



Portrait of Honey Alexander as Tennessee First Lady that now hangs in the Honey Alexander Center

Remembering HONEY ALEXANDER

All of us at Family & Children's Service were greatly saddened by the passing of former Tennessee First Lady and cherished F&CS advocate, supporter, and volunteer Leslee "Honey" Alexander.

Mrs. Alexander was the wife of former Tennessee Governor and U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander. She was a true force of nature and dedicated her life to the service of others, particularly children and families. "I've always been involved with programs and institutions serving families and children," she has said. "Strong families make strong children."

As Tennessee's First Lady she led the statewide Healthy Children Initiative (1982-1986) with the goal of providing pre-natal health care for every child. She was a member of the 1985-1986 Southern Regional Task Force on Infant Mortality, the Governor's Task Forces on Day Care and on Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the U.S. Health Secretary's Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. In 1987 she and her husband, along with Marguerite Sallee, Brad Martin, and Bob Keeshan (television's Captain "Kangaroo"), founded Corporate Child Care, Inc. which in 1997 merged with Bright Horizons, Inc. to become the world's largest provider of employer-sponsored day care.

She has served in numerous other civic activities over many decades. In 1976 she co-founded Leadership Nashville. She also served on the boards of the Adventure Science Center, Vanderbilt's Kennedy Center, the Junior League of Nashville, the Dede Wallace Center, and The Hermitage. Nationally, she has been vice-chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and a board member of Family Service America and the National Archives Foundation.

Family & Children's Service was particularly special to Mrs. Alexander, who served as President of our Board of Directors and chaired multiple fundraising events for the agency. She remained a member of our Advisory Board until her passing. One of her last public appearances was at our Family Biscuit Breakfast fundraiser in September of this year.

The Honey Alexander Center, the home of Family & Children's Service, is named in honor of Mrs. Alexander's extraordinary support of Family & Children's Service and her exceptional legacy of service to our community and country.

We are forever indebted to her, and she will be greatly missed.

Memorial services for Mrs. Alexander, including one here at the Honey Alexander Center, are being planned. Details are forthcoming. For more information about Honey Alexander, her life and legacy, please see:

<https://apnews.com/article/health-tennessee-obituaries-george-hw-bush-lamar-alexander-c65a58b72cdeb36493080d5e4ac15b8f>

<https://www.newschannel5.com/news/former-first-lady-leslee-honey-alexander-dies-at-77>