

# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

Date: October 8, 2009

Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries

2101 Highway 80

Haughton, LA 71037

For more information contact: Becky Howland, Development Director

Office: (318) 949-5537\* Fax: (318) 949-5540

Email: [bhowland@epmi.org](mailto:bhowland@epmi.org)

### **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries provides many services for people with disabilities including vocational and pre-vocational training, as well as supported employment. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Evergreen recognizes those clients who play a vital role in the workplace.

October is "National Disability Employment Awareness Month". Congress had first enacted Public Law 176, in 1945, designating the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." However, in 1988, Congress changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Evergreen has clients who are employed by companies such as Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut and Ross, just to name a few. Kurt, an Evergreen client from Evergreen's Northwest Louisiana Division has been working at the Wal-Mart in Bossier City since February 9, 2008. Kurt came to Evergreen after an accident left him with a brain injury resulting in a developmental disability. Earning a paycheck and interacting with his fellow team members are just some of the things that Kurt enjoys because of his employment at Wal-Mart.

Kurt is a great example of how having a job can provide for someone with a disability a sense of purpose and accomplishment. He, like so many other Evergreen clients that are working, feel a deep sense of pride knowing that they play a significant role in the workforce.

Evergreen's mission is helping people with disabilities build better lives and part of that mission is to continue to integrate people with disabilities more fully in every aspect of life. For 50 years Evergreen has been committed to fulfilling its mission. Evergreen is a nonprofit, premier provider of services to nearly 1,000 individuals in six states.



*Kurt with his mother being interviewed by Ron Young at the 2009 Celebrity Waiter Dinner.*