



# EMORY VALLEY CENTER

## MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

### FAMILY NEWSLETTER - MAY 2024

#### **Emory Valley Center Mission:**

*To enhance the lives of children, adults and families in an environment that promotes independence, dignity and respect.*

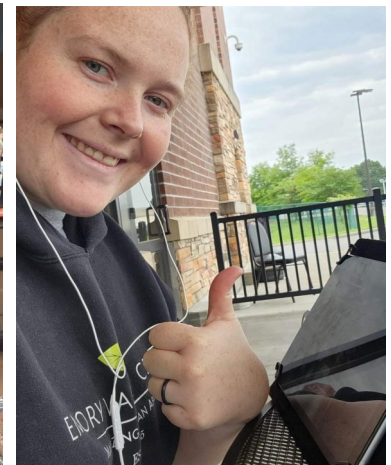
## Remote Job Coaching: A New Step Toward Independence

Allison's first day of remote job coaching was exciting for everyone! During her first remote support shift, the Employment Coach, Kirsten Purinton, supported her with putting her chest strap on, placing her ear bud in, adjusting her phone, and getting her ready to start her shift.

The Employment Coach is supporting Allison remotely via video call throughout her shift. This is another step towards independence for Allison. We asked Kirsten how it's been after a few shifts.

Kirsten said, "Without me being present in person, it has allowed Allison the ability to problem solve and think of solutions for herself instead of turning to staff for the answer. I believe we can support a lot of people at their jobs this way, who may still need a little prompting here and there, but that can complete a majority of their job tasks independently. I'm excited to see Allison continue to grow and learn, with this type of support, she can achieve a lot of her goals that no one thought would ever be possible!"

Hopefully as we build a routine, she can reach full independence one day. I'm so proud of her and I'm so happy to be apart of this team. Miranda Kelley thinks outside of the box and is truly person centered! I'm so excited to see the people we support making strides towards independence and showing they CAN do things on their own!"



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## Employee Recognition by our Board of Directors

Congratulations to Alisha Jones and Dusty Disney for being recognized by our Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment at Emory Valley Center. Alisha Jones is a Home Manager. Her commitment to enhancing the lives of the individuals she supports is evident in her positive efforts to create opportunities for social interaction and foster natural support networks. Her unwavering dedication to staffing and training and her deep understanding and support for the individuals in her care are a testament to her genuine passion for her work. Her positive attitude and team-oriented approach make her an invaluable asset and a pleasure to work with.



Dusty Disney, a Finance Clerk is being recognized for her commitment to the individuals we serve. Dusty embodies EVC's values of compassion, forward thinking, value and quality. Dusty has designed and implemented a budget workbook that helps the people we serve plan for their future in a meaningful way. Dusty provides excellent service to everyone regardless of their level of independence and treats everyone like family. She recognizes that everyone has value and provides value to the organization.

(Photo: Crystal Hicks, Sr VP of Operations, Becky Dodson, Board President, Alisha Jones, Home Manager, Dusty Disney, Finance Clerk, Bryan Taylor, VP of Finance )

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Emory Valley Center Families,

The warmth and renewal of spring are in full swing, bringing with them a renewed sense of purpose and energy to our mission of supporting individuals with disabilities. I am excited to share the latest updates and highlights from our community at Emory Valley Center.

The energy amongst staff is contagious as we see the children and adults that we support surpass their milestones. Our workforce development has begun a new level of job coaching by operating remotely and we are encouraged to see the potential of growth toward independence in the workplace.

This month, we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week, and our incredible staff at the Early Learning Center. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and I want to thank our Behavioral Health team for the diligent work they do. Last month Samantha Townsend received the Ancor award and was recognized nationally as the DSP of the year in Tennessee and at our biggest fundraiser of the year, the 2024 Compassion Award met our financial goal which supports our programs. Thank you for your support.

As we move forward, I want to extend my appreciation to our Emory Valley families. Your dedication, generosity, and passion are the driving forces behind our success. Every contribution, big or small, helps us create a brighter future for the individuals we serve.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together we make a difference in the lives of many.

With warmest regards,

*Jennifer Enderson*, President Emory Valley Center



*Jennifer Enderson, President*

## 2024 COMPASSION AWARD FUNDRAISER

We'd like to thank you for your support of our Compassion Award Fundraiser.

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, we raised over \$26,000 during the event. This remarkable contribution will play a pivotal role in funding the various programs and services offered here at EVC, empowering us to continue making a meaningful difference in our community.

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to Sarah Allen, recipient of this year's Employee Compassion Award! Thank you to Dr. Shirley Raines Speaker, Author and Consultant for her outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment to compassion. Her exemplary leadership serves as an inspiration to us all.

Once again, thank you for your dedication, support, and generosity. Together, we are truly making a difference.





## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Resources for Families:

- This is a wonderful website for anyone seeking resources in Anderson County: [Community Resource Guide November 2020 v9.2 \(myresourceguide.org\)](https://myresourceguide.org)
- ASAP of Anderson offers resources and connections for families to access support for their children and teens regarding Mental Health and Substance Misuse. The organization provides resources for Housing as well as connection to community programs offered by the United Way of Anderson County and Anderson County Health department. ASAP of Anderson also manages initiatives involving medication disposal, medication lock boxes, and TN Save A Life Training- Visit [Resources - ASAP of Anderson](#) or call 865-457-3007.
- <https://www.fratn.com/> Family Resource Agency is an umbrella non-profit organization that serves families, children, and adults in ways that improve their quality of life and enable them to be more self-sufficient, productive members of the community. They oversee Harbor Safe House, a safe place for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. They also manage the TN Head Start program and will assign a Family Advocate to provide support in navigation of the application process and to assist the family in obtaining personal needs that will enhance family life.
- [dRC Programs – disABILITY Resource Center \(drctn.org\)](https://drctn.org) Disability Resource Center also offers a wide variety of programs for families supporting a loved one with disabilities. They offer peer support groups, activities, games, and education about advocacy.
- The Lavender Festival is June 15<sup>th</sup> and is a great opportunity for families to enjoy a day together in the Oak Ridge community. There will be 130 artisans, live music, informative presentations, and children's activities. [Lavender Festival jacksonsquarelavender-festival.org](https://lavenderfestival.org)



A fun day at the car show!



The ladies sitting on the porch on a pretty day.

## EVC EMS DAY

EVC has partnered with the local EMS/Fire Department for an opportunity for people we support through adult services to meet our local first responders and have hands on demonstrations and open discussions. Our aim is to ensure that everyone feels comfortable in the event of an emergency.



Explore Firetrucks

Meet your Local EMS Crews

**FRIDAY JUNE 7TH  
10AM-3PM EVC PARKING LOT**



Thank you for sharing your positive experiences about our staff! If you'd like to recognize an employee for the great work they do, please contact:

**Tiffany Rose**

Email: [tiffany.rose@evcmail.org](mailto:tiffany.rose@evcmail.org)

## Easy Ways To Give. . .



You can help raise funds for Emory Valley Center by participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. **Please check to be sure your donations are going to NPO #WW541 Thank you!**

## CASE MANAGERS (CM)

Sharon Humphreys  
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Jasmine Holsopple  
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*Aisling & Austin loving being at the pet store*

## RESIDENTIAL MANAGERS (RM)

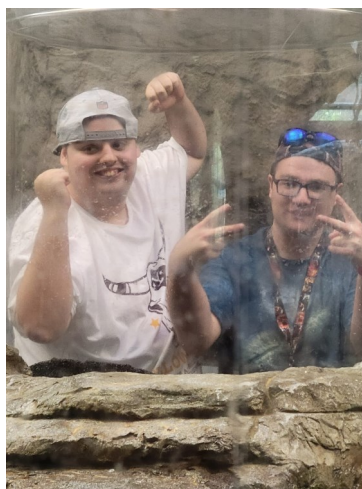
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*Blake and Austin having fun at Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies.*

## OPEN JOB POSITIONS

*If you know someone who may be interested in one of these positions, please contact [Viola.Wharton@evcmail.org](mailto:Viola.Wharton@evcmail.org) or call 865-813-0549*

**Independence and Innovation Specialist-** The role of the Independence and Innovation Specialist encourages our MAPs participants and helps them meet goals as they learn skills to help them work, live independently, and find hobbies that interest them.

**Workforce Innovation Specialist** - Facilitates efforts to assist people supported in achieving their goals and personal visions as outlined by their Support Plans, Individual Plans for Employment and the person's own vision for a meaningful life. This is a supervisory role. Applicant must be ACRE certified and working towards a CESP.

Apply for these jobs and see other jobs available at <https://www.emoryvalleycenter.org/careers/>

## STAFFING UPDATES

### New Hires (Mar.2024– Apr. 2024)

Direct Support Professionals - 37

Early Intervention— 1

### Promotions & Transfers

Charlie Rucker: DSP to Home Manager

Penny Hunley: DSP to Home Manager



Save the Date for the EVC Picnic with fun games, a cake walk, hot dogs and ham-burgers on June 5, 12 pm– 2 pm at EVC.

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## JOB FAIR

June 12, 2024  
 11:00 am- 3:00 pm  
 723 Emory Valley Rd  
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830

LUNCH & BEVERAGES

[emoryvalleycenter.org](http://emoryvalleycenter.org)  
 865-813-0548



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Scan here to be directed to the donation page on our website!



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our Human Resource Department would like to congratulate Casey Chumley on being selected for the Employee Spotlight! Casey joined EVC in April of 2022 as a Residential Manager. Casey came aboard the agency with a background in Program Management from Norris Academy as well as caregiving and leadership skills from Elmcroft Senior Living. She took on a caseload of homes to provide management oversight for both persons supported's well-being, as well as for the staff working in those homes' performance and development. Casey excelled in her role as Residential Manager, developing good rapport with the people she supported and led. As a result, the retention rate of her staff was quite remarkable.



In early March of this year, Casey was promoted to a new position at the agency called Mentorship Support Specialist. In this role, Casey's primary job responsibility is to match newly hired DSPs and Home Managers to a Mentor and then assist those Mentors in cultivating and maintaining relationships that will aid in training, staff development, and retention of staff. In this role, Casey also has the much-important task of conducting new employee orientation and provision of job-specific training that equips the employees with the necessary competencies to succeed. We are very excited to have Casey in the Mentorship Support Specialist role and look forward to the many great accomplishments that she will achieve.



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

### YOUR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS.

Our Behavioral Health team created a MY MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS wall for the people we support and our staff to share their answer to, "Why mental health matters to you!"

Addressing mental health for individuals with DIDD is vital for their overall well-being. It not only improves their quality of life but also supports their families and communities. Recognizing and promoting mental health during Mental Health Month is a step towards a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



*Ruby on the playground at EVELC*

*The East Dalton boys are great friends*

*Anthony, a proud Admiral, at Jennifer Enderson's daughter's graduation.*

*Sr. VP of Operations, Crystal w/ Austin at EVC Social Empowerment Conference*