



February 2024

Dear Friend of Children:

On Saturday, **April 27, 2024**, in conjunction with the national Month of the Young Child, the children and families of Frederick County are to experience the **34rd Annual Children's Festival** in Baker Park.

During the Children's Festival, approximately 65 area child care centers, preschool programs and child-related organizations volunteer their time to offer hands-on activities for the children. At last year's event, approximately **2,000** participants enjoyed the activities, entertainment, and information—**all for free!**

While the children are enjoying the activities, parents can learn more about services available in the county. According to the Maryland State Department of Education, **more than 50% of Maryland's children arrive at kindergarten without the social and cognitive skills they need** to fully learn from and participate in the kindergarten curriculum. They lack such fundamental skills as how to distinguish between numbers and letters or how to hold a book and pencil. These children will be at risk for school failure and associated negative outcomes. So again this year, the festival will feature information for parents on school readiness and information on how to make everyday activities learning activities.

Please join us in celebrating the wonder of childhood by becoming a sponsor or advertiser of this annual event. Your contributions will help underwrite the costs of the event, so that families may continue to attend at no cost. You can help support the Children's Festival through a **financial or in-kind contribution**. We will gratefully acknowledge your support in the festival program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Morison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patty Morison
Children's Festival Committee

Children's Festival Committee

226 South Jefferson Street

Frederick, MD 21701

Phone: 301.662.4549

Fax: 301.695.4826

Email: childrensfestival@fcmha.org



Children's Festival Contribution Form

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone Number: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email Address: _____

We will **contribute** the following amount to support Frederick's premier children's event and keep it **FREE** for children and families in the area.

Financial Donation:

Contributor Levels

_____	Children's Champion	\$1000+
_____	Benefactor	\$600-\$999
_____	Patron	\$200 - \$599
_____	Supporter	\$150 - \$199
_____	Contributor	\$100 - \$149
_____	Friend	\$50 - \$99

In-kind Donation:

_____ printing/purchase of school readiness materials selected by the committee for distribution to families

_____ copying of Festival program

_____ other (please specify) _____

_____ volunteers to work the day of the Festival in positions assigned by the committee

Please return this form to Child Care Choices

Mental Health Association of Frederick County #52-0968521

226 South Jefferson Street, Frederick, MD 21701

fax (301) 695-4826 or email childrensfestival@fcmha.org by April 12, 2024.