



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **TVS Celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

**(Brevard, NC) — October 18, 2019—** Transylvania Vocational Services (TVS) has been actively participating in National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of NDEAM is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "The Right Talent, Right Now."

In honor of NDEAM, TVS would like to mention the achievements of our Employment Specialists this past month. Along with the dozens of job opportunities at the TVS facility, the Employment Services team at TVS matches adults with disabilities with competitive employment opportunities at other regional businesses. Job Coaches that are part of the TVS Employment Services team provide varying levels of assessment, training, coaching and follow-up to ensure the placement is a successful match.

This year the TVS Employment Services team nominated local childcare center, Nanna's and Mommy's, Too, for the M.A.R.C. (Marketing Association of Rehabilitation Centers) Employer of the Year Award. In early October, the childcare center was announced the winner of the state-wide contest for going above and beyond with current employees that have been placed through the TVS Employment Services.

"I was overwhelmed with joy when I received the call that our organization was chosen as the recipient for the MARC award," said Nanna's and Mommy's, Too Administrator and Director Mireille Thompson. "Our organization has been striving to provide our community with the best possible employment opportunities by having competitive wages, employee benefits and superior employee morale."

"We feel privileged to have such a positive influence and relationship within our community members and we envision to continue to be leaders in our county for equal opportunity employment and trust people will think of us first for line of work."

Success is found in the recognition of achievement and finding the correct job opportunities allows for individuals to grow and thrive in the community. None of which would be possible without the support of local businesses.

"Working with companies, as well as the individuals receiving services, allows for a job to be found and filled. Not only does the individual attain a job, they also are able to make a daily difference in the

company,” said Employment Specialist Megan Pilley. “Matching a person’s interests to a job that will benefit from their strengths also leads to longevity and commitment from the individual.”

Also this month, a TVS programs participant and Employment Services client was recognized and awarded a plaque by our local BI-LO store for five years of service.

“At TVS, we strive to promote employment opportunities for workers with disabilities, while upholding their rights to self-determination and encouraging self-sufficiency. We are honored to be a part of NDEAM and celebrate employment for workers with disabilities,” said TVS CEO, Jamie Brandenburg.

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year, “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1962, the word “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

“Every day, individuals with disabilities add significant value and talent to our workforce and economy,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. “Individuals with disabilities offer employers diverse perspectives on how to tackle challenges and achieve success. Individuals with disabilities have the right talent, right now.”

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages — during October and throughout the year — by visiting [www.dol.gov/NDEAM](http://www.dol.gov/NDEAM).

Learn more about TVS at [www.tvsinc.org](http://www.tvsinc.org).

Written by Jenifer Welch