

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ORANGE GROVE CENTER FUELED BY DONATION FROM SWEETWATER VALLEY OIL

**Chattanooga, Tenn.** – Sweetwater Valley Oil, a local wholesale petroleum distribution company headed by brother and sister team Scott Shankle and Shirley Woodcock, have recently added another beneficiary notch to their community involvement belt when they donated 500 gallons of fuel to Orange Grove Center. Shankle and Woodcock first went into business together in 1988 when they purchased a small oil company in Sweetwater, Tennessee. From the start, giving back to the community was part of their business model. In 2011, they acquired Chattanooga's Benton Oil Company, and in doing so, not only expanded the geographic reach for their service area and products, but also expanded the number of people they've helped through their generosity.

Orange Grove Center, a non-profit serving the needs of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, has a fleet of 160+ vehicles traveling nearly 2 million miles per year. When the average price per gallon for fuel can vary by as much as .55 per gallon over a three-month period, projecting the budget over twelve months is particularly challenging.

Sweetwater Valley Oil recently donated 500 gallons of fuel, both diesel and unleaded, to Orange Grove Center for some of their vans and buses. With a budget of well over \$500,000 per year just for fuel, such a donation really helps cushion the effect of labile prices. "Making sure we can get everyone where they need to go safely is my main goal," says Tyrus Chislom, Coordinator of Transportation, "but one of the things that keeps me up at night is how we can continue to do it with fuel prices climbing and never really knowing what's going to happen down the road. These 500 gallons from Sweetwater Valley Oil represent not just more miles we can go, but a few more hours of sleep I get for not worrying."

For Shankle and Woodcock, the donation to Orange Grove is just the way for them to continue their long tradition of giving back. "It's important to us to do things that matter to people in our community. We want to do our part to help make this a great place to live," says Shankle. Woodcock says, "We are so fortunate to be able to continue in our father's footsteps – Scott and I both watched him in this industry as we were growing up. And we are proud to continue the tradition – not just of providing excellent product and customer service, but in being a part of our community."

Sweetwater Valley Oil distributes the fuel produced by Chevron Phillips Chemical Company to Volkswagen Group of America, Chattanooga, for the initial fueling of each vehicle they produce locally. Chevron representatives were recently in Chattanooga and took the opportunity to meet representatives from Orange Grove who came out to thank Shankle and Woodcock personally for their generous donation.



Left to right: Heidi Hoffecker, Director of Development, Orange Grove Center; Tyrus Chislom, Coordinator of Transportation, Orange Grove Center; Jon VanScoyoc,

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company; Scott Shankle, President, Sweetwater Valley Oil; and Dennis Pogar, Jr., Chevron Phillips Chemical Company.

### **About Orange Grove Center**

Established in 1953, the Orange Grove Center is a private, non-profit organization serving adults and children with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Orange Grove serves approximately 1,000 individuals, and employs over 800 staff to provide a wide array of community services. For more information, visit: [www.orangegrovecenter.org](http://www.orangegrovecenter.org); “Like” them on Facebook at: Orange Grove Center; or, follow them on Twitter: @OrangeGrove.

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