Contacts:
Aaron Price, Emory Valley Center, aaron.price@evcmail.org

Emory Valley Center Strengthens Advocacy Through Merger with The Arc Anderson County

Oak Ridge, TN—July, 9th 2026— Emory Valley Center, a leading provider of services and supports for individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), is proud to announce the expansion of its advocacy efforts through a merger with **The Arc Anderson County**, formerly the local chapter of **The Arc of the United States**.

Founded in 1950, The Arc of the United States is the nation's largest grassroots organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Through this merger, Emory Valley Center will serve as the local Arc chapter affiliate, strengthening its ability to advocate for individuals with IDD while continuing the comprehensive services and supports the organization has provided for decades.

While Emory Valley Center's advocacy role is growing, the organization itself remains the same trusted agency the community has relied on for more than 70 years. Its name, leadership, mission, and day-to-day operations remain unchanged. The merger enhances Emory Valley Center's ability to advocate at the local, state, and national levels while continuing to provide high-quality programs and services.

"Advocacy has always been at the heart of what we do," said Jennifer Enderson, President of Emory Valley Center. "By becoming the local Arc chapter, we are building on that foundation and strengthening our ability to speak up for the rights, inclusion, and opportunities of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This partnership allows us to expand our voice while continuing to provide the exceptional support and services our community knows and trusts."

Emory Valley Center will continue offering its full range of services, including early childhood education, behavioral health services, employment and workforce development, community living supports, residential services, in-home services, and programs that promote independence and community inclusion. The addition of The Arc affiliation allows the organization to further champion disability rights, public policy initiatives, community education, and systems change that improve the lives of individuals with IDD and their families.

For individuals and families receiving services, there will be no interruption or changes to existing programs. Instead, the merger creates new opportunities for advocacy, education, and collaboration while strengthening the organization's ability to address the evolving needs of the communities it serves.

This milestone reflects Emory Valley Center's ongoing commitment to ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to live fulfilling, self-directed lives. By combining its long-standing service expertise with an expanded advocacy mission, Emory Valley Center is positioned to make an even greater impact throughout East Tennessee.

For more information about Emory Valley Center's programs or its expanded advocacy efforts, contact **advocacy@evcmail.org**