

# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

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Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries

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### EVERGREEN MARKS 50 YEARS OF SERVING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries is celebrating 50 years of helping people with disabilities build better lives. The North Central Texas Division will be hosting an open house to their clients, family members, staff, donors, and members of the community to mark this momentous occasion on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Established in 1959, Evergreen started with a Presbyterian minister along with a small staff and four young men who had both mental retardation and behavioral problems. The program began in an abandoned schoolhouse located in the pinewoods of northwest Louisiana. From 1959 to the late 1970s, an institution was created and eventually grew to house and treat 240 clients.

In 1980, Evergreen began its conversion from an institutional to a community-based setting with the opening of two group homes. The movement away from the institutional setting culminated with the closing of the campus in the summer of 1995.

Over the last 50 years, Evergreen has experienced tremendous growth and continued expansion. Today, Evergreen supports and serves nearly 1,000 individuals in Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kentucky. While a majority of these individuals are served in community homes, recent years have seen an increasing emphasis on the development of supported and independent living programs. In addition to these residential services, Evergreen offers respite, family support, personal care attendant services, crisis intervention and a wide variety of vocational programs emphasizing supported employment.

“In the last 50 years the need for our services has increased and Evergreen has been through constant evolution and seen tremendous growth. We have and will continue to provide the highest quality care to our clients through the services we offer,” said Evergreen’s President, John Taylor. “As we celebrate our 50th anniversary our mission remains unchanged, helping those with disabilities build better lives.”

Under the direction of, Alicia Johnson, Division Director, North Central Texas serves over 140 clients throughout the Dallas and Fort Worth areas.

The anniversary celebration for Evergreen will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Jubilee Hall located inside of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church located at 9800 Preston Road in Dallas. For more information please contact: Alicia Johnson at 972.386.4834.

Please visit our Web-site at [www.epmi.org](http://www.epmi.org) to learn more about Evergreen.

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