



EMORY VALLEY CENTER
MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

THE VOICE

Community Newsletter



EMORY VALLEY'S 70TH CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

A Memorable Celebration: Emory Valley Center's 70th Anniversary Breakfast

We were thrilled by the wonderful turnout at our 70th Anniversary Breakfast on Friday, November 7th! It was truly an honor to celebrate this remarkable milestone with so many friends, partners, and supporters.

A heartfelt thank-you to our Breakfast Sponsor, The Maven, for their generous support in making this event possible. We also extend our sincere appreciation to our Emcee, Gene Patterson, and our outstanding speakers: Naomi Asher (The Maven), Becky Dodson (Past Board Chair), Ray Smith (Oak Ridge Historian), Jim Dodson (Oak Ridge Mayor Pro Tem), Randy McNally (Tennessee Lt. Governor), and Jennifer Enderson (Emory Valley President).

Thank you to everyone who joined us to honor 70 years of inclusion, service, and community impact. Your continued support means the world to us — and we couldn't have reached this milestone without you!

Board of Directors

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Sherri Alley

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Outgoing Chair

Becky Dodson

Secretary/Treasurer

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Ashley Saunders

Jay Shepard

Scott Britton

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Friends,

As we close out 2025, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together this year at Emory Valley Center. Thanks to the dedication, passion, and creativity of our staff, the engagement of our community partners, and the resilience and courage of the people we support, this year has been one of growth, innovation, and meaningful impact.

Throughout 2025, we expanded programs, strengthened opportunities for independence, and created new ways for our community to connect and thrive. Every success story reminds us why our mission matters so deeply and motivates us to keep reaching higher.

Looking ahead to 2026, I am excited for the possibilities that await. Together, we will continue to innovate, empower, and make a difference in the lives of the people we support. With our incredible team and supportive community, the best is yet to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us—your dedication, support, and enthusiasm make everything we do possible.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Enderson

President, Emory Valley Center



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS



FEB 4	Bowling Fountain City Lanes - Starts at 4:30PM
FEB 14	Polar Plunge UTK Recsport Outdoor Pool - Time TBD
FEB 21	Regional Basketball Maryville College - Time TBD <i>A & B Team Only; No Skills</i>
MAR 4	Basketball Gibbs Highschool - Starts 9:30AM <i>All teams</i>
MAR 5	Basketball Gibbs Highschool - Starts 9:30AM <i>All teams</i>
APRIL 6	Track & Field Hardin Valley Academy - Starts at 4:30PM
APRIL 8	Track & Field Hardin Valley Academy - MAKE UP DATE**

Samantha Townsend

 Samantha.Townsend@evcmail.org


EMORY VALLEY CENTER
MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

Emory Valley Center is already buzzing with excitement as we prepare for the upcoming Special Olympics events in 2026! This extraordinary celebration of athleticism, inclusion, and determination is always a highlight of the year—and for the people we support, it's so much more than a series of competitions.

The Special Olympics gives individuals the opportunity to shine on a bigger stage, build confidence, strengthen friendships, and showcase their incredible abilities. Whether they're training hard, learning new skills, or cheering one another on, the spirit of teamwork and achievement is felt in every moment.

Here at Emory Valley, we see firsthand how transformative these experiences can be. Participating in the Special Olympics empowers the people we support to set meaningful goals, take pride in their accomplishments, and feel deeply connected to their community. It also brings joy, unity, and a sense of belonging that carries far beyond the event itself.

As 2026 approaches, our teams, staff, and athletes are gearing up with enthusiasm. We look forward to celebrating each milestone along the way and can't wait to cheer on our amazing participants as they represent Emory Valley with pride.

Let the countdown begin!

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

- Volunteers are needed for Track & Field
- Individuals with golf experience are encouraged to connect with us.
- Donations of supplies, including hand sanitizer, are welcome.
- Gift cards to restaurants for post-game meals are appreciated.
- Direct monetary donations are accepted.
- Checks must be made payable to Emory Valley Center and specify "Special Olympics" to ensure funds are received.

Special Olympics is deeply important to Emory Valley Center and the individuals we support. We sincerely appreciate your support in helping make these events successful.

Executive Team

President

Jennifer Enderson

Sr. VP of Operations

Crystal Hicks

VP of Professional Services

Kristen Otto

VP of Children's Services

Anna Moore

VP of Finance

Bryan Taylor

VP Community Engagement

Aaron Price

VP Human Resources

Kim Jeffers-Whitaker

Facilities Director

Kevin Hicks

Directors

Residential

Layla Fisher

Workforce

Innovation

Miranda Kelley

Little Learning Lab

Brittany Webb

Early Learning Center

Brittany Cox

Professional Services

Amanda Tackett

Family Support

Regina Wilson

Early Intervention

Chase Davenport

Behavioral Health Director

Megan Miller

LOVE YOUR JOB, LOVE WHAT YOU DO!

Exciting Career Opportunities at Emory Valley Center!

Are you looking for a meaningful career where you can truly make a difference in the lives of others?

Emory Valley Center has several opportunities available for compassionate and dedicated individuals who want to support people with disabilities in reaching their full potential.

As a member of our team, you'll work in a rewarding environment where every day brings new opportunities to empower, uplift, and create positive change. Whether you have experience in the field or are looking to start a fulfilling new career, we offer a variety of roles to match different skills and interests. We are currently hiring Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)—and we're offering a \$1,000 sign-on bonus!

If you or someone you know is ready to make an impact while building a meaningful career, we'd love to meet you. Join us in supporting individuals as they live, learn, and thrive in their community.



Apply Here



ADULT SERVICES

EVG TAKES ON THE TASH CONFERENCE

Emory Valley Center recently had the opportunity to attend the TASH Conference in Denver, Colorado. Scott Britton, an EVC MAPs participant, and Dianna Wooldridge, Independence and Innovation Specialist, were selected to present on how the MAPs program has supported Scott in achieving a new level of independence over the past several years.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the meaningful impact they are making. The conference provided a valuable opportunity for learning, connection, and collaboration—along with a little time to enjoy the experience together.

To learn more about this trip, please [click here](#).



PSR GETTING CRAFTY

Our PSR group recently enjoyed a hands-on woodworking class, and it was a wonderful experience filled with creativity, learning, and teamwork.

Participants had the opportunity to explore new skills—from sanding and assembling to adding personal touches to their finished pieces—while enjoying a fun and engaging activity together.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing community partners who made this opportunity possible:

- Grow Oak Ridge for helping bring this experience to life
- John Polly for generously sharing his time, patience, and woodworking expertise
- Appalachian Arts Craft Center in Clinton for their continued support and partnership

We are incredibly grateful for community partners who help create meaningful, skill-building experiences that empower and inspire the people we support.

MOVEMENT FOR ALL 5K

Walk, run, or roll with us at the Movement for All 5K! This inclusive event raises vital funds for Emory Valley Center, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your participation supports life-changing services, including job training, community inclusion, and opportunities for people of all abilities to thrive. Every registration helps create more opportunities, greater inclusion, and a stronger, more hopeful community.

Want to join the Movement for All 5K? [Click here!](#)



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Community is at the heart of human experience. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), a supportive and inclusive community is not only essential for well-being—it is transformative. When people with IDD are embraced as valued members, everyone benefits.

Belonging and Empowerment

People with IDD often face barriers to social participation, whether through physical inaccessibility, lack of understanding, or social stigma. Inclusive communities break down these barriers, promoting a sense of belonging and self-worth. When individuals feel seen and heard, they are empowered to contribute their talents, passions, and perspectives.

The Strength of Diversity

True community thrives on diversity. Welcoming people of all backgrounds, abilities, and experiences leads to more creative, compassionate, and resilient groups. Diversity challenges assumptions, sparks new ideas, and encourages growth for everyone involved. When people with IDD are included, communities learn to value differences and adapt to meet a wider range of needs—skills that strengthen the social fabric as a whole.

Mutual Benefits

Inclusion is not just beneficial for people with IDD—it enriches everyone. Friendships, teamwork, and shared experiences across diverse groups build understanding and break down stereotypes. Diversity is not only our strength; it is the foundation of true community.

A Call to Action

Each of us has a role to play in fostering inclusion. This starts with open-mindedness, empathy, and a commitment to making spaces accessible to all. Whether through volunteering, advocacy, or simply extending a welcoming hand, each action helps build a stronger, more vibrant community.

Mel Stanley
Advocacy Specialist

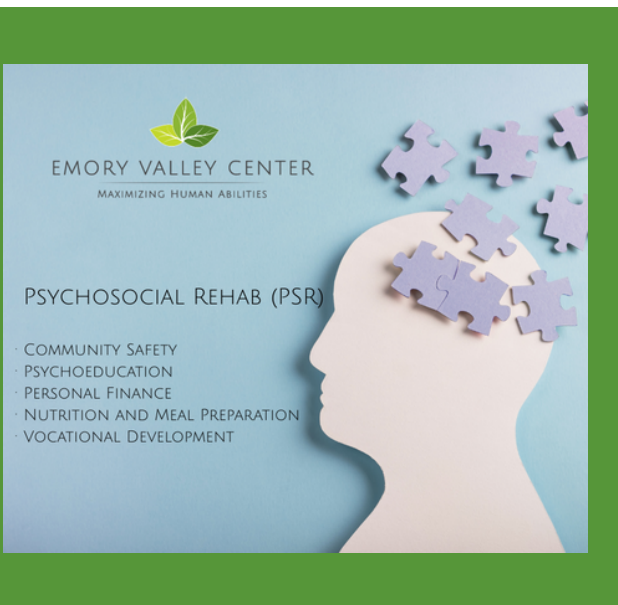


NOW ENROLLING: PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION (PSR) PROGRAM

Emory Valley Center currently has openings in our Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Program! Our PSR Program provides a supportive group setting for individuals who are dually diagnosed, helping participants build life skills, strengthen social connections, and increase independence. Individuals work toward personal goals at their own pace through engaging, staff-supported sessions focused on a variety of skill-building topics.

ABA services are now available in Oak Ridge and Campbell County, and Emory Valley Center is accepting referrals for PSR and therapy services at both locations.

NOW ENROLLING IN OAK RIDGE AND IN CAMPBELL COUNTY!



- Community Safety
- Psychoeducation
- Personal Finance
- Nutrition & Meal Preparation
- Vocational Development

If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please contact Crystal Hicks at

crystal.hicks@evcmail.org for more information.

Let's grow together—one skill at a time.



maintain your
**mental
 health**



Now Accepting Referrals in Campbell County.

OUR SERVICES



**Intensive
 Outpatient
 Therapy (IOP)**

For people ages 16 and older experiencing anxiety, depression, trauma, or other mental health challenges. Our licensed clinicians offer evidence-based care in a supportive, structured setting.



**Psychosocial
 Rehabilitation
 (PSR)**


Serving adults 21 and older with IDD. PSR helps individuals build emotional resilience, life skills, and stronger community connections through meaningful group-based support.



**Applied
 Behavior
 Analysis (ABA)**

Launching July 2025, our ABA program will serve people with developmental disabilities through customized behavior support plans led by credentialed professionals.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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