



EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Emory Valley Center Joins National Effort to Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month

(Oak Ridge, TN) – October 2019 - Emory Valley Center announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "The Right Talent, Right Now."

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Every day, individuals with disabilities add significant value and talent to our workforce and economy," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. "Individuals with disabilities offer employers diverse perspectives on how to tackle challenges and achieve success. Individuals with disabilities have the right talent, right now."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, Emory Valley Center is highlighting people they support and employment partners on their social media sites to educate the community on disability employment and their commitment to an inclusive work culture.

"Emory Valley Center is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Daisy Pratt, Workforce Development Director. "We want to spread the important message that we value all skills and capabilities, including ones held by people with disabilities."



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Employers in all industries can learn more about how to partner with Emory Valley Center and hire someone they support for their workforce by contacting Daisy Pratt, Workforce Development Director, daisy.pratt@evcmail.org.

Emory Valley Center has been meeting the needs of people with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in the East Tennessee community for **64 years** and currently provides a wide variety of services including: Community Integration, Education, Employment, Family Assistance, Pre-Vocational Training, Residential and Senior Services. **This support reaches more than 1,400 adults and children, monthly in 16 East Tennessee counties.**

To learn more about Emory Valley Center and their programs and services, visit www.emoryvalleycenter.org, and follow them on facebook, www.facebook.com/emoryvalleycenter and Instagram, [emory.valley.center](https://www.instagram.com/emory.valley.center) for program/success stories and photos.