



EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES



(pictured left to right) Rep from ORRC, Kirsten Purinton, Alissa Chadwick, Chris (Person Supported) Miranda Kelley

CHRIS GETS HONORED AT OAK RIDGE ROTARY

We are proud to announce that Chris was recently honored with an award celebrating individuals with disabilities who have overcome challenges to achieve career success and give back to their communities. Chris has become a key team member at Weigel's, where he consistently brings a positive attitude to his role as a store clerk. His responsibilities include helping customers, stocking shelves, making coffee, and maintaining a clean and welcoming store environment. His supervisor commends his dedication, reliability, and excellent customer service.

With continued support from his employment coach, Chris is growing in confidence and working more independently every day. He's thriving in his role and making a meaningful difference. We celebrate all that Chris has accomplished and can't wait to see what he does next!



(pictured left to right) Ally Finck, Jen (Person Supported), Sherri Alley, Kirsten Purinton, Emilie Marie, and Hanna Daugherty.

EVC EMPLOYEES IN ACTION

Congratulations to Kirsten Purinton on completing all levels of the NADSP DSP training, an outstanding professional milestone that reflects her deep commitment to the people she supports. We also proudly recognize Ally Finck, who was recently nominated for the ANCOR DSP of the Year award. In our Early Learning Center, preschool educators Hannah Broadus and Emilie Damos have quickly formed a dynamic and compassionate team.. These incredible team members embody Emory Valley Center's core values and inspire us all through their care, leadership, and belief in a more inclusive future.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Families and Friends,

As we step into August, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work happening across Emory Valley Center and express my gratitude for your ongoing support. This summer has been filled with exciting growth, new opportunities, and meaningful connections throughout our programs. From the smiles at our Early Learning Center's Water Day to the achievements of individuals in our Employment Services program, we are reminded daily of the strength and potential of the people we support. We continue to expand our Behavioral Health services and enhance resources for families, ensuring that every person has the support they need to thrive.

We are also preparing to celebrate a very special milestone our 70th Anniversary this fall. This celebration is more than just a reflection of our past; it's a chance to look ahead with hope and determination as we continue building inclusive, empowered communities.

Thank you for being part of the Emory Valley Center family. Your trust and partnership fuel everything we do.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Enderson
President, Emory Valley Center



Splish, Splash, and Smiles: Water Day at the Early Learning Center!

The children at Emory Valley Center's Early Learning Center recently beat the summer heat with one of our favorite traditions, Water Day! This annual event is a fun-filled celebration where our playground transforms into a water wonderland, complete with sprinklers, water tables, and lots of laughter.

Water Day gives children the chance to explore, play, and cool off while building important sensory and motor skills. Teachers and staff joined in on the fun, ensuring a safe and joyful experience for everyone.

The excitement on the children's faces says it all! This day is always a splash hit! We're already looking forward to next year's celebration.

EVC AND CAMP KOINONIA OFFERS NEW PROGRAM



We are starting a pilot program for We Adapt in Oak Ridge!

We Adapt offers fun, inclusive, and community-based recreational opportunities for adults 18 and older with disabilities.

What is We Adapt?

We Adapt is a social enrichment program designed to foster:

Friendship & Connection	Confidence & Independence
Lifelong Learning & Fun	Health & Overall Wellbeing

Participants enjoy a wide range of experiences including:

- Movie nights
- Arts & crafts
- Dances & socials
- Sports events
- ...and so much more



If you or someone you know might want to participate, volunteer, or collaborate with us in Oak Ridge, reach out today!



✉ **Email:** msmith@kftn.org

☎ **Phone:** 931-993-1633

🌐 **Website:** www.kftn.org



ADVOCACY

Self-advocacy is a powerful concept, particularly for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). It embodies the idea that people have the right to make their own choices and express their own needs. For family members, supporting a loved one in their journey of self-advocacy can be transformative, not only for the individual but for the entire family.

Having family support behind someone with IDD can significantly influence their ability to advocate for themselves. Family members serve as cheerleaders, educators, and allies. When families prioritize self-advocacy, they also educate themselves about the rights and resources available to their loved ones, fostering an environment where everyone thrives. This empowerment leads to increased self-esteem, better mental health outcomes, and enhanced social interactions. Self-advocacy is not just about the individual; it's about transforming family relationships. As families navigate this path together, they often find deeper connections. It's important to remember that when families support self-advocacy, they change lives starting with their own.

We believe in the importance of self-advocacy at Emory Valley Center. We will be partnering with the Koinonia Foundation's We Adapt Program to promote self-advocacy for individuals with IDD. This initiative will delve into essential topics such as friendship, connection, confidence, independence, and overall well-being.

Sincerely,
Mel Stanley
Advocacy Specialist

FAMILY RESOURCES

• Updated policies:

- **Bed Bug Policy:** Added that all requests will be directed through EVC's Facilities Department. Added person responsible for notification to families and ISCs.
- **GPS Policy:** Changed to 6+ MPH over the speed limit for 60 seconds or longer would be sent to QA to investigate and follow the disciplinary process

• Useful Links:

- <https://supporteddecisionmaking.org/> (Supported Decision Making)
- <https://supportforfamilies.org/supported-decision-making-an-overview/> (Supported Decision Making)
- <https://www.olmsteadrights.org/> (Rights)
- <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/guardianship-less-restrictive-options> (Alternatives to Conservatorship)

CASE MANAGERS (CM)

Professional Services Assistant Director

Sharon Hill

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Amanda Tackett

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Jennifer Jackson

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Jamie Smith

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Jasmine Holsopple

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STAFFING UPDATES

New Hires

- Direct Support Professionals -22
- Early Intervention -2
- House Manager – 1
- Little Learning Lab -4
- Early Learning Center – 1
- Maintenance Tech – 1
- BCBA – 1
- Jr Recruiter – 1
- QA Specialist – 1

RESIDENTIAL MANAGERS (RM)

Catie Robinson

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Sheri McMahan

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Dustan Kelley

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Cory Depuy

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Kasey Foster

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Assistant Residential Director:

Rebecca Smith

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Promotions – Transfers

- Kaelyn Sibley to House Manager
- Sheila Huskey to House Manager
- Daniel Hammons to House Manager
- Alex Bean to House Manager
- Austin Loudin to House Manager

OPEN JOB POSITIONS

- Direct Support Professional (Full time and Part time)
- Direct Support Professionals within ECF
- Job Coach
- Assistant Teacher at Early Learning Center (Full time)
- Floater Teacher at Early Learning Center
- Floater Teacher at Little Learning Lab (Full time)
- ELC/LLL Inclusion Assistant
- Accounts Payable Clerk
- Case Manager
- Professional Services Director

For more info about positions,
contact
connor.mitchell@evcmail.org
or call 865-813-0563



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POPSICLES IN THE PARK: BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER



EVC Early Intervention Team

This summer, Emory Valley Center's Early Intervention team, in collaboration with Service Coordinators from Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS), recognized the importance of building connections not only between providers and families, but also among the families themselves.

To help make that happen, we're excited to host our second Popsicles in the Park event of the season! This special gathering took place on Thursday, June 25, and is designed especially for our North/East region families. Families took part in a afternoon of fun and engagement, including gross motor games, fine motor crafts, and of course delicious popsicles to help beat the heat. It's a wonderful opportunity to socialize, share experiences, and build community in a relaxed, kid-friendly setting.

We're proud to support these moments of connection and joy, and we look forward to out next one!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT-MADISON CROWDER

Please join us in congratulating Madison Crowder on achieving her ACRE – Professional Level Certification from the University of Georgia!

This nationally recognized certification is awarded by the Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) and reflects a high level of professional training and commitment in the field of employment services for people with disabilities. To earn this distinction, Madison completed 40 hours of basic training, an additional 40 hours of ACRE-approved instruction, and fulfilled all required professional development activities. Candidates must also have at least one year of experience in the field something Madison has embraced with passion and excellence.

As a Job Developer at Emory Valley Center, Madison has shown incredible dedication to helping the people we support find meaningful, community-based employment. Her hard work, positive attitude, and desire to keep growing make her an invaluable member of our team.

We are so proud of Madison for reaching this milestone and can't wait to see the continued impact she'll make in our Employment Services program. Congratulations, Madison!



Madison Crowder