tutwiler Quilters. They were most impressed with the fact that our quilters do not use "patterns" for their items. The Tutwiler Quilters create their own pattern for each creation based on the colors and designs in the fabrics provided to them by TCEC.

Tutwiler Quilters were hosted at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oxford, MS, for their annual show and sale recently. We appreciate the many years St. Paul's has hosted us. It is a very good show and sale for us. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious in St. Louis was another great show! Many thanks for including Tutwiler Quilters for all these many years! Early in December, we travelled to southern Mississippi for the Chimneyville Arts and Crafts Show in Jackson, MS, sponsored by the Mississippi Craftsman's Guild! Keeping our quilters busy!

TCEC provides all the materials to the quilters to make their items. Much of our fabric is donated by our newsletter readers, donors, and friends! We always need good cotton fabrics for all our items and solid color corduroy (one-yard minimum, please) for our "signature" tote bags.





## QUILTED ITEMS PRICE LIST

Item	Approx. size (in inches)	Price	Postage
Cell Phone Bag	4 ½ x 6 ½	\$15	\$10
Tablet Bag	6 x 8	\$18	\$10
iPad Bag	7 ½ x 10	\$20	\$10
Tote Bag	12 x 12	\$25	\$10
Mini Wall Hanging	12 x 18	\$10	\$10
Wall Hanging	20 x 40	\$45	\$10
Wall Hanging	36 x 48	\$80	\$10
Baby Quilt	36 x 48	\$80	\$10
Twin Quilt	66 x 96	\$325	\$35
Full Quilt	81 x 96	\$350	\$35
Queen Quilt	90 x 102	\$375	\$40
King Quilt	108 x 102	\$400	\$40

Additional Items	Price	Postage
Card	\$1.75	\$.50
Cards (5)	\$8	\$2
Pot Holder	\$7	\$5
Blues Pot Holder	\$10	\$5
Pot Holder Mitt	\$15	\$5
Tutwiler Quilt Poster	\$10	\$5
Placemats (set of 4)	\$40	\$10
Table Runner	\$45	\$10

*Postage includes insurance and tracking*

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Volunteer your time**

**Donate items** (see Center Needs list on page 3)

**Make a donation online** – visit [www.tutwilercenter.org](http://www.tutwilercenter.org)

**Donate by mail** – Send a check or money order to: TCEC | P.O. Box 448 | Tutwiler, MS 38963

**Learn more** – Contact the center at 662-345-8393 or [info@tutwilercenter.org](mailto:info@tutwilercenter.org).

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*TCEC values the privacy of our friends and donors and we do not sell or share our mailing list. To update or change your contact information, please e-mail [mpowell@tutwilercenter.org](mailto:mpowell@tutwilercenter.org).*



## SENIOR CITIZENS

Each Wednesday morning, seniors from the Tutwiler area enjoy activities planned by the TCEC staff. The seniors especially like the “outings” planned for the group.

Earlier this fall, the seniors went to the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, AR. The Cultural Center includes a museum in the former railroad station, a downtown visitors’ center, restored fort, and an educational walking trail called the “Freedom Trail.”

Once a month, seniors from Charleston come to the center to enjoy activities sponsored by TRIAD, a program of Tallahatchie Sheriff Jimmy Fly. Recently, the group learned how to be heart-healthy and conserve energy in their homes.



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