



EMORY VALLEY CENTER  
MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

# THE VOICE

Community Newsletter



## JOIN US FOR EVC'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BREAKFAST.

Emory Valley Center is excited to invite you to a very special event as we celebrate 70 years of serving our community! Join us for our 70th Anniversary Celebration Breakfast on Friday, November 7, at 7:30 a.m. at the Emory Valley Center main campus.

This milestone event will bring together friends, partners, and community members to reflect on our history, honor our achievements, and look ahead to the future as we continue our mission of supporting children and adults of all abilities.

We hope you will be part of this memorable morning of connection, celebration, and gratitude.

Please RSVP at <https://www.emoryvalleycenter.org/>.

## Board of Directors

**President**

**Sherri Alley**

**Chair/Vice Chair**

**Tim Porter**

**Outgoing Chair**

**Becky Dodson**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Melissa Jackson-**

**Wade**

**Dr. Bob Smallridge**

**Elaine Brubaker**

**Traci Golbach**

**Dana Hewit**

**Jennifer Hultz**

**Rachel Lokitz**

**Douglas Mapp**

**Ruth Rueter**

**John Stults**

**Ashley Saunders**

**Jay Shepard**

**Scott Britton**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2

Dear Friends,

As we move into the fall season, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey of Emory Valley Center over the past 70 years. With times of challenge, growth, and transformation all rooted in the unwavering belief that every person has value and deserves opportunity. What began in 1955 as a small group of families meeting around kitchen tables to advocate for opportunities for their children with disabilities has grown into a thriving organization serving thousands of children and adults every year.



From those humble beginnings, we have expanded to offer a wide range of services, early childhood education, inclusive employment opportunities, behavioral health support, residential programs, workforce training, and so much more. Our story is one of determination, compassion, and community. It is built on the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our donors and volunteers, and, most of all, the incredible resilience of the people we are privileged to support.

This November, we will gather to honor that story with our 70th Anniversary Celebration Breakfast on Friday, November 7, at 7:30 a.m. at our main campus. This will not simply be breakfast, it will be a living tribute to the people and partnerships that have made this journey possible. Together, we will share stories from the past, celebrate the present successes, and cast a vision for the future of inclusion and opportunity in our community. I truly hope you will join us for this special occasion, whether you've been connected to EVC for many years or are just beginning your relationship with us.

Your continued support makes it possible for us to provide life-changing programs, advocate for inclusion, and create opportunities for people of all abilities to thrive. Every donation, volunteer hour, partnership, and word of encouragement strengthen the foundation we continue to build upon.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Enderson

President, Emory Valley Center

# HELP US CELEBRATE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK!

## DSP Week 2025

**A WHOLE WEEK OF EVENTS!**

**SEP 8-12**



EMORY VALLEY CENTER  
MAXIMIZING HUMAN ABILITIES

Every day, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) at Emory Valley Center make a difference in the lives of the people we support. They are the heart of our mission helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live, work, and thrive as part of our community.

September 8–14 is Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, a time to honor these dedicated team members for their skill, compassion, and commitment. Whether they are supporting someone to reach a personal goal, advocating for inclusion, or creating joyful everyday moments, our DSPs embody what it means to serve with heart.

At EVC, our DSPs do so much more than provide support they build relationships, foster independence, and help each person we serve discover and achieve their dreams. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but the impact is lasting and life-changing.

## HOW YOU CAN JOIN THE CELEBRATION:

- Say thank you! A kind word, card, or email can mean the world to a DSP.
- Share their stories. Help us highlight their incredible work on social media by liking, commenting, and sharing our DSP Week posts.
- Advocate for DSPs. Support efforts to improve wages, training, and recognition for this essential workforce.

To every DSP at Emory Valley Center: we see you, we value you, and we appreciate you. Your dedication inspires us all.

Let's make this DSP Week a true celebration of the people who help our mission come to life every single day!

**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 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 part of our team, you'll have the chance to work in a rewarding environment where every day brings new opportunities to empower and uplift others. Whether you're experienced in the field or looking to start a fulfilling new career, we offer a variety of positions to match different skills and interests.



[Apply Here](#)



# ADULT SERVICES

## MAPS TRANSITION HOME SUCCESS STORY:

This month, Tawnee reached an exciting milestone—he paid his own rent for the very first time! After practicing how to write checks, he can now independently manage this important responsibility.

Tawnee lives in a transition home designed for two participants in our MAPs program. Residents receive minimal in-person staff support, just two hours once a week while working toward full independence. Over their three-year program, the goal is for each person to develop the skills needed to live completely on their own in the community. Both current residents have already achieved significant independence. They're employed, confidently navigate the community using e-bikes, ETHRA, or Uber, and use Enabling Technology to support daily life.



## FAMILY SUPPORT CAN HELP WITH EQUINE THERAPY

At Emory Valley Center, our Family Support program provides assistance with many important services and activities that benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One example is equine therapy—a unique and highly effective therapy that uses the movement and connection with horses to build strength, balance, confidence, and emotional well-being.

If you or an immediate family member has a severe, lifelong disability, you may be eligible to receive services from Family Support. Equine therapy, along with many other supports, is just one of the expenses this program can assist with. Every family's needs are different, and our goal is to provide resources that improve quality of life and open doors to new opportunities.

To learn more about the Family Support program, eligibility, and how to apply, please visit: [www.emoryvalleycenter.org/family-support-program](http://www.emoryvalleycenter.org/family-support-program)



## MAPS, CP, AND RESIDENTIAL GROUPS ENJOY A DAY AT SPLATTER

Recently, several of our programs—including MAPs, Community Participation, and Residential groups—joined together for a fun outing to Splatter, an interactive paint studio.

At Splatter, everyone had the chance to get creative using squirt guns, reusable water balloons, and spray bottles filled with paint. Under the glow of black lights, participants decorated the walls—and even each other—with vibrant colors, laughter, and lots of energy.

Each person also received their own canvas to design and take home as a keepsake, making the experience even more special.

We are especially grateful to Splatter for offering Emory Valley Center a discount to make this memorable outing possible.



## CREATING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

One of the most significant impacts of advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) is the promotion of inclusivity. When we support initiatives that empower those with disabilities, we send a message that our community values every member. This fosters a culture of acceptance and understanding. As a result, community events, schools, and workplaces become more diverse spaces, enriching everyone’s experiences.

**Strengthening Community Bonds:** Advocating for individuals with IDD often involves collaboration among various sectors of the community—families, educators, local businesses, and government entities. These shared efforts can lead to increased volunteerism and partnerships, creating a sense of unity and purpose.

**Economic Benefits:** Investing in programs and services for individuals with IDD contributes positively to the local economy. By providing job training, resources, and support for these individuals, communities benefit. When individuals with IDD are supported, they can pursue employment and contribute to local businesses, increasing economic activity and growth.

**Raising Awareness and Education:** Advocacy raises awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with IDD, which in turn fosters education and understanding. As community members become more informed, educational programs can emerge to promote important conversations about disability rights, leading to a more informed public that supports equality and accessibility.

**Enhancing Quality of Life for All:** When communities advocate for individuals with IDD, the positive effects ripple throughout the community, improving life for everyone. Accessible environments—like ramps, elevators, and signage—help parents with strollers, seniors, and others navigate spaces with ease.

By advocating for individuals with IDD, we create a community that thrives on diversity and compassion and that benefits everyone.

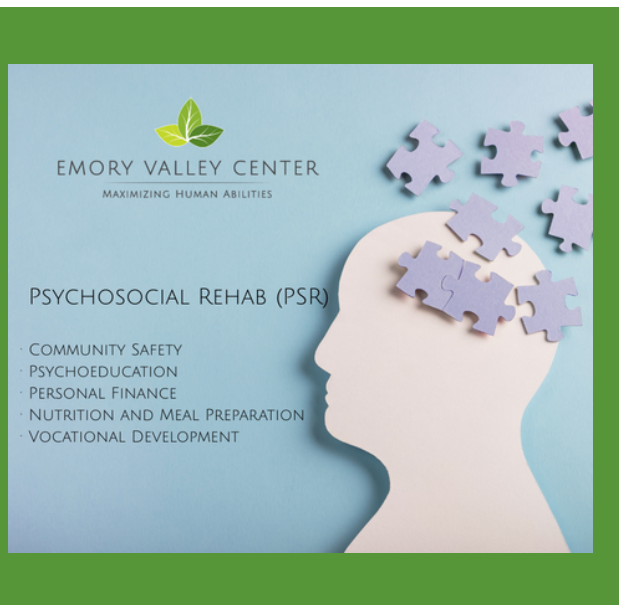
**Mel Stanley**  
Advocacy Specialist



# NOW ENROLLING: PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION (PSR) PROGRAM

Emory Valley Center currently has openings in our Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Program! This program provides a supportive group setting for individuals who are dually diagnosed, helping them build essential life skills, develop social connections, and increase their independence. Participants work toward personal goals at their own pace, with engaging sessions focused on topics such as:

**NOW ENROLLING IN OAK RIDGE AND SOON 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](mailto: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**

 **865-813-0595**

 **crystal.hicks@evcmail.org**

 **2435 Jacksboro Pike, Suite 3, LaFollette, TN 37766**

**SCAN**

