

Four stars



Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen

Celebrating Community Options' four star status are, in front, from left, Jeanette Preece, executive director; Lisa Banks, staffing coordinator; and Amanda Franklin, program manager. In back are Travis Lawson, quality assurance coordinator; and Ryan Vinson, program manager.

Community Options wins four star award

By **MEGAN TROTTER**
HERALD-CITIZEN Staff

COOKEVILLE — Community Options, which provides housing, support services and advocacy assistance for those with disabilities, has been designated a four star agency for 2014. Awarded by the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the status was awarded after Community Options attained a score of excellence for two years in a row. "They look at all kinds of things," Jeanette Preece, Community Options

we do for health and safety, those kind of things. They look at the overall picture, at the quality of life that the individuals have, whether or not they're getting out in the community. That's what the program is primarily focused on — community inclusion." Community Options in Cookeville is currently serving 14 individuals in Putnam County and has seen great strides in the mental health of those they have worked with so far. "We've seen people going from having to have three or four psychiatric admissions a month to there's a

The program is now open for applications for new placements.

To qualify, the applicant must be qualified for the Tennessee Disability Waiver Program.

Those interested can call 931-372-0955, stop by the office at 5 West 2nd St. in Cookeville or email Jeanette.Preece@comop.org.

Community Options will also hold their annual fundraiser, Cupid's Chase 5k, next year at 10 a.m. Feb. 8.

Pre-registration for the race is \$30, or \$50 the day of the race, with pro-