EMORY VALLEY CENTER
MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION, RECOGNITION, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT AT THE JACK CASE AWARDS

The generosity shown during this year's Jack Case Awards Honoring Leslie England was truly inspiring. Thanks to the incredible support of our donors, sponsors, and community partners, we are proud to announce that more than $125,000 has been raised — with donations still continuing to come in.

This remarkable achievement reflects the compassion and commitment of a community that believes deeply in our mission and the individuals we serve. Every contribution helps strengthen programs, provide meaningful opportunities, and improve the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our community.

The evening was not only a celebration of the legacy of Jack Case and the outstanding contributions of Leslie England, but also a time to recognize individuals who make a lasting impact in our community. During the event, Emory Valley Center proudly presented the Dove Award to Joseph Reed in recognition of his dedication, service, and support of our mission.

The event was a wonderful reminder of what can be accomplished when a community comes together for a shared purpose. We are sincerely grateful for every donation, sponsorship, kind word, and show of encouragement that helped make this year's event such an overwhelming success.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us make a lasting difference.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Families and Friends,

As we reflect on the past few weeks at Emory Valley Center, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible support and dedication shown throughout our community. One of the highlights this season was the outstanding turnout for the Jack Case Awards honoring Leslie England. The evening was truly special as so many individuals, families, and community partners came together to celebrate Leslie's impact and support the mission of EVC. Thanks to your generosity, we are proud to share that we have raised over $125,000, with donations continuing to come in. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed and helped make this event such a success.

We are also excited to share that Emory Valley Center has successfully completed our The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) accreditation process and achieved accreditation for another four years. This accomplishment reflects the dedication of our staff and our continued commitment to providing high-quality, person-centered services and supports for the individuals and families we serve.

We also had the opportunity to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurses Appreciation Week, recognizing the extraordinary educators and nurses who make a difference in the lives of the individuals and families we serve every day. Their compassion, hard work, and commitment are at the heart of everything we do, and we are thankful for all they bring to EVC.

In addition, our Early Intervention team continues to provide meaningful support to families through engaging parent support groups and educational classes. These gatherings offer encouragement, resources, and connection for parents while helping children continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for being part of the EVC family and for your continued support of our mission. Together, we are creating opportunities, building connections, and making a lasting impact in our community.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Enderson
President, Emory Valley Center

CELEBRATING THE CARING HEARTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our organization was proud to celebrate both Nurses Appreciation Week and Teacher Appreciation Week by recognizing the incredible individuals who make a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we serve every day.

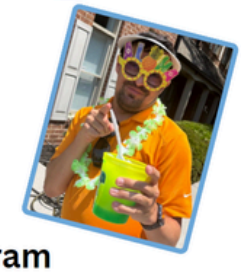
We extend a special thank you to our dedicated nurses, Kristen, Lacey, and Teresa, for their compassion, patience, and exceptional care. Their commitment to supporting individuals and families strengthens our community in countless meaningful ways. We are deeply grateful for the comfort, encouragement, and support they provide each day.

We also celebrated the amazing teachers and staff at our Early Learning Center and Little Learning Lab. Their creativity, dedication, and nurturing spirit help children learn, grow, and build confidence in inclusive environments where every child feels supported and valued. Their influence extends far beyond the classroom, making a positive difference in the lives of so many families.

To all of our nurses, teachers, and staff members — thank you for the heart you bring to your work and for the difference you make each and every day. We are proud to celebrate and appreciate all that you do!

EvC and Camp Koinonia offers new program

19 77 KOINONIA



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

Why Language Matters in Advocacy

Words shape the way we perceive and interact with the world and with each other. When advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), language is a powerful tool that can either reinforce outdated stereotypes or promote true inclusion and respect.

It's important to recognize that supporting people with IDD does not require someone to be an "angel" or a "very special person." These well-meaning phrases, while intended as compliments, set individuals with IDD apart as fundamentally different, which can unintentionally perpetuate stigma. Instead, we should focus on seeing people with IDD as individuals—friends, colleagues, neighbors—who deserve the same dignity and respect as anyone else.

The words we choose matter. Speaking directly to people with IDD, using respectful language, and avoiding patronizing or sensationalized terms help foster a culture of belonging.

Advocacy begins with everyday conversations and the recognition that everyone deserves respect. Along with this respect, it's important to remember that laughter, joy, and fun are natural parts of every relationship. Sharing genuine moments of humor and connection with people with IDD affirms their full participation in all aspects of life.

Choosing our words thoughtfully not only shows respect, but also opens the door to authentic relationships, shared experiences, and true community for everyone.

Sincerely,
Mel Stanley
Advocacy Specialist

Family Resources

Useful Links:

- https://www.thearctn.org/our-programs/people-1/
- https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/information-and-resources/tdhs-resource-library/resources-for-tennesseans-with-disabilities.html
- https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/self-adv/res/

Koinonia Foundation Participant Information Form

5908TooleDriveUnitC | Knoxville,TN37919 | 865-888-7365

Participant Name: _____

GoesBy: _____ Birthdate: _____ Age: _____

Sex: _____ Primary Disability (optional): _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian 1:

Name: _____ Relationship to Participant: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian 2:

Name: _____ Relationship to Participant: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

In case of an emergency, if parent/guardian cannot be reached, please contact:

Name: _____ Relationship to Participant: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Relationship to Participant: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please complete and return via email at msmith@kftn.org

EMORY VALLEY CENTER

DRAGON BOAT RACE

2026

AUGUST 15TH

MELTON LAKE PARK OAK RIDGE, TN

EMORY VALLEY CENTER

MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

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Residential Director:
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OPEN JOB POSITIONS

Direct Support Professional (Full-time, Part-time and Peak Shifts)
Psychosocial Rehabilitation Specialist (PSR)
Family Based Contractor
Employment Coach
Floater at Learning Center
Substitute Teacher Learning Center
Assistant Teacher
Teacher
Early Interventionist

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

SCAN ME!

EMORY VALLEY CENTER
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BOARD RECOGNITION SPOTLIGHT

This month, the Board recognized Bridget and Jamie for the incredible dedication, consistency, and care they bring to our Pre-K classroom each day.

Over the past few months, the growth and transformation in the classroom has been amazing to witness. From helping children learn to write their names and begin reading to creating engaging curriculum experiences and meaningful family celebrations, their impact has been tremendous.

Most importantly, Bridget and Jamie pour their hearts into each child, focusing on individual growth, development, and creating a positive learning environment where every child can thrive. Their hard work, compassion, and commitment make a lasting difference for both the children and families they serve. We are so grateful to have them as part of the ELC family. Thank you both for all that you do each and every day!

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES & PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Emory Valley Center's Behavioral Health Department provides specialized, person-centered services for adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and co-occurring mental health conditions. We support individuals receiving services within our organization as well as those referred by community partners and outside providers.

Our team focuses on promoting emotional well-being, independence, stability, and skill development through a variety of supportive services, including Individual Mental Health Therapy, Adult Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) groups.

Our PSR program offers structured, skill-based group services designed to strengthen emotional regulation, social skills, coping strategies, and daily living skills. Participants engage in therapeutic activities and guided discussions focused on communication, problem-solving, stress management, self-advocacy, vocational readiness, and community integration.

Currently, six PSR groups meet throughout the week, and referrals are open through our website. Services are individualized within the group setting to align with each participant's goals and support plan. By working closely with families, therapists, residential providers, and community partners, our Behavioral Health team helps individuals build confidence, develop practical life skills, and achieve greater independence in a safe and supportive environment.