



# EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Awards Community Trust Grant to Emory Valley Center of Tennessee COMMUNITY TRUST



**Oak Ridge, Tenn.** – BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBST) recently awarded Emory Valley Center (EVC) a Community Trust Grant in the amount of \$2,500 for their new Medicaid Alternative Pathways to Independence (MAPs) program. The Community Trust is a fund set aside for supporting 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations, state colleges and universities, and government agencies.

Funding is focused on four primary areas, including charitable clinics, disease prevention, early detection and treatment services, youth health and development programs, and diversity and inclusion. EVC’s MAPs program provides enabling technology and skills to assist young people and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in creating networks in their communities which will eventually lead to employment and independent living.

“MAPs is instrumental in filling the gap in services offered to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By meeting young adults as they are transitioning out of high school, we can provide them with skills to help them live as independently as possible in the ways they choose,” said Emory Valley Center Community Innovation Director Miranda Kelley. “I’m eager to see the difference this service will make for the people we support.”

EVC will utilize the grant awarded by BCBST to purchase supplies and various enabling technology devices which will assist in several different areas, including remote supports/smart home technologies for independent living, mobile devices for community navigation and public transportation access, and employment software applications for job discovery.

**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, MAPs and Workforce Development. **This support reaches more than 3, 300 people annually in multiple East Tennessee counties.**



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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.