



Easterseals TN

ALL ABILITIES. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

Easterseals Tennessee camps offer children and adults living with disabilities the opportunity for fun, recreation, and making friends while improving health, well-being, and self-esteem. Camp also offers families much-needed respite from their daily caregiving responsibilities.

The Empowering Effect of Easterseals Tennessee Adult Camps

Being away from home for the first time typically creates anxiety and stress for most people. So, imagine the hesitancy and fear Randy felt leaving home for the first time to attend Easterseals Tennessee's summer camp, especially since he was from a small town and several hours away from familiar surroundings.

When Randy arrived at camp, the staff noticed he was quiet and a little shy. However, because of his smile and his personable attitude, it did not take Randy long to adjust and strike up a conversation with other adult campers. Within a short time, Randy became more comfortable and found his fears were not as overwhelming as he had first imagined. As his camp session progressed, Randy laughed, sang karaoke, and seemed to enjoy every activity camp had to offer. The initial anxiety he felt quickly gave way to a sense of belonging as he made friends and embraced the Easterseals Tennessee camp experience.

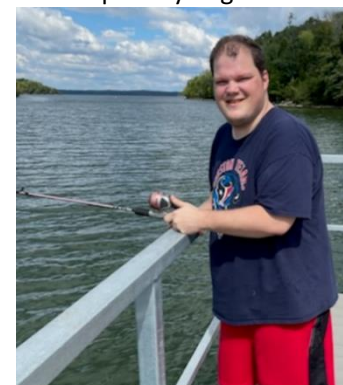


Upon returning from camp, Randy told his mother his favorite activities at camp were riding on the pontoon boat with his new friends, exploring the woods, and fishing. Having never fished, he reminisced about the excitement and leisure of daily fishing off the dock. Randy still talks about the food at camp and how delicious it was. Randy even brags he went back "for seconds" during many of the meals. He also recalls how nice and accommodating the camp staff were towards all the campers. Randy's mother reports how thrilled she is he attended camp because it was such a meaningful opportunity for him.

The joy Randy found in the simple pleasures at camp illustrates the profound impact of camp. Randy found something at Easterseals Tennessee Adult camp many might take for granted: connection. Camp provided Randy not just fun activities, but a sense of belonging---a feeling he had not often encountered previously.

Randy often repeats he is "counting the days to this summer and going back to camp". His experience has led to unexpected personal growth and development making him more confident, independent, and eager to face new challenges in the future.

Randy's story is a reminder sometimes, even small steps into the unknown can open doors to enriching lives in ways never anticipated.



Supported Employment Provides Customized Job Placement



Easterseals Tennessee is proud to announce five people supported through our employment program are off to a great start in 2025. They worked tirelessly on job training skills, interviewing for jobs, and recently obtained employment with the help of a job coach.

Featured are two of the five individuals who began the new year with a new job. Josh went to work at a local Dollar General store and is thrilled to be in retail, because he loves people and keeping the shelves stocked. Juwan, who started with Sonic Drive-In, comments he enjoys working in the kitchen and filling drink orders.

All five of the newly hired individuals expressed the desire to find employment, socialization, and the satisfaction of earning a paycheck. Based on their hard work and results of each of them securing employment, their wishes have come true.

2025 Adult Spring Camp Is Just Around the Corner



Creating masterpieces through artwork is very popular with many adult campers.

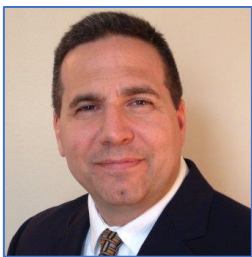


The chance to hit the bullseye makes archery a daily activity no matter what the weather.



Pontoon boat rides to enjoy the scenery and water with friends is a favorite for all.

Learn more at <https://www.easterseals.com/tennessee/our-programs/camping-recreation/>. Sessions fill quickly so register as soon as possible.



Tim Ryerson, President and CEO

President and CEO Corner

Easterseals Tennessee advocates daily for disability support services across Tennessee. In March of each year, Easterseals Tennessee leads the way by coordinating in-person visits with state legislators to discuss a variety of topics. It is a large team coming together to share life stories experienced within the disability service industry.

One of the most enlightening parts of these annual visits are the stories shared by the people Easterseals Tennessee supports. Communicating challenges and successes informs state senators and representatives how funding can impact a person's life. It is also powerful to witness the people supported and their families sharing their own narratives and leaving the visit feeling their voices were heard.

March is just around the corner, and we would like to invite you to support disability advocacy with us. Many voices sharing similar messages does make a difference. Please feel free to contact us at 615-292-6640, if you would like to participate in the annual event on March 4th.

CONNECT WITH US

www.easterseals.com/tennessee

@EasterSealsTennessee



@eastersealstn



or scan



2025 Board of Directors

Lee Molette, *Chair*
Caryl Atwood, *Secretary*
Steve Deckard, *Treasurer*
Perry Moulds, *Past Chair*
Nasiya V. Acklen
Deana Farris
Joshua Surre
Leon Wright