



DSP RECOGNITION WEEK



So much cuteness from Family Support. Emotional Support Dog



Anita's been crafting!



Meet new MAPS participant, Tawnee.

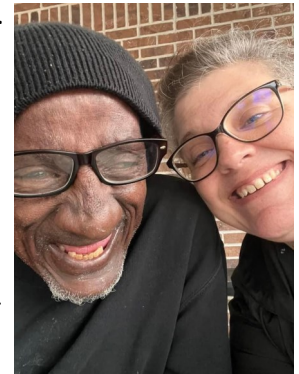


A trip to the Little Debbie Park

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week was Sept. 8-14. DSP Week is a great opportunity to boast about our amazing DSPs though we do our best to let them know how much we appreciate them all year long. The knowledge, skills and abilities that DSPs use daily result in life-long benefits for the people they support.



Emory Valley Center has a team of 220+ DSPs, men and women of various ages and backgrounds who deliver person-centered support, encourage community inclusion, and promote independence in daily activities. They teach, cheerlead, chaperone, advocate, transport and support adults. Our DSPs and the work they do, exemplifies the mission of Emory Valley Center. They are the heart and soul of our values and mission to promote independence, dignity and respect. Thank you to our DSPs.



ANCOR'S 2024 POLICY SUMMIT & HILL DAY

EVC President Jennifer Enderson, Senior VP of Operations, Crystal Hicks and VP of Community Engagement, Aaron Price traveled to Washington, DC for ANCOR'S 2024 Policy Summit & Hill Day. Over 250 advocates representing 30 states came together on Capital Hill September 23 -24 to advocate on behalf of community-based disability services.

This event provides a platform to meet with members of Congress to discuss critical issues. Our advocacy efforts aim to secure better recognition, wages, and career advancement opportunities for DSPs to ensure quality care for those with IDD.



EMORY VALLEY CENTER STAFF

President

Jennifer Enderson

Senior VP of Operations

Crystal Hicks

VP of Professional Services

Kristen Otto

VP of Childrens Services

Anna Moore

VP of Finance

Bryan Taylor

VP of Community Engagement

Aaron Price

VP of Human Resources

Kim Jeffers-Whitaker

Facilities Director

Kevin Hicks

Directors:

Residential

Layla Fisher

Workforce Development

Miranda Kelley

Human Resources

Tiffany Rose

Early Learning Center

Kiersten Wilkerson

Little Learning Lab

Brittany Webb

Professional Services

Michele West

Family Support

Regina Wilson

Early Intervention

Chase Davenport

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Emory Valley Center Community,

As September comes to a close, I want to acknowledge two significant occasions that highlight our commitment to inclusion and advocacy.

First, celebrating Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week. Our DSPs are the heart and soul of our work, providing compassionate care and essential support to individuals with disabilities every day. Their dedication ensures that those we serve can live fulfilling, independent lives. We recognize these incredible professionals, whose contributions make a profound difference in our community. If you have the opportunity, please join us in showing your appreciation for their tireless efforts.

Secondly, I want to draw attention to an important issue: disability voting rights in Tennessee. As we approach election season, it's crucial that all voices, including those of people with disabilities, are heard. Voting is not only a right but a vital part of self-advocacy. We're committed to ensuring that our community is well-informed about the voting process, accessible polling options, and the necessary resources to make sure every eligible voter can participate.

From new partnerships to successful events, our community continues to grow stronger together. Each of you plays a vital role in making this happen. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared mission.

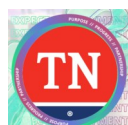
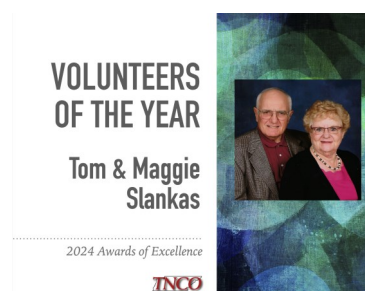
Warm regards,

Jennifer Enderson, President of Emory Valley Center



TNCO AWARDS LUNCHEON

Emory Valley Center shined with recipients of three awards at the TNCO Awards Luncheon this month. Congratulations to Layla Fisher, Residential Director, who won the Rising Star Award, Foundation Board members, Tom and Maggie Slankas won Volunteer of the Year and MAPs participant, Micah Griffin won the Individual Achievement Award. All of these individuals received well deserving recognition. We are very proud of each of them.



THANK YOU ELKS LODGE #1684

A big THANK YOU to Oak Ridge Elks Lodge #1684 for another fantastic Bowling Party. Congratulations to our top scorers, Louann who bowled 108 and Matthew who bowled 128! Thank you to the volunteers from Elks Lodge, and for the pizza and soda for the whole group! We had a blast!



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Our Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon is a thank you to our employees that have been dedicated to Emory Valley Center and our mission for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years! We truly value the outstanding contributions and dedicated service of these men and women which is a testament to their commitment to excellence and quality throughout the years!

Congratulations to EVC employees for years of service: 25 years, Senior VP of Operations Crystal Hicks; 20 years, Penny Cooper and President Jennifer Enderson; 15 years, Edward Copeland and Maria Silverio; 10 years, Layla Fisher, Scott Frostholt, Alicia Jones, Mark Oliver, Kristin Otto, Harold West, and Annette Woods, and 5 years, Teresa Blazer, Denise Kidd, Courtney Kitts, Neal Marks, and Lucinda Miller.



THANK YOU PLAYTIME 4 PATIENTS



Thank you Playtime 4 Patients for collecting toys for our Family Support program.

Toy donations collected at Brickonomicon this month will be used as birthday gifts for people we support through Family Support.

Co-founder of Playtime for Patients, Randy Lee has a daughter who has been supported through EVC for almost a decade. We appreciate this business's support and heart for the IDD community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Becky Dodson

Chair/Vice Chair

Sherri Alley

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Dr. Traci Golbach

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Douglas Mapp

Ruth Ruetter

Ashley Saunders

John Stults

Brian Young

Timothy Porter

Melissa Jackson-Wade



Emory Valley Center is enhancing the lives of children, adults and families. Your generosity can make a significant difference. Please consider making a donation to support our mission. Scan the QR code to be directed to our donation page on our website.





LOVE WHAT YOU DO!

Become a Direct Support Professional!

- \$500 Sign On Bonus
- Average pay \$17.79/hr.
- 3 day work week
- Premium pay on weekends

Why do DSPs love their job?

Being a DSP is very rewarding and gives you a sense of purpose as you directly

contribute to the quality of life of others! To apply visit our career page: <https://www.emoryvalleycenter.org/careers/>

DISABILITY VOTING RIGHTS



Disabled voters are an important voting block that still face systemic barriers to the ballot box.

Several federal laws protect the registration and voting rights of Americans with disabilities

Whether you vote in person or by mail, you have a right to accessibility accommodations. You can find your rights and resources in TN here:

<https://www.disabilityrightstn.org/resources/voting/>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Photo: Crystal Hicks, Sr. VP of Operations, Sheri Alley, Vice Chair Board of Directors, Cory Depuy, Home Manager, Heather Terry, ELC Teacher, Kiersten Wilkerson, Early Learning Center Director.

During September's Board of Directors meeting, Cory DePuy, Home Manager, was recognized by Crystal Hicks, Sr. VP of Operations and Heather Terry, Early Learning Center teacher, was recognized by Kiersten Wilkerson, Early Learning Center Director.

Crystal shared Cory's positive influence. "Cory's dedication has made a profound impact on the lives of the men he supports. Their happiness is evident, and their families appreciate Cory's leadership and care. For example, Willie negotiates his shower schedule with Cory, Jerry follows him closely throughout the day, Jimmy enjoys taking charge in his "office." And we have noticed a remarkable transformation in James, who now radiates happiness and enthusiasm. We deeply appreciate everything Cory has done for the men at Latimer, and I am excited about his leadership at Livingston. I'm grateful for the positive influence he's had on their lives and for the lasting contributions he's made to Emory Valley Center."

Kiersten Wilkerson praised Heather's dedication. "Heather is a wonderful teacher and has really taken to the Creative Curriculum. She has implemented it wonderfully in the classroom and she is always engaging with the students. She works hard to make sure her class has the best experience every day, and it shows in the parent compliments and the growth of her students. We are so grateful to have Heather as part of the EVC team! "

MAPs participant, Scott has joined the Emory Valley Center IT Committee. Scott's history as an IT consultant, being an owner of his own business, and his experience in computer programming makes him a valuable addition to the committee.

