

TIE THAT BINDS

November 2015

Volume 20, Number 1, Issue 229

Circulation 705

ATTITUDE IS THE REAL DISABILITY

Thankful For Mothers

(The bulk of this article was first published in the Clarksville Leaf Chronicle)

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — The new “A-List” system, as it is called, streamlined procedures for employees, but it also improved and increased the state’s online driver’s license services available to customers over the Internet.

“The genesis of this idea came from Margaret Davis, a constituent and dear friend,” Joe Pitts (D- Clarksville) said. “Margaret expressed a desire to create a way for families of adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities to provide critical information to law enforcement in case of traffic stops or if the family member gets lost. I am grateful for the enthusiastic and prompt response by the department to address this need. This is how government is supposed to work.”

Using the new feature, driver’s license and state identification card holders may submit emergency contact information online that will be added to the driver’s license database. That information will then be available by law enforcement if the license holder or card holder is involved in an accident or emergency and is unable to communicate with first responders.

Margaret Davis of Clarksville “is the brainchild behind the new feature,” according to a Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office news release. After an accident in

which she and her son with autism were barely able to convey emergency contact information to first responders, the idea was conceived to develop a system tied into the driver’s license database.

The state’s online driver services may be accessed by visiting www.tn.gov/safety and clicking on the “Online Driver Services” link. From there, the resident must enter his or her last name, date of birth, Tennessee driver’s license or ID number, and last four digits of his or her Social Security number. Once that information is entered, the resident may click on “Emergency Contact Information” or any of the other available online driver services.

Margaret Davis is the Vice- President of TN-APSE (the Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst!) and holds the Certificate for Employment Support Professionals (CESP) and the Employment Services Certificate Program (ESCP), an ACRE approved training.

Thankful For Employers

The fiscal year has ended and we can take stock of where we are and what we have accomplished. We know we had to work hard to be successful. Without employers in our communities, there would be no success. Thanks for everyone who contributed to the list of employers that we want to recognize for their support of our program and candidates in our programs.

Food City Knox	Pet Supplies
Arbys	Krogers of Knox
T-Mobile	Dream Katchers
Harbor Freight	UHS
Food City Jonesboro	Olde Town Dairy Bar
Home Instead Care	Sevier County Schools
WalMart of Knox	WalMart Oak Ridge
Target	McDonalds
The VA	Gondolier Restaurant

Health Connect America	Hampton Inn Johnson City
Mann-Hummel of Sequatchie County	Mountain Laurel Chalets
KFC- Nashville	Dollywood
King Family Library	Ogles Repair
Wild Gals Old Time Photos	Jenkins Deli- Cleveland
ACT of Johnson City	Food City of Kingsport
Darrell Shepard, PBA	WalMart- Hohenwald
West TN Healthcare	NHC- Farragut
Papa Johns- Knoxville	Food City Johnson City
UPS Knoxville	Wendys- Cookeville
Bridgestone Clarksville	Comfort Inn – Clarksville
Buffalo Wild Wings- Clarksville	Homeland Security- McMinnville
Wendys- Clarksville	RoadRunner
Skookum- Oak Ridge	WalMart- Oneida
Burger King of Morristown	American Stairway- Memphis
UT Hospital	ET Children’s Hospital
YMCA- Greeneville	Sodexo- Chattanooga

Roger Littlejohn told us there are 110,000 businesses in Tennessee. We have an impressive list, but think of all the businesses that we haven’t contacted.

Thankful For Static Cling

A few years ago I heard about this agency in Murfreesboro that handed out static Cling decals to businesses in town. These decals said something along the line of “A Proud Supporter of.....”.

Initially I thought this was a great way of recognizing businesses in town. These employers hired people with disabilities. Then, I realized these decals were given to businesses that supported the agency in a number of ways. The companies volunteered at the agency’s events or donated food, door prizes or other resources. It started to make sense that in a small town, you need to use

all of your resources. Here are community leaders showing the rest of the community that they support the mission of the agency or support the individuals at the agency.

These static cling decals have quickly become a teaching tool. The community sees the decals all over town and realizes that people with disabilities are all over town and are part of the fabric of the community. There seems to be a goal for a business to display a decal in its window. The businesses in town may hire someone and receive a decal. Others volunteer and work side by side with people with disabilities and realize all people have abilities

Thankful for Colleagues

Sometimes we don’t express thanks to our colleagues. We are dependent on them to do their part of the process and they are dependent on us to do our part of the process. For me that would be Tashara, Catherine and Stephanie. It would include the Corporate Connection Account Reps who are also on my grant. It extends to the other grants and programs at the Center for Literacy, Education and Employment. Finally there are the DRS, DIDD, DMHSA and CRP staffs that I work with every day. Thanks! For all you do for me.

Contact

Mike Sass
 520 West Summit Hill Dr.
 Knoxville, TN 37902
 865-594-6756 (office)
 Fax: 865-594-6535
 Email:mikesass@utk.edu
 Website: www.clee.utk.edu.
 Training site: <http://tiny.cc/tnvrtrainings>

Thankful For the Increased Professionalism

We need to recognize the following professionals who keep pursuing the knowledge and Best Practices in the field.

The following hold CESP Certificates.

Pate, Judy	6/27/2013	Sinnott, Lee	11/12/2014
Potter, Stephanie	6/27/2013	Smith, William	11/12/2014
Sass, Mike	10/1/2013	Thurman, Gail	11/12/2014
Anderson, Christy	2/12/2014	Toye III, William	11/12/2014
Brown, Tommie	2/12/2014	Adkins, Beverly	1/29/2015
Cardwell, Jon	2/12/2014	Bohan, Michael	1/29/2015
Davis, Margaret	2/12/2014	Jones, Jr., William	1/29/2015
Green, Olivia	2/12/2014	Nichols, Debra	1/29/2015
Hall, Roger	2/12/2014	Bonifas-Smith, Bridgette	3/31/2015
Hancock, Sharyn	2/12/2014	Clark, Rebecca	3/31/2015
Holder, Ray	2/12/2014	Cunetto, Talia	3/31/2015
Jenkins, Darlene	2/12/2014	Heaton, Jennifer	3/31/2015
Orem, M. Catherine	2/12/2014	Holloway, Indya	3/31/2015
Sorrell, Paul	2/12/2014	Jennings, Bertrane	3/31/2015
Tate, Jessica Leigh	2/12/2014	Steudlein, Alicia	3/31/2015
Tolbert, Tashara	2/12/2014	Stevenson, Shounda	3/31/2015
Malone, Linda	6/30/2014	Bobo, Daryl	5/14/2015
Roberts, Toni	6/30/2014	Chapman, Jacson	5/14/2015
Seay, Rena	6/30/2014	Newlon, Mary	5/14/2015
Blalock, Cristi	11/12/2014	Parisien, Lynise	5/14/2015
Buckley, Nora	11/12/2014	Rose, Tina	5/14/2015
Byrge, Samantha	11/12/2014	Berry, Laura	7/30/2015
Carlson, Judy	11/12/2014	Butler, Graylin	7/30/2015
Cross, Natasha	11/12/2014	Davis, Julie	7/30/2015
Finn, Kathyryn	11/12/2014	Taylor, Yolanda	7/30/2015
Fischer, Charles	11/12/2014	Baskette, Darlene	9/22/2015
Herron, Denise	11/12/2014	Brown, Bradley	9/22/2015
Johnson, Carmel	11/12/2014	Edwards, John	9/22/2015
Paxton, Kenneth	11/12/2014	Haga, Robin	9/22/2015
Rankins, Katherine	11/12/2014	Sanders, Danny	9/22/2015
Risener, Kelly	11/12/2014	Starnes, Erin	9/22/2015
Robbins, Timothy	11/12/2014	Whitson, Chasta	9/22/2015
Rolan, Evelyn	11/12/2014	Worsham, Billy	9/22/2015
Satterfield, Brittany	11/12/2014		