



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 4, 2012

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OCTOBER NAMED DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE HIGHLIGHT ABILITIES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam is designating October as Disability Employment Awareness Month to generate awareness about the talents and abilities of Tennessee citizens with disabilities.

“A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?” is the theme of the 2012 National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The theme calls attention to a potentially untapped personnel resource in Tennessee and across the country – persons with disabilities.

“Unemployment among persons with disabilities is a challenge that affects all of our citizens,” Haslam said. “By making a conscious effort, each of us can make a difference.”

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) provides rehabilitation services to Tennesseans with disabilities. A number of individuals with the most significant disabilities, such as quadriplegia, blindness and traumatic brain injuries, have found employment after completing rehabilitation programs through DHS and community partners during the fiscal year 2011-12.

“Businesses that actively recruit qualified employees with disabilities often discover untapped skills and talents. As a group often overlooked, persons with disabilities are committed and motivated employees,” said DHS Commissioner Raquel Hatter. “They also contribute valuable consumer perspectives regarding what the disability market needs and desires.”

Vocational rehabilitation offices across the state as well as the seventeen Tennessee Rehabilitation Centers located in rural communities and the residential comprehensive Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna provide numerous services to clients, including vocational training, physical or occupational therapy and transitional life skills. For more information on the TRCs across Tennessee, please, visit <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehab/vrs.html>.

DHS staff members are working with businesses and agencies across Tennessee on activities recognizing Disability Employment Awareness Month. Attached is a partial list of scheduled events.

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15th FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
615.313.4700

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH SCHEDULE

October 2	Joint City and County signing of Proclamation for Disability Employment Awareness Month at 9 a.m. Contact: Lisa Kinkade (731) 423-5620 ext. 328	Jackson City Hall 101 East Main Street Jackson, TN
October 3	Disability Employment Awareness Month Community Open House from 7a.m. to 10a.m. Contact: Valerie Caldwell-Buford (615)790-5509	TN Rehabilitation Center at Franklin 1405 A Brookwood Ave Franklin, TN
October 6	Go! Fest Sponsored by the City of Chattanooga area industry and agencies strives to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: Phillip Stevens (423) 425-7800	Chattanooga Zoo at Warner Park 301 North Holtzclaw Avenue Chattanooga, TN
October 9	Fourth Annual Forum for Employers & Business Owners sponsored by Anderson County Chamber of Commerce & Emory Valley Center from 8 a.m. to Noon Contact: Anderson County Chamber of Commerce to RSVP (865) 457-2559	Pollard Technology Conference Center 210 Badger Avenue Oak Ridge, TN
October 10	Disability Employment Awareness Month Community Open House & TN Career Coach from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Kim Hasty (931) 962-1162	TN Rehabilitation Center at Winchester 135 Baxter Lane Winchester, TN
October 10	Greene County Personnel Association/Workforce Employer Outreach Committee(WEOC) Disability Month Symposium at Noon Contact: C-Ann Chapman (423) 534-1760	General Morgan Inn 111 N Main Street Greeneville, TN
October 11	Abilities Expo from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Linda Baharloo (615) 459-6811	TN Rehabilitation Center at Smyrna 460 Ninth Avenue Smyrna, TN

October 12	Disability Employment Awareness Month Community Open House/Resource Fair From 9 a.m. to 1p.m. Contact: Virginia Talley (931) 648-5560	TN Rehabilitation Center at Clarksville 1575 Corporate Parkway Boulevard Clarksville, TN
October 16	West TN Society for Human Resource Management Gaining Understanding in Disability Empowerment Conference from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: Lisa Kinkade (731) 423-5620 ext 328	Union University Carl Grant Event Center 1050 Union University Drive Jackson, TN
October 17	Disability Employment Awareness Month Community Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Delwyn Smith (423) 478-0332	TN Rehabilitation Center at Cleveland 3069 Overlook Drive Suite B Cleveland, TN
October 17	Disability Awareness Fair from 8a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Amy Howell (931) 526-4721 ext 113	TN Rehabilitation Center at Cookeville 955 East 20 th Street Cookeville, TN
October 17	Career & Community Resource Fair From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: Bradley Moss (731) 884-2600	TN Rehabilitation Center at Union City 1419 North Morgan Ext. Union City, TN
October 17	Disability Mentoring Day Contact: Trish Farmer (615) 313-4907	Statewide
October 18	Ability Focus Job Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Virginia Talley (931) 648-5560	TN Rehabilitation Center at Clarksville 1575 Corporate Parkway Boulevard Clarksville, TN
October 18	Northeast TN Workforce Investment Board Annual Luncheon Meeting Let's Do Lunch at Noon Contact: Teresa Smith (423) 434-6613	Carnegie Hotel 1216 West State of Franklin Johnson City, TN

October 22	Knoxville Area Employment Consortium and Knoxville Business Advisory Council Disability Employment Awareness Breakfast Program from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Contact: Tina Jones (865) 594-6060 ext 1105	Knoxville Downtown Hilton Hotel 501 Church Avenue Knoxville, TN
October 23	Area Recognition Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Contact: Ronda Baker (731) 286-8315	TN Rehabilitation Center At Dyersburg 1365 Morgan Road Dyersburg, TN
October 23	Disability Employment Awareness Month Community Open House with Career Coach From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact: Linda Suddarth (615) 451-5826	TN Rehabilitation Center at Gallatin 1019 Union School Road Gallatin, TN
October 23	Paris/Henry County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Expo from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact: Chamber of Commerce (731) 642-3431	Henry County Fairgrounds Building 817 Royal Oak Drive Paris, TN
October 25	Regional Workforce Employer Outreach Committee (WEOC) and Chamber Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Contact: Teresa Smith (423) 434-6613	TN Rehabilitation Center at Elizabethton 407 Cherokee Park Drive Elizabethton, TN
October 25	Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities Recognition Awards at 5:30 p.m. Contact: Bridget Galvin (615) 862-6034	Nashville Farmer's Market 900 Rosa Parks Boulevard Nashville, TN
October 26	Disability Employment Awareness Month Community Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Pam Furlong (615) 898-8088	TN Rehabilitation Center at Murfreesboro 1132 Haley Road Murfreesboro, TN
October 31	Area Recognition Awards Luncheon by Southeast Placement Consortium from 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Contact: Carol Martin at cmartin6@utk.edu	Chattanooga Convention & Trade Center One Carter Plaza Chattanooga, TN

October 31

Disability Employment Awareness Day
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Contact: Deborah Quillen (865) 981-2382

TN Rehabilitation Center
at Maryville
1749 Triangle Park Drive
Maryville, TN

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