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## Orange Grove Celebrates 70 Years With Kickoff Event

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Orange Grove will hold a kickoff event on Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Waterhouse Pavilion at Miller Plaza to announce a series of events throughout the year celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary – its Platinum Jubilee.

The event will be held from 12:30–1:30 p.m., and will feature the Orange Grove Chorus, and special guests and elected officials from local and State government. The event is open to the public.

Orange Grove was started in 1953 after a local family placed an ad in the newspaper looking for like-minded parents interested in starting a school to serve their children with disabilities. At the time, no public funding was available to educate children deemed "uneducable," and institutionalization was a common practice.



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In the intervening 70 years, Orange Grove built a wide range of communitybased programs and services designed to meet the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in every aspect of their lives, including education, residential, health care, recreation, and employment.

Orange Grove recently opened its first group home in Georgia and has plans to develop more. The agency enjoys widespread support from all sectors of the community and is a leader in advocacy efforts on behalf of people with IDD at local, state, and national levels.





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