



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.”

~Steve Jobs

Enabling Tech Home Tour

On March 17, 2026, a group from Sparta County toured the DDA Enabling Tech Home. The smart stove stood out for its safety features, making it ideal for individuals learning to cook, and would be a valuable addition to our homes. Other highlights included a voice-controlled microwave, medication dispensers that remind and dispense doses on schedule, and an adaptive lighting system that responds to voice commands and mood. The lighting can also work with smart watches to alert staff if someone leaves a set perimeter. The tour was very informative, and we hope to bring more individuals to explore these technologies.



Disability Day on the Hill

Disability Day on the Hill is an annual advocacy event that brings together individuals with disabilities, families, and organizations from across the state to engage directly with legislators and influence public policy. Held at the state capitol in Nashville, the event creates a structured opportunity for advocates to share personal experiences, educate lawmakers on critical issues, and push for improvements in areas like healthcare access, education, and community services.



Join us in Middle Tennessee for the 2026 Power Up Technology Camp, hosted by DDA's Program Innovation Team! This exciting day camp is for anyone with an intellectual and developmental disability, age 15 and older, who is interested in learning more about enabling technology in a beautiful outdoor camp environment. During camp, participants will be able to explore different enabling technologies through hands on experiences, enjoy the outdoors while playing games, make S'mores, viewing nature, and much more!

[Click here to learn more!](#)



THINGS TO DO

Festivals & Music:

- Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival (Nashville, April 2-6)
- Rossini Festival (Knoxville, April 20-21)

Spring Blooms & Nature:

- Cheekwood in Bloom (Nashville, March 9 – April 14)
- Cherry Blossom Festival (Nashville, April 13)

Family & Outdoor Fun:

- Dollywood (Pigeon Forge)
- Spring Tennessee Craft Fair (Nashville)
- Car Shows (Pigeon Forge)

Unique Local Events:

- Ball Play Ramp Festival (Tellico Plains, April 27)

WELCOME NEW HIRES!

Lily S. Tomnesha B.	Tami C.-M. Andrea N.	Rhonda G. Abigayle P.	Trina R. Adriana E.	Patty C.
------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	----------

APRIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Years</u>
Bill T.	30	Chris D.	5	Felicia W.	1
Hillary J.	15	Patricia J.	4	Micaela C.	1
Jonathan D.	11	Samantha T.	3	Michael S.	1
Billy S.	8	Gayla G.	3	Deb G.	1
Katie B.	7	Bill T.	2		
Matricia W.	7	Kaleb S.	2		

APRIL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Supported

4/1 Richard G.
4/7 Amy P.
4/7 Anna H.
4/8 Richard W.
4/23 Barron G.
4/28 Damien B.

Staff

4/3 Chasady E.	4/15 Gail T.	4/23 Susan M.
4/5 Courtney T.	4/16 Casey B.	4/23 Teffanie N.
4/6 Sharman F.	4/18 Cindy M.	4/24 Kelli E. A.
4/12 Rebecca W.	4/21 April S.	4/25 Selena G.
4/14 Aleaha Y.	4/23 Thomas L.	4/25 Claudia W.

Oops! Don't see your name or see your name and don't want it seen?
Change this by contacting HR/Isabel Kocuja at isabel.kocuja@pacesetterstn.com!

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL



- Starting pay: \$16.25 per hour
- \$500 sign-on bonus (\$250 after 90 days, \$250 after 6 months)
- Full-time

We currently have full-time positions available in both Putnam County and White/Dekalb/Warren Teams.

Visit pacesetterstn.com for more information!

Happenings at Pacesetters



White County Day at the Park



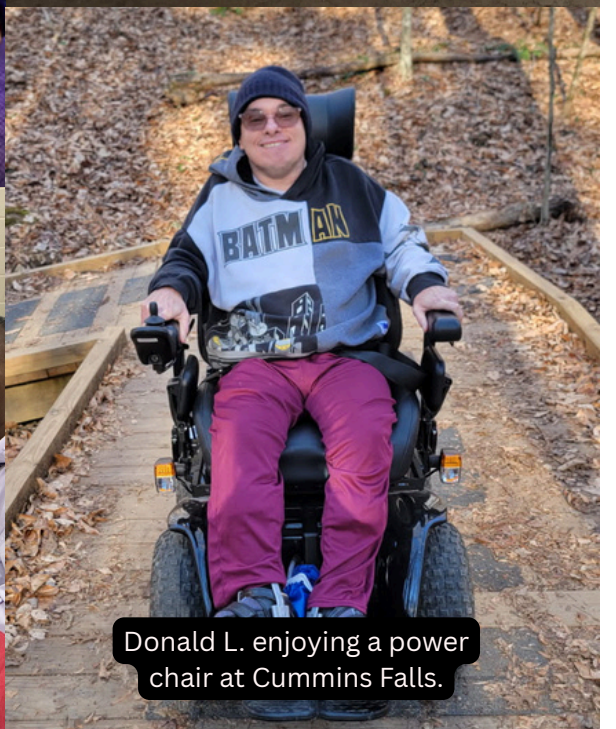
Tina W. at the
Cookeville Art Museum



Champ and Jerry C, at the Opry



Robert C., Leonard R., Lewis F, staff
Noelle, Chrissy, Heather and Melina



Donald L. enjoying a power
chair at Cummins Falls.

See more photos and details details at pacesetterstn.com/april2026

Common Challenges to Supporting Social Roles and Strategies to Address Them

Creating valued social roles is not accidental — it happens when people are connected into community in meaningful ways going beyond service environments. This work is not the responsibility of individual staff alone. It requires intentional leadership, aligned systems, and consistent practice across the organization.



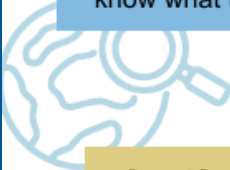
The Challenge

People have limited experience or exposure to possibilities

Many people haven't had the chance to explore what's possible; they may not know what to dream toward

Practical Response

Educate, encourage, and help people leverage skills and talents. Share possibilities. Expose people to community spaces and activities. Help them imagine the possibilities.



The Challenge

Limited transportation

People can't access community spaces without support

Practical Response

Build transportation support into service plans; explore community transit training; use volunteer driver networks; connect to generic transportation resources.



The Challenge

Staff time constraints

It takes deliberate time to support people into community roles

Practical Response

Reframe this as core service work, not "extra"; invest in technology or volunteers for logistical support; prioritize based on person's goals.

