

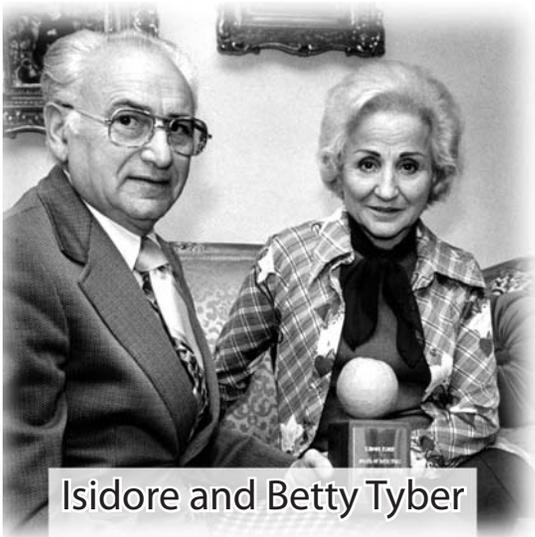
Orange Grove Center



Today

Orange Grove Center in Chattanooga, TN, has been offering services to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 50 years. From its humble beginnings in 1953 as a four-room schoolhouse, the Orange Grove Center is now one of the country's stellar service providers, meeting needs in the arena of children's' education programs, adult vocational training, medical and dental care, residential services and therapy, habilitation, and nutrition services for over 700 individuals.

Visionaries



Isidore and Betty Tyber

circa 1976

When a discussion of Orange Grove Center's founding fathers and mothers arises, the late Isidore and Betty Tyber loom large as visionaries who were determined to create a better world, full of possibility, for their son with intellectual disabilities.

O
R
A
N
G
E
G
R
O
V
E
C
E
N
T
E
R

Orange Grove Center
615 Derby Street
Chattanooga, TN 37404

The Tyber Building Fund



The Need

"Years of service and functionality have left the Tyber Building in need of a face-lift to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the building. A technological overhaul to replace antiquated equipment is also a real area of need. A fundraising campaign to meet these objectives will go a long way in assisting Orange Grove Center to continue its mission of "recognizing, supporting and celebrating the qualities" of the individuals served by OGC's many programs. It will also fittingly memorialize and honor the life of my brother, Jackie, who was served by Orange Grove for many years as well as my mother and father, Betty and Isidore Tyber, for whom the building was named."

--Dr. Ben Tyber
Tyber Building Fund Chairman

The Tybers and Orange Grove Center's Genesis

excerpt from *Just One Step- A History of Orange Grove Center*



With classified advertisements running a quarter per line in July of 1952, the Chattanooga newspaper notice cost Isidore Tyber and Sherwood Landrum less than \$2.

"Wanted," read their ad. "If you are a parent of a retarded child, please call this phone number or write to this postal box."

Mr. Tyber, a grocer, and Mr. Landrum, an insurance executive, couldn't have foreseen that their modest investment would result in a multi-faceted resource that, in fifty years' time, would operate on a multi-million dollar budget.

They had no way of knowing that their plea would be the genesis of a pioneer teaching facility for the physically and mentally disabled. The ad appeared at a time when institutional care, not education in the community, was the norm for people with such disabilities.

"Keep him at home, or put him in an institution and forget about him," was the advice Mr. Tyber and his wife, Betty, had received when they asked their family physician how to help their developmentally disabled son, Jackie.

More than a decade later, Mr. Tyber would recall to a Chattanooga Times reporter, "It was the 'forget about him' part that was so bad. You just don't forget about your child."

Facing misunderstanding, parents, like the Tybers, worked together to shatter myths by showing exactly how much individuals with disabilities could do.

Met with intolerance, they became united as advocates who helped to shape legislation, bring down barriers and build an educational model for the nation.

And slowly, the stigma began to fade.

The Tyber Building Then and Now

The Tyber Building was originally designed as an on-campus residential building constructed in the early 1970s. It capably served in this capacity for many years, but with the advent of an increasing number of Orange Grove residential settings in neighborhoods in the community, and the need for additional office space to accommodate new or expanding departments, the Tyber Building was converted in 1992 to office space. It presently serves as home to three departments: **Community Supports, ICF/MR and Residential Habilitation**. It also serves as a pick up and drop off point for many Orange Grove clients who work at jobs in the community. Also important among its functions is its unofficial designation as a "gathering ground." Each morning and afternoon, the Tyber Building's atrium great room becomes a backdrop for socialization and camaraderie as clients visit with friends before and after work.



Community Supports Department



The Community Supports Department, whose administrative offices are housed in the Tyber Building, oversees the provision of vocational services to 146 individuals. These individuals receive full-time and part-time jobs in a variety of settings which offer: job readiness training, work adjustment training, trial work experiences, enclave job placements, heavy equipment certification, and competitive job placements. Long-term follow along services support the individuals for as long as they desire after their competitive job placement. In addition to vocational opportunities, the Community Supports Department assists individuals in community participation activities which include: experiencing new things within their community, volunteering, and exploring work opportunities for their future. This department also provides personal assistance services, which offer one-on-one support to individuals after hours and on weekends in the community and/or in their home environments. All vocational service options are designed to help the individuals gain the self-reliance they desire.

Intermediate Care Residential Department (ICF/MR)



Orange Grove Center began the ICF/MR program in 1994. The comprehensive program provides services

for individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as significant medical impairments. The ICF/MR program consists of 14 homes which are located throughout the Chattanooga/Hamilton County area in residential neighborhoods. Each home supports four or eight clients for a total of 72 individuals. Some of our support services include 24-hour awake staff providing supervision, 24-hour LPN nursing coverage, and Physical and Nutritional Management (PNM) consultation to access therapy services. Each home is unique in providing supports and services for individuals. The individuals participate in community, recreational, and leisure activities of their choice with the support of the ICF/MR staff members.

Residential Habilitation Department



The goal of Residential Services is to provide opportunities for individuals at Orange Grove to live in homes in community neighborhoods. There are

25 homes available for 150 residents scattered throughout the Chattanooga area. The lifestyle of the individuals in these homes is characterized by their needs and desires, including involvement in their neighborhood, taking care of their home, going shopping for necessities, and taking advantage of the leisure and recreational activities of their choice.