

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** May 2, 2025

**CONTACT:** Heidi Hoffecker  
[hhoffecker@orangegrove.org](mailto:hhoffecker@orangegrove.org), (423) 664-4805

### ORANGE GROVE CENTER HOSTS ROYAL PROM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD

*Chattanooga, TN* - As students across Chattanooga donned tuxes and gowns for prom, Orange Grove Center joined in the celebration. On Friday, April 25, Orange Grove individuals aged 17 and up with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) were invited to attend a “Royal” Prom.

The evening was magical. Guests arrived dressed as princes and princesses and were greeted with a red-carpet entrance, a royal photography backdrop, photo booth, lively DJ, and festive decorations. Orange Grove’s cafeteria was transformed into a stunning blue and silver ballroom, complete with floor-to-ceiling streamers, decadent desserts, and elegant table arrangements. A highlight of the evening was Miss Chattanooga Iris Teen 2025, Autumn Perez, crowning Linda Romans and Bobby House as the Royal Prom Queen and King.

In the weeks leading up to the event, staff members helped build anticipation by leading spirited cheers during lunch, producing promotional content, and organizing a pop-up boutique where attendees could shop for prom outfits. Thanks to their dedication, the Royal Prom welcomed 400 excited guests.

Orange Grove would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the 23 student volunteers from Boyd Buchanan, Chattanooga Christian School, Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences, and Notre Dame High School, and two faculty volunteers from McCallie School. Volunteers played a vital role in the evening’s success by assisting with check-in, refreshments, dancing, and helping to create a truly unforgettable experience for all. Orange Grove is also deeply grateful to the many additional volunteers—including family members, community partners, and Orange Grove staff—whose support and enthusiasm helped make the night so special.

#### 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.

###