

NEWS



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EDWARDS CENTER HONORS THPRD FOR SERVICE TO THOSE EXPERIENCING DISABILITIES

The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District has been honored with the Edwards Center's Employment Award for more than three decades of providing job opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.

The accolade was presented in Portland last month as part of the Edwards Center's 11th annual awareness-building and fundraising luncheon.

According to Georgia Lampros, development director for the Edwards Center, THPRD was the first employer in the Portland area to give Oregonians with developmental disabilities the chance to work in their community. The relationship started in the 1980s, and since then more than three dozen workers have been able to master landscape and maintenance skills at the park district's Jenkins Estate in Aloha.

"It's gratifying to know the impact our partnership with the Edwards Center has had on so many lives," said Jerry Jones, president of the THPRD Board of Directors. "It's been a true win-win – more than 40 different workers have experienced the satisfaction of earning wages at the Jenkins Estate, and they've done good work for us too."

Lampros added, "THPRD is our oldest and most committed employer of Oregonians we have ever had at Edwards Enterprises...If more businesses could be like THPRD, we would have a better world and more inclusion of people with disabilities."

Edwards Center's mission is to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by helping them reach their highest potential through training, education, employment, housing and social opportunities in safe, healthy and stimulating

environments. The 45-year-old nonprofit currently serves 350 people with 18 group homes, two recreational facilities, and the Edwards Enterprises work program, all located within Washington and Clackamas Counties.

“We greatly appreciate the meaningful role the Edwards Center plays in our community,” Jones said. “It fits beautifully with our philosophy to provide access for all.”

In addition to providing jobs for Edwards Center clients, THPRD:

- Owns and maintains the new Mountain View Champions Park in Aloha, which features Oregon’s first athletic field for people of all abilities and a 6,500-square-foot inclusive playground.
- Provides year-round adaptive and inclusive recreational programs offering a variety of fun and educational opportunities for people with developmental, learning or physical disabilities or mental illness. For more information, visit www.thprd.org/activities/adaptive-and-inclusive-recreation.
- Operates Camp Rivendale, a summer camp providing outdoor recreation for individuals experiencing disability.
- Provides a weekly physical education class for the Edwards Center at the Tualatin Hills Athletic Center.
- Supports and co-hosts the annual All Ability Tri4Youth at its Howard M. Terpenning Recreation Complex. Tri4Youth provides youth experiencing disability, their siblings, and peers an opportunity to participate in a triathlon and meet community partners that support families experiencing disability.

About THPRD

Formed in 1955, THPRD is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 240,000 residents in the greater Beaverton area. The district provides year-round recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Offerings include thousands of widely diverse classes, 95 park sites with active recreational amenities, nearly 70 miles of trails, eight swim centers, six recreation centers, and about 1,500 acres of natural areas. For more information, visit www.thprd.org or call 503-645-6433.

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