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**Emergence Health Network Hosts Picnic to Celebrate Achievements of Residents with**

**Intellectual/Development Disabilities**

**~ More than 300 participants expected to attend ~**

**(El Paso, TX March 17, 2016)** Emergence Health Network is hosting its annual IDD Picnic in recognition of National IDD Awareness Month in March. Intellectual/Development Disabilities affect an estimated seven million people in the United States and more than 619,000 of them are in Texas. “Many of these individuals are productive residents in our community. They are living and working in our neighborhoods, pursing higher education, and want to function as independently as we all do,” said Kristi Daugherty, CEO Emergence Health Network. “That’s one reason we host this picnic, to help promote awareness that focuses on the strengths of El Pasoans with IDD.”

Emergence Health Network provides an array of services for our IDD consumers including Day Rehabilitation services, supported housing services, and early childhood intervention for children diagnosed with an IDD.

National IDD Awareness Month was first declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1987 as a way to inspire Americans to provide the “encouragement and opportunities” necessary for people with developmental disabilities to reach their potential. “As a community, we need to provide more opportunities such as full access to housing, employment and recreational activities to those with IDD,” added Daugherty.

**This year we are expecting more than 300 participants**.” Food will be provided along with music and a talent show.

**EHN/IDD Picnic and Talent Show**

WHEN: Friday, March 18, 2016

WHEN: 11 am – 2 pm

WHERE: Memorial Park - 1701 North Copia, El Paso, TX