**Mission and Philosophy:** The purpose of this center is to promote the general welfare of individuals with disabilities, both mental and physical; to provide and/or refer cases for diagnosis and treatment; to counsel and assist parents and to develop, coordinate and advocate for programs on behalf of individuals with disabilities. The center is committed to the principles of normalization, least restrictive environment, and integration. We believe and our programs are based on the premise that everyone can be helped regardless of his or her disabilities. If this help cannot be provided by the center, referrals are made to help the individual find the appropriate agency.

**Contact Info:**

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Director: Kathleen Cross  
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Supervisor: Deborah Shears  
deborahs@mahercenter.org

**Internship Opportunities:** Internships may be available at the Maher center for students in Psychology, Human Development and Family Studies, Communication, Early Childhood Education, Marriage and Family Therapy and Social Work. Interns will have the opportunity to learn how Early Intervention services are administered.

Depending on the goals and skill level of an individual EI intern, experiences and responsibilities may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Adherence to all human resources requirements including resume, interview process, reference checks, a criminal background check and any other required processes as needed.
- Attendance at agency staff trainings and meetings.
- Observe a case throughout the entire EI process including: Intake, evaluation, Individual Family Service Plan, and intervention services.
- Learn the role that a service coordinator serves within the agency.
- Identify and complete a project that will be helpful for the center (e.g. making a family activity calendar to be sent home with clients). Projects will vary based on the student’s discipline and interests.
- Learn about and demonstrate professional conduct, work etiquette, and respect for co-workers.
- Create materials for children’s groups and parent’s groups.
- Learn about diversity among families including differing socio-economic status and learning styles.