

## Family's Strong Faith, Vision Lead to Success

Starting a business from scratch is not an easy process. Just ask Kingdom Kare Child Development Center owner Mark Hudspeth and his extended family. Through their faith and an unparalleled drive to succeed, this center has grown from four children to one of the top child care centers in Blount County.

"It was a family decision. Me and my wife (Connie) and my sister (Bethany Smith) and our other sister (Trena Vann) and her daughters," said Hudspeth. "Bethany, she's the director, was in childcare for eight years before we decided to do one ourselves. I was getting ready to retire from the military and we were trying to figure out something to do for a business. We decided we could all work together and have our kids with us. It's worked out pretty good for us the last five years."

They opened their first center in Maryville, Tenn., at 2114 East Broadway in 2007 and behind a lot of sleepless nights, sweat, tears and a drive to succeed, Kingdom Kare slowly grew. It was the passion of the family and volunteers that ultimately led Kingdom Kare to finally enjoy success.

And now, they are opening their second center at 1833 Wright Road in Alcoa, Tenn. The grand opening is set for Monday, June 25 at 10 a.m. The public is invited to attend.



Years later, as the family talked about all the possibilities, obstacles and challenges of starting a business, they knew that it would only be successful if they put their faith first.

"When God presents you with a challenge, he rarely tells you the details on how to do it. He does give help and strength, and sometimes a big push to get you going," noted Hudspeth.

While you can put faith first in any business, they decided to go all out, not just opening another Christian center, but actually showing and teaching the love of Jesus.

"The first couple of years were tough as me and my wife along with several others came in and worked for free. It took a long time to get going. While I was at the base, I was doing the books at night and my wife was working cleaning the classrooms. Our sister was working two jobs. I don't know what the secret to success was except hard work."

Now with a solid foundation built at the Maryville center which has more than 100 children, Hudspeth felt it was time to expand into a second facility that will more than double the number kids attending.

"We grew by word of mouth. We've been real blessed to have families come in that liked what they were getting and they'd tell their friends and it just went from there. Our Maryville center filled up quickly and we don't like turning people away. With the new center in Alcoa, we will be able to continue to help more families."

With the opening of the Alcoa center, Hudspeth and the staff will be doing double time to keep things running smoothly.

"The rooms are enclosed at the new center, whereas the others are more open. Things will pretty much run the same. We'll have the same director and the same people doing things at both centers; a lot of driving back and forth. We'll have video surveillance at both places. When you've got a successful thing, you don't want to change anything."

And anything worth doing usually isn't going to be easy.

You can like Kingdom Kare on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Kingdom-Kare-Child-Development-Center/185192540411](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kingdom-Kare-Child-Development-Center/185192540411)

### Kingdom Kare Grand Opening

Monday, June 25  
10-11:30 a.m.  
1833 Wright Road  
Alcoa, Tenn.

Hudspeth was able to take the idea of starting a business to the Blount County Chamber of Commerce who referred him to the Tennessee Small Business Development center. After attending a free class and being assigned a counselor to help in the planning stages, a business plan was developed. TSBDC continued to help with the feasibility study and budget analysis. From vision to opening, it took about eight months. Without the expert advice and free help, the dream may not have happened.

"There are a lot of businesses that do not succeed and some of those failures may have been prevented if the owners had taken advantage of the free help in Blount County," said Hudspeth.

The idea for Kingdom Kare came to Hudspeth after attending a church service two hours from home. After some friendly persuading from his family, he finally went. Once there, he was uplifted inside after hearing God's word. But he left feeling a bit puzzled as to how to accomplish the goal.

"For weeks my family tried to understand the meaning of what was said," said Hudspeth. "The funny thing about a prophecy is you can't understand it until after it is completed."

## Did You Know?

Did you know that Chamber members are offering Hot Deals to the public?

Check them out by going to [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com) and clicking on the red Hot Deals button.

There are currently Hot Deals from Snappy Tomato pizza, Miss Lily's Cafe' Florals and Gifts and Balancing Act Bookkeeping.

Also, check out the Chamber's YouTube channel to see what's been going on in the community.

[www.youtube.com/user/blountchamber](http://www.youtube.com/user/blountchamber)



## New Members

By joining the Blount Chamber, the following companies have made an important decision in their business. Use the ABC theory -- Always Buy Chamber. It's good business to do business with Chamber Members. Use them for your professional and personal needs. Find out more information on all 1300 plus Chamber Members online at [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com), click on Business Directory.

Life Transitions & Estate Sales -- [www.ltestatesales.com](http://www.ltestatesales.com)

ADP -- [www.adp.com](http://www.adp.com)

Complete Nutrition -- [www.completenutrition.com](http://www.completenutrition.com)

Money to Go -- [www.moneytogopawn.com](http://www.moneytogopawn.com)

Ameriprise Financial, Brent Trentham & Associates -- [www.ameripriseadvisors.com/brent.l.trentham/profile/](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/brent.l.trentham/profile/)

Lee Roberson Gallery - 865.448.3988

American Recycled Plastic, Inc. -- [www.itsrecycled.com](http://www.itsrecycled.com)

J. Hunt Consulting, LLC - 865.659.2826

JSE Communications -- [www.jsehome.com](http://www.jsehome.com)

Chariots of Hire -- [www.chariotsofhire.com](http://www.chariotsofhire.com)

The Market -- [www.themarket.com](http://www.themarket.com)

## Event Calendar

The event calendar on [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com) allows Blount Countians to post their events directly to gain added exposure. These are great opportunities to connect and network with potential customers. The events and meetings below will be held at the Chamber unless otherwise noted. Visit our website to receive notices of events and meetings you would like to attend -- [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com), click on Events Calendar. For more information, call 983-2241.

- June 25 10:00 a.m. Kingdom Kare - Grand Opening
- June 28 7:45 a.m. Coffee Club hosted Barber McMurry Architects
- June 28 9:00 a.m. Small Business Counseling
- June 28 3:00 p.m. City of Maryville - Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant - Open House/Grand Opening
- June 29 8:00 a.m. Local Briefing w/Mayor Ed Mitchell
- June 29 11:00 a.m. First State Bank - Grand Opening
- July 4 CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY
- July 5 9:00 a.m. Small Business Counseling
- July 26 7:45 a.m. Coffee Club @ Sterling House

To schedule a free small business counseling session or to make an appointment with a representative from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center call Vicky at 983-2241.

## Pigs and Politics

The first "Pigs & Politics" Legislative Day, sponsored by AT&T Premier and NOVA Copy, will be held on Tuesday, July 31 from 4-7 p.m. at Alumni Gym on the Maryville College campus. This is a chance for local and state politicians to mingle in a summer pig roast setting with the business community -- no speeches, just a lot of barbeque, beer, and networking. Additionally, we are happy to announce that Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Susan Whitaker will kick off the event.

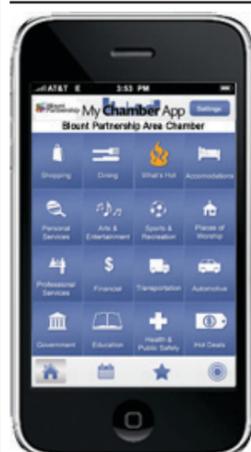
Tickets, which go on sale at the Chamber office on July 5 are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 18. Groups of 10 are \$100.



## Nominate A Top Business

Is there a special business or business person in the community that deserves recognition? Nominate them today at [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com) for the Business Excellence Awards to be held Sept. 20 at the Clayton Center for the Arts. Nominations are not restricted to Blount County Chamber of Commerce members.

Tickets for the networking and awards ceremony are \$30 for Chamber Volunteers in Progress Members, \$40 for Chamber Members and \$60 for non-members. They may be ordered online at [www.BlountChamber.com](http://www.BlountChamber.com), by phone at 865.983.2241 or at the Chamber office at 201 S. Washington St. in Maryville.



Have you checked out and downloaded the FREE Chamber mobile app?

Check it out by downloading the free app on iTunes or the Android Market by searching for My Chamber App. Get information on all Chamber members, including address, phone number, web site and directions.

Chamber members need to take advantage of getting an expanded listing on the Blount Partnership's mobile app by upgrading for \$249 to include a logo, web site link, larger ad size, **hot deals**, better placement and a business description.

For more information, call 865.983.2241

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Allan Cox, Chair

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