

Expressions Tea (Somerset, KY) is honored to accept the Sodexo National Spirit of Service Award for Community Service, which was recently announced at Sodexo's Annual Awards Banquet in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

This particular Sodexo Spirit of Service Award recognizes the individual or team that best demonstrates the CARES behaviors – compassion, accountability, respect, enthusiasm, and service<sup>i</sup> – through meaningful participation in the facility/community managed, as well as external community service projects that promote Sodexo and/or the client facility/community.

Sodexo selected Expressions Tea due to its commitment and inclusion to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These individuals play a key role in the catering crew by helping to provide a gourmet dining experience for customers throughout the region.

Expressions Tea, which opened in June 2013, is a program of bluegrass.org and Bluegrass Oakwood, Inc. They host monthly teas for graduations, baby showers, birthdays, bridal showers, and more. Expressions Tea has its own chef, Mete Sergin, as well as tea provided by Elmwood Inn Teas (Danville, KY). Beverage choices include Cherry Rose Green Tea, Kentucky Blend Tea, English Breakfast Tea, Earl Grey Tea, and more.

Expressions Tea seeks to enrich the lives of those at Bluegrass Oakwood by providing training opportunities, which give the individuals a chance to interact with the community in the natural rhythm of life. These opportunities provide employment skills training and also an outlet for them to give back to the community. Working together and learning from each other is the ultimate goal.

Bluegrass Oakwood, Inc., managed by bluegrass.org under contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, provides a living, working and training environment that enables individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their desired lifestyles.

Bluegrass.org has served the seventeen county Bluegrass Area for over 45 years, assisting individuals and families in the enhancement of their emotional, mental and physical well-being by providing behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance abuse services.

---

<sup>i</sup> <http://thesodexoexperience.com/hospitals/cares-culture.php>