

# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

Date: October 12, 2009

Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries

7725 West Britton Road

Oklahoma City, OK 73162

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 Oklahoma City. One client, Anna May, proudly works at Wal Mart and has been a devoted employee there for over 15 years. Another client, Lonita, has been working at Tinker Air Force Base for seven years where she serves lunch and cleans. Some of Evergreen's clients have even succeeded at starting their own business such as Oklahoma client, Erin, who sells Scentsy products which requires her to organize and host parties in her home. Evergreen staff are responsible for transporting clients to and from work each day, and providing any support necessary for them to be successful in his vocational endeavors.

Anna May, Lonita and Erin are just a few examples of how having a job can provide a sense of purpose and accomplishment for people with disabilities. They, 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 Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Kentucky, and is corporately based in Haughton, Louisiana. Evergreen has offices in Oklahoma City and Enid, OK.

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