



EVERGREEN Exclamations!

2nd Quarter | 2019

EVERGREEN CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1959 a gallon of gas cost 25 cents; Alaska and Hawaii became states; Mattel's Barbie doll hit the shelves and a few parents in a sleepy northern Louisiana town had a dream. They dreamed that their adult sons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) could attend an overnight summer camp.

Summer camp for people with I/DD may not seem like a groundbreaking idea now, but 60 years ago, there were few, if any options. Programs and activities to assist in the development and care of children and adults with I/DD simply did not exist.

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The founding families of Evergreen refused to accept institutionalization as their only option. The Presbyterian leaders within the Synod of Louisiana, now known as the Synod of the Sun, took this dream and turned it into a reality greater than they could ever have imagined.

Evergreen was born, with a mission to provide people with I/DD with the skills needed to become contributing members of their communities.

"The idea that a person with an intellectual disability could be a part of society, have a job, learn life skills and not be confined to a life of institutional monotony was revolutionary at that time," Sue Buchholtz, CEO of Evergreen Life Services said.

Evergreen grew. From four people served the first year, to 50 the third year, to nearly 300 in its 11th year. Evergreen's reputation across the United States also grew. Soon, Evergreen was recognized as a national leader in serving people with I/DD.

Before long, the people served by

Evergreen were finding jobs and living in their communities. Their parents finally achieved peace of mind, knowing that their sons and daughters would be well taken care of and lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Thanks to you, we now serve more than 1,100 people across eight states

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THE KENTUCKY WILDCATS' BIGGEST FAN

Can you guess who the No.1 team in NCAA basketball history is?

Kelly, an individual served by Evergreen's Kentucky Division, can tell you. "The Kentucky Wildcats!" she will exclaim.

Kelly will also tell you that the Wildcats have won more than 2,000 games. That her cousin goes to University of Kentucky. And that she's been the Wildcats biggest fan for as long as she can remember.

Kelly's life-long dream was to attend a Wildcats Basketball game. Her Evergreen staff worked with Kelly to create a monthly budget to help her save for a ticket. Kelly put a little bit of money away each month for years.

Last basketball season, Kelly



Above: Kelly was all-smiles watching her beloved Wildcats

achieved her dream. She cheered shoulder-to-shoulder in a sea of blue and white as the Wildcats took on the Tennessee Volunteers. She bought a Wildcats cup to take her medicine with – her lucky cup. And if you ask Kelly what her favorite part of the game was, she'll say "everything was my favorite."

Kelly's dream came true because of your support. Your contributions allow Evergreen to hire staff to work with Kelly, and the more than 1,100 individuals we serve, to learn important life skills – skills like creating a budget and saving toward a goal. Thank you for all that you do to give people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the ability to be as independent as possible.

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(Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and Florida) with diverse programs and supports, ranging from day programs, to community homes, to vocational training and

much more. We have closed three institutional facilities, moving the residents into homes in their communities. Hundreds of people served by Evergreen have found jobs. We change lives – every day.

Sure, gas is no longer a quarter and the original Barbie is a collector's item. But today, your support has kept the Evergreen dream alive. Thank you for making all the difference!

EVERYONE'S HEALTH MATTERS AT EVERGREEN'S FIRST HEALTHCARE CLINIC



Thanks to your generosity, people with disabilities in Greeneville, Tennessee and the surrounding areas no longer have to look far for quality and compassionate healthcare. It's been almost one year since Evergreen opened Abundant Healthcare Clinic. This new clinic was established when Evergreen staff noticed an unmet need in the community and among the people Evergreen served.

People with I/DD oftentimes have complex medical needs, with more than 40 percent battling chronic health conditions. Yet quality and consistent healthcare for these individuals is hard to find. In rural communities like Greeneville, this is even more apparent. There are less options and individuals can expect to travel long distances to see their doctor.

Additionally, when providers treating individuals with I/DD do not have training or experience working with this specific population, it can result in inadequate care. Diagnoses are missed. Symptoms

[Abundant cont. back cover...](#)



Above and right: Abundant Healthcare Clinic's practitioners have experience and training in treating individuals with I/DD.





are overlooked or attributed to something else. Drugs are prescribed to mask the actual problem, and the cost to provide healthcare to these vulnerable individuals soars.

With your continued support, Evergreen hopes to open more Abundant Healthcare Clinics in underserved communities. Together, we can increase access to quality healthcare for people with I/DD and others in need. This program is a great example of Evergreen's motto, Everyone Matters!

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