



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES OVERCOME BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

MORE THAN 70 STUDENTS GAIN SKILLS TO ENTER OR RETURN TO THE WORKFORCE

SMYRNA , Tenn.— Dozens of young men and women with significant disabilities, including traumatic brain injury, mental retardation and blindness, accepted their graduation certificates from the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna today. All of the students are determined to improve their lives and enter or return to the workforce.

The 74 new graduates took advantage of the diverse programs offered at TRC, including Building Maintenance, Business Education Training, Food Service, Custodial Training and Warehouse Training.

TRC's mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in a positive and productive learning environment. The services offered at TRC assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.

“Graduation is the highlight of a student’s time at the TRC,” said DHS Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Andrea Cooper. “The hard work done by both students and staff is recognized at the ceremony, but the true reward is when our students land their first job and earn that first paycheck.”

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only eight such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC varies, depending upon the individual client’s interest, abilities and needs. TRC is part of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

TRC serves more than 1,300 individuals with disabilities each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 30,000 Tennesseans.

For more information about TRC, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Tennessee Department of Human Services, visit www.tn.gov/humanserv .

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