

Murdoch Developmental Center



1940	The United States Army bought approximately 40,000 acres of land from farmers and started Camp Butner. During World War II, Camp Butner was a training camp for thousands of soldiers being prepared for combat. There was also a POW camp for German and Italian prisoners. The POW camp was located on the site that now houses the Federal Prison.
1947	After World War II, the state of North Carolina bought the Camp for \$1,500,00.00 as well as the Army hospital and furnishings for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) and opened John Umstead State Hospital.
1948	The community was officially named "Butner". Residents from Caswell Center, Kinston, North Carolina moved to the "Old Colony". The Colony was part of John Umstead Hospital located on 9th and 10th Streets. Residents were housed in two-story barracks once occupied by the Army.
1957	On December 26, 1957, three hundred-twenty-three residents and fewer than sixty staff members occupied the present campus which was initially named "The Butner Training School". There were 12 buildings designed to serve 57 Piedmont and Western Counties. On April 10, 1958, the school had the "formal opening and dedication" in the school auditorium. The late Governor Luther Hodges made the presentation address. Dr. Roy J. Blackley was the Acting Director.
1958	The Butner Training School name was changed to Murdoch School. Four additional buildings were constructed. Dr. James F. Elliott was appointed Director of Murdoch School.
1960	Acquired three full-time physicians. Two new buildings were constructed.
1961	The Children's Psychiatric Unit (now Psychology Services) was constructed.
1964	Murdoch School becomes Murdoch Center.
1967	The Administration Annex and Medical Clinic buildings were constructed.
1971	Camp Murdoch was opened on a 30 acre site on Lake Butner.
1972	Organizational structure at Murdoch Center changed to a divisional system with eight divisions created from the previous Cottage Life Department.
1973	Murdoch is certified for ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facility/Mental Retardation) status. (Alpine, Ridgeway, Summerset and Edgewood Cottages certified.)
1977	Deerfield Cottage is ICF/MR certified. "Murdoch Center Program Library" 1st Edition published.
1978	J. Michael Hennike appointed Director of Murdoch Center.
1979	Camp Murdoch was renamed Camp Eason in honor of Joe Eason, previous Murdoch Business Manager. This lake property provides day and overnight recreational facilities for people residing at the center.
1984	Newport Cottage renovated and became ICF/MR certified. Royall Cottage dedicated and ICF/MR certified.
1985	Arbor Cottage renovated and ICF/MR certified.
1986	Briarwood Cottage renovated and ICF/MR certified.
1987	Murdoch Center Program Library 2nd Edition published.
1988	Beacon Cottage renovated and ICF/MR certified.
1989	Woodside Cottage renovated and ICF/MR certified.
1991	Pineview Cottage renovated and ICF/MR certified. Infirmary ICF/MR certified.

1992	Parkview Cottage renovated and ICF/MR certified.
1994	Murdoch Center achieved full ICF/MR certification.
1995	Bart (Behaviorally Advanced Residential Treatment) program opened to serve young men in NC with mental retardation and severe behavioral disorders.
1996	Deerfield Cottage located on the John Umstead campus, closed.
1997	Murdoch Center Program Library 3rd Edition published. Tadpole Lending Library moved from the Butner Office Complex to Murdoch Center main campus.
1998	Elliott Lodge at Camp Eason constructed for recreational events and large training area.
1999	Tadpole became "Generations Tadpole".
2000	NC-SNAP (Support Needs Assessment Profile) published. PATH (Partners in Autism Treatment and Habilitation) program opened to serve children in NC with autism and severe behavioral disorders.
2001	PATH Group Home opened in Oxford, NC and operated by Murdoch Center. Serves children in NC with autism and behavioral disorders. Children attend the Butner-Stem Middle School to experience the public school classroom setting, with staffing provided by Murdoch. Summerset Cottage renovated with apartment style living.
2005	Dr. Aleck Myers appointed Director of Murdoch Center. STARS (Specialized Treatment for Adolescents in a Residential Setting) program opened to serve adolescents in NC with a dual diagnosis of developmental disability and mental illness, with behavioral disorders.
2007	Administration Building renamed "J. Michael Hennike Building". Murdoch Center renamed "Murdoch Developmental Center".
2008	Boiler Room constructed. Wright PATH (group) Home opened in Franklin county to serve children in NC with autism and behavioral disorders.
2009	Maintenance area renamed W. E. Beal, Jr. Maintenance Complex. BART Program ICF/MR certified.
2010	TRACK (Therapeutic Respite Addressing Crisis for Kids) respite program opened in Arbor cottage to serve children from NC with a developmental disability and/or autism that are in an emergency crisis situation.
2011	Bonnie M. Springer School opened at the Butner Office Complex to serve adolescents in the STARTS program, full day educational programs. An occupational course of study is available for High School curriculum.
2012	Pamela Kuhno appointed Director of Murdoch Developmental Center.
2013	Consistent with new federal law, terminology transitioned from ICF/MR to ICF/IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities). Utilizing funds donated from Knights of Columbus, Murdoch completed the Farm Day Pavilion. This site is used for the annual "Farm Day" celebration, a major event for the people residing at the center as well as families and community partners.
2014	The Bonnie Springer School moved from the Butner Office Complex to Edgewood building on main campus.
2015	The Murdoch Center "Reflection Garden and George and Frances Cheek Garden Walk" dedication was held December 2015. Statewide programs STARS and TRACK relocated to Woodside cottage. BART "Next Step" program created at Meadowview cottage; designed to facilitate successful transition of men served in BART, to community settings.