



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Signal Centers Announces CEO Transition

Nonprofit Positioned for New Leadership Entering its 70th Year

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (April 15, 2026)– Do you remember life before iTunes? Wikipedia? Both were launched in 2001, the same year Chief Executive Officer Donna McConnico joined the staff of Signal Centers.

After a 25-year run, the Chattanooga-based nonprofit announced today that McConnico will retire this summer. This marks a pivotal moment as Signal Centers looks ahead to its next era of impact. A transition plan is underway to ensure continuity in leadership, programs, and community relationships.

Over the past quarter century, McConnico has helped construct an enduring foundation for Signal Centers, advancing its mission to help children and families build successful futures. Under her guidance, the organization expanded its reach across the state through a close partnership with the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Accordingly, its budget soared from \$3,000,000 to \$60+ million.

With its 70th year approaching in 2027, the nonprofit now has a portfolio of 13 programs. But McConnico doesn't see Signal Centers' exponential growth as her greatest accomplishment. She instead points to the deep and meaningful relationships Signal Centers has built along the way.

"Signal Centers' future is incredibly bright," said McConnico. "What gives me the greatest confidence is the strength and heart of our people—our passionate staff, deeply committed board members and extraordinary community partners. Together we've built a strong and supportive foundation. I'm excited for the next CEO to build on that momentum and carry our mission to even greater heights."

As Signal Centers prepares for a shift at the top, its leaders are focused on sustaining momentum and driving forward new opportunities to better serve the community. All remain committed to its mission of lifelong self-sufficiency, with a clear focus on innovation, growth, and long-term sustainability—guided by strong leadership at every level of the organization.

To learn more about the open position, visit the Get Involved tab of signalcenters.org to find the job posting. Direct additional inquiries to humanresources@signalcenters.org.

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Signal Centers

Signal Centers has been a cornerstone of the Chattanooga community since 1957. Its comprehensive early childhood education and disability services focus on fostering lifelong learning and independence for all. From one classroom of nine children with cerebral palsy to a statewide organization comprised of 13 distinct programs, the nonprofit's mission of self-sufficiency remains unchanged. For more information, visit signalcenters.org.