



EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emory Valley Center Receives BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust Grant for Pre-employment Transitional Program

Oak Ridge, Tenn. (October 15, 2021) - BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust awarded Emory Valley Center a \$3,000 grant to help continue the expansion of their Youth Pre-Employment Transitional Program for students with disabilities. Emory Valley Center assists people they support achieving their goals of living more independently by using technology in job training programs.

An example of technology currently being utilized is the Oculus headset as a tool in the employment services field. This technology gives the person pursuing a job and staff supporting them the opportunity to explore virtual job experiences at the same time. This allows staff the ability to guide the person seeking a job through the process, and therefore giving them a better chance of being successful in meeting their goals.

Advantages to using this virtual technology in job seeking would be the opportunity for people to experience a variety job interests, practice skills associated with a particular job, avoiding distractions while learning and learning from home during pandemic conditions.

“Giving young people the opportunity to discover what jobs they are interested in pursuing is one of the first steps in the workforce process,” said Daisy Pratt, Workforce Development Director at Emory Valley Center. “Enabling Technology is a terrific way for dedicated staff to help people discover their career interests and practice skills ahead of securing employment in the community. We are grateful for partners like the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust for their grant award in support all of these efforts.”

The BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust provides support to non-profit partners throughout Tennessee. They focus their trust funding into four primary areas: charitable clinics; groups that provide disease prevention, early detection, and treatment services; youth health and development programs; and organizations promoting diversity and inclusion.



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Emory Valley Center has been meeting the needs of people with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities in the East Tennessee community since 1955, and currently provides a wide variety of services including: Behavioral Health, Community Participation, Community Supported Living, Early Childhood Education, Enabling Technology, Family Support and Workforce Development. **This support reaches more than 1,400 adults and children, monthly in multiple East Tennessee counties.**

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