



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Heidi Hoffercker

[hhoffercker@orangegrove.org](mailto:hhoffercker@orangegrove.org), (423) 664-4805

### **ORANGE GROVE CENTER'S MORTON J. KENT HABILITATION CENTER CELEBRATES ITS 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Chattanooga, TN* – On Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, Orange Grove Center's Morton J. Kent Habilitation Center is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members of the community are welcome to join Orange Grove in commemorating this milestone by visiting Orange Grove's main campus at 615 Derby Street. The celebration will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 3 p.m.

The Morton J. Kent Habilitation Center – often shortened to the “Hab Center” by Orange Grove staff and individuals – coordinates Orange Grove's strategic alliances with national and international teaching, research, and advocacy organizations working to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in every arena. Hab Center staff ensure that people with IDD have a representative seat at the table with rulemaking bodies, industry practice groups, health care practice and research groups, and governmental councils and advisory groups.

The namesake of the Hab Center, Morton J. Kent, was a World War II Signal Corps veteran who was first introduced to Orange Grove through its work program with a ballpoint pen assembly line. Kent would go on to serve on Orange Grove's board for over 40 years, during which time he helped guide rapid development and expansion of operations and facilities.

Celebrating 30 years, the Hab Center – under the leadership of Director Dr. Rick Rader – continues to be a center of excellence, and has far exceeded the dreams of the original board members of Orange Grove who were instrumental in its creation.

The Hab Center was created “to identify, create and promote the emerging best practices in providing comprehensive and collaborative healthcare to people with disabilities across the lifespan,” according to Rader. “[The Habilitation Center] mentors medical and dental students from around the world and contributes to teaching, advocacy, and research in areas such as aging, dementia, self-determination and community inclusion.”

Today, the Morton J. Kent Habilitation Center resides on the western end of Orange Grove's main campus, and has recently undergone renovations coinciding with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, featuring new installations showcasing Orange Grove's past and present. As part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, a time capsule will be sealed, ensuring the preservation of Orange Grove's history as it looks to serve future generations.

#### **About Orange Grove Center**

Founded in 1953, Orange Grove Center is a private, non-profit organization that serves 1,000+ adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the Chattanooga and North Georgia areas. For more information about programs and services, visit <https://www.orangegrovecenter.org/>. For weekly updates, follow @orangegrovectr on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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