

# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

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### **THE REES-JONES FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO EVERGREEN FOR INNOVATIVE COMPUTER TRAINING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Evergreen's North Central Texas program was recently awarded a \$40,000 grant from Dallas-based The Rees-Jones Foundation to continue a computer-based training program for adults with developmental disabilities. Clients in Dallas and Fort Worth are making great strides as a result of the program which was introduced in late 2008. The pilot project year was also funded by The Rees-Jones Foundation.

Computer-based training has proven to be extremely effective at teaching individuals with disabilities a variety of skills and helping them reach goals they never thought possible. Evergreen's clients who wanted to have more control over their lives now do; they are able to use computers to interact socially, to research community outings and job openings, to e-mail family members and to even do their own online banking. Lower functioning clients have also benefited greatly from this program by using specialized software to learn math skills, such as counting money or telling time, practicing social skills in a virtual environment in preparation for real-life social interactions. While they are learning many new skills, perhaps the best result is that these individuals are now more independent and confident as a result of the innovative program.

Evergreen's mission is helping people with disabilities build better lives. 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's home office is located in Haughton, Louisiana.

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

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