

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: October 12, 2009

Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries

1420 Donelson Pike, Suite B-19

Nashville, TN 37217

For more information contact: Jovanna Emerson, Director of Development

Office: (615) 618-5151

Email: jemerson@epmi.org

EVERGREEN CELEBRATES NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries provides numerous vocational services for people with developmental disabilities including training, day programs and supported employment in the community. As we enter "National Disability Employment Awareness Month," Evergreen recognizes and celebrates clients who play a vital role in the workplace.

October is designated "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." In 1945, Congress enacted Public Law 176 which named the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." The name was changed in 1988, and the entire month of October became "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

Evergreen has several clients employed in the Nashville area. One client, Aaron, proudly works in Aramark Food Services at Tennessee State University in Nashville. He works every Monday through Friday from 10:30 to 2:30. Aaron has many important duties at TSU, including wiping off cafeteria tables, stocking napkins and refilling the salt and pepper containers. Evergreen staff are responsible for transporting Aaron to and from work each day, ensuring that he has a clean uniform shirt and cap and providing any support necessary for him to be successful in his vocational endeavors.

Aaron is just one example of how having a job can provide a sense of purpose and accomplishment for people with disabilities. He, like so many other Evergreen clients that are working, feel a deep sense of pride knowing they are contributing meaningfully to the workplace.

Evergreen's mission is helping people with disabilities build better lives. A large part of that mission is to continue to integrate people with disabilities more fully into every aspect of the community, including vocational settings. For 50 years, Evergreen has successfully fulfilled its mission. Evergreen is a nonprofit, premier provider of services to nearly 1,000 individuals in six states.

Evergreen provides services in Tennessee, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and Kentucky, and is corporately based in Haughton, Louisiana. Evergreen has offices in Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville and Greeneville, TN.

Please visit our Web-site at www.epmi.org to learn more about Evergreen. ###