



**Lilly's Hand**  
A gift provided by the  
Lilly Cantrell Memorial Endowment

## The Lilly Cantrell Memorial Endowment

The University of Tennessee's Early Learning Center is a quality care and learning environment for young children, pre-service teachers, and teacher educators. Affiliated with the Department of Child & Family Studies, the center provides a laboratory setting for the investigation of children's development in context and the growth of informed teaching practices. Highly trained program staff work in collaboration with faculty to facilitate interdisciplinary research, academic programs for undergraduate and graduate students, and early education programs for young children while honoring a commitment to outreach, advocacy and the development of public policy.

### Lilly Cantrell Memorial Scholarship or "Lilly's Hand"

The Lilly's Hand Fund allows the ELC to offer a special opportunity to provide a diverse classroom that supports children with disabilities and a learning opportunity for UT's students with a future in early childhood education. Lilly's Hand provides support through an endowment with the University of Tennessee College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. The endowment provides tuition assistance for children with a disability to attend the Early Learning Center.

### "Lilly's Hand"

*Lilly Cantrell was a beautiful blue-eyed, curly headed blond 4 ½ year old. Lilly had Cerebral Palsy and with the equipment she used, caught others' attention – but when she smiled at them, they forgot about the disability and saw her beautiful face. She was a smart, funny, caring child who brought joy and tons of laughter into the lives of those around her. In her death, we wanted to continue her spirit of caring and giving.*

-Mike and Teri Cantrell, parents



Mike and Teri Cantrell developed Lilly's Hand along with Lilly's maternal grandparents, Robert and Sue Hart, Lilly's aunt and uncle Melinda and Mahmoud Naderi, and the UT Early Learning Center. This fund is designed to assist those families who want to enroll their child with special needs in the ELC. Without the enrollment of children with special needs, the UT ELC cannot fully serve its mission of providing an inclusive early care and education teacher-training program for students in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

# Donate to Lilly's Hand

If you would like to support families of children with disabilities through Lilly's Hand please contact:

UT Early Learning Center  
1206 White Ave  
Knoxville TN 37996  
865-974-4062  
Or visit our website  
[elc.utk.edu](http://elc.utk.edu)



Children who have participated in Lilly's Hand have shown improvement in many of these areas:

**Physical:** Movement, traveling, gross-motor manipulation, fine-motor skills.

**Social-Emotional:** Independence, self-help skills, social skills/relationships, self regulation.

**Language/Early Literacy:** Listening and understanding, expression and clarity, communication.

**Cognitive/ Early Math and Sciences:** Problem solving, curiosity and motivation, persistence, inventive thinking, exploration.

## To apply for Lilly's Hand

Please provide the following information to:

UT Early Learning Center  
1206 White Ave,  
Knoxville TN 37996  
865-974-4062

Name of Child:

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Documented Disability:

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Birth Date:

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Desired Enrollment Start Date:

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If you would like more information about the UT Early Learning Center and its programs visit our website [elc.utk.edu](http://elc.utk.edu) or contact our school.