



# EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Jefferson Middle School Art Students and Oak Ridge Rotary Club – Sunset create Mural for the Emory Valley Early Learning Center**

**Oak Ridge, Tenn.** – Jefferson Middle School (JMS) art students and the Oak Ridge Rotary Club – Sunset contributed their gifts to volunteer and create an “Under the Sea” mural for the Emory Valley Center Early Learning Center (EVELC).

Jefferson Middle School art teacher Jim Dodson designated a school assignment for students using their artistic talents keeping the mural project in mind. There were a wide variety of styles and themed original art submitted for consideration and the one chosen was a sunken pirate ship with colorful sea animals surrounding it.

“The children and teachers love the mural, and we are so grateful to Jim Dodson and the talented Jefferson Middle School artists who created it,” said Terry Peek, Early Learning Center Director. “It is the perfect background to our new outdoor classroom and adds so much brightness and cheer to our building. We are also thankful to the Oak Ridge Rotary Club Sunset members who painted the background so the students could add the details.”

Rotary Club members and the JMS students worked in stages over several weeks to complete the project. The mural is located on the back of the EVELC facing the center’s outdoor classroom.

“The “Under the Sea” mural project was a wonderful partnership between the Oak Ridge Rotary Club Sunset, Emory Valley Center, and the art students at Jefferson Middle School as a creative way to give back to our community through the arts,” said Jim Dodson.

**Emory Valley Center** has been meeting the needs of people with intellectual, developmental and physical



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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](http://www.emoryvalleycenter.org), follow them on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/emoryvalleycenter](https://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.