



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 29, 2008

CONTACT:

MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON  
(615) 313-4707 (OFFICE)

## **TENNESSEE REHABILITATION CENTER GRADUATES OVERCOME BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS**

*MORE THAN 50 TENNESSEANS WITH DISABILITIES GAIN SKILLS TO GO TO WORK*

SMYRNA , Tenn.– Dozens of young men and women with significant disabilities, including traumatic brain injury and mental retardation, donned cap and gown and walked or rolled their wheelchairs across the stage at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna today. The 57 students come from all over the state, representing 21 counties from Shelby to Sullivan. All of the students are determined to improve their lives and enter or re-enter the workforce.

The new graduates took advantage of the diverse programs offered at TRC, including Building Maintenance, Business Education Training, Food Service, Custodial Training and Warehouse Training.

TRC's mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in a positive and productive learning environment. The services offered at TRC assist individuals in achieving their highest level of functioning so they can live and work as independently as possible.

“Clients graduating from the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna enjoy a higher employment placement rate than our clients who do not receive TRC services,” said DHS Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Andrea Cooper. “The TRC’s comprehensive approach builds confidence through a series of small, immediate successes in an environment where a setback or mistake doesn’t cost a job.”

The Tennessee Rehabilitation Center is a state-operated comprehensive rehabilitation facility. It is one of only eight such centers in the nation. Services are provided on campus, and the majority of clients live on site while receiving services. The length of programs offered at TRC varies, depending upon the individual client’s interest, abilities and needs. TRC is part of the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

TRC serves more than 1,300 Tennesseans with disabilities each year. Since opening its doors in 1977, TRC has served more than 30,000 individuals.

For more information about TRC, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Tennessee Department of Human Services, visit [www.state.tn.us/humanserv](http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv)

The following pages contain a list of graduates by city and county and the program area from which they graduated:

CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700