



EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

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PRESS RELEASE

ELKS Lodge #1684 Provides Grants for Emory Valley Center

COVID-19 presented several challenges with how grants were awarded by ELKS Clubs nationally. However, ELKS Lodge #1684 member Donna Forstrom found creative ways to continue to support local nonprofits in a variety of ways.

Emory Valley Center was awarded a grant that supplied picnic tables and benches currently placed outside their Caldwell-Thompson Building. Two are located near their Community Garden on the west side of the building for people they support, staff and community members to use. One table and bench set are also placed on the east end of the Caldwell-Thompson Building and often utilized by Emory Valley Center employees during workdays.

In addition, another grant was awarded to Emory Valley Center for two “Little Free Libraries” for use not only by Emory Valley Center, but also the community. One Library is located near the west entrance to the Caldwell-Thomson Building and the other is located at the Early Learning Center across Emory Valley Road.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization (based in Wisconsin), whose mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries.

“We are extremely grateful to Donna Forstrom and ELKS Lodge #1684 for their continuing partnership and support for the people we assist and our mission,” said Janet Wood, Vice President of Community Engagement at Emory Valley Center. “The picnic tables and Little Free Libraries are such wonderful gifts for the people we support, our employees and our community to enjoy together.”



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Emory Valley Center has been meeting the needs of people with developmental, intellectual, and physical disabilities in our community since 1955. The agency currently provides a comprehensive array of educational, vocational, residential, rehabilitation and senior services, programs and support to over 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 and follow them on facebook, www.facebook.com/emoryvalleycenter and Instagram, [emory.valley.center](https://www.instagram.com/emory.valley.center) for success stories, program updates, announcements and event photos.