



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Abilene State Supported Living Center

OUR MISSION:
To empower people to make choices
that result in a life of dignity and
increased independence.

AbSSLC News

Abilene SSLC

Week of December 5th, 2022

COVID19 Testing @ the Chapel
Round 1 - Tuesday, December 6th
Round 2 - Thursday, December 8th

A Time to Celebrate Achievement!

On December 1st, the inaugural class of the Tier III Leadership Development students, **Ashley Alonzo, Sarah Chavarria, SSgt Chase Decker, Kenny Dry, Stephanie Lebowitz** and **Torrey Williams** successfully completed their coursework. The event was marked by a celebration of their achievement at the OWT Lodge and included an update of their Team Project. The project designed to improve campus-wide communication will continue over the next several months. The event also provided an opportunity to thank the Tier III Mentors and hear keynote addresses from both Scott Schalchlin, DEC and Laura Cazabon-Braly, AC who traveled to AbSSLC to honor the students.



(l to r) Scott Schalchlin - DEC, Linda Hinshaw - Director, Stephanie Lebowitz, Kenny Dry, SSgt Chase Decker, Sarah Chavarria, Ashley Alonzo, Torrey Williams, Laura Cazabon-Braly - AC, Jeff Goza - ADoA, David Daniel - ADoP

116th Annual AbSSLC Christmas Parade!



Join the fun of the Annual Christmas Parade, now in it's 116th year! All departments/home are strongly encouraged to have an entry in the parade and ensure that those not participating get to watch it as it passes by!

We will start lining up about 2pm on Service Avenue, immediately to the north of 24th Street (between Maintenance & Work Center #3). Come that way and we'll find you a spot! The actual route will be announced later in the week.

Parade time is Friday @ 2pm

Christmas Lane 2022

Christmas Lane is off to another great start. Please be patient as we welcome thousands of visitors to the campus through Christmas Night. Security begins turning on the lights (and closing gates) about 515pm each night for the 6pm opening. Please plan accordingly for travels around campus – and remind anyone picking you up of the traffic changes during this time.

Make plans to bring the family out! Family Night at the Gym is also in the planning stages.



Click the [link](#) or scan the code to let us know your questions or tell us your ideas and thoughts to make AbSSLC an even better place to live & work! You can leave your name if you would like a response or be **100%** anonymous.



Shout Outs!

5972 Service Avenue would like to shout out **Susan Kilpatrick**! She has helped the home so much with active treatment from getting all the individuals involved in making placemats for Thanksgiving, to assisting our folks with making Christmas cards to send home to families. The home really appreciates all she does.

Shout Out to **Yolanda Brown, SLP** – she went above and beyond to assist one of the boys with algebra homework. She called to find out the best times to come and made a second trip to assist. She provided the home supervisor with the information to double check the answers. Can't say 'thank you' enough for her willingness to help!

I would like to give a shout out to **Liz Chacon**. She has done a great job transitioning to our department and has been a great addition.

Tiara Renfro is a very well-mannered staff and very dedicated to her job and the people she serves. She shows no lack of dedication to this facility. Every time I have gone on the home, she is very helpful when asked any questions and does not shy away from work that needs to be done. She shows promise and will do really great things as long as she is here. It's always refreshing to work with a staff like that. Having good mannerisms and dedication gets noticed and I noticed that myself.

A big shout out to the **staff** and **Supervisor** at 5972 Service Ave. That home has a great team that shows dedication to the people served here, even with all the difficulties of the past few months. I am happy to work with them and will continue to look forward to see the good things they do every day.

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who has signed up to be a special part of our 33rd Christmas Lane! We appreciate YOU and the opportunity to have YOU there with us spreading Christmas Joy to our community!

Thank you to **ALL** who came out for the individual "walk thru" turned into a "drive thru" (thanks west Texas cold & wind!). Thank you to the always amazing **Rec Crew** for organizing this event! Everyone had SO much fun! YOU made their night special!

Thank you to everyone who voted on the Chick-fil-A Facebook page for Abilene Volunteer Services Council! We WON (with 3 other great organizations!)! This donation will help make smiles bigger and brighter for the people we love to serve! THANK YOU!

I would like to give a Shout Out to everyone that assisted the Tier III Leadership class with their presentation that was given to Scott and Laura on Thursday. A big Thank You to **Jeff G.** for his assistance with our PowerPoint. And to **Barbara Marrow** for dropping everything to teach us better ways to present the information. A special Thank You to **Kayla Saucedo** and **Colin Dawsey** for always being our cheerleaders. And of course, to all of mentors, **David Payne, Mike Horton, Jeff Branch, Ted Wagner, Susan Kilpatrick,** and **Barbara Marrow**. None of this would have been possible without your support and guidance.

I would also like to take a minute to especially recognize two very special people. **Steven Roberts** and **Celeste Grashel**. Throughout both my Tier II and Tier III training Steven was always encouraging of everything that we did and I truly believe that he wants us all to be successful. I am so thankful that I had the pleasure of meeting and working with him over the last year. And while you never hear too much out of Celeste, she was always quietly working to make sure things got done. I am certain that she was the reason everything always ran as smoothly as it did.

The Tier III leadership program was definitely a challenge for me but I would like to thank **David Daniel, Jeff Goza, Jeff Branch,** and **Linda Hinshaw** for believing in all of us and putting in time and effort to make us all better leaders for the future.

Shout Out!

Have you seen someone do the above & beyond or just want to recognize great work?

It's easy to do a Shout Out!

- "Reply" to any of the update texts you receive through the AskAdmin Text Group
- Email Jeff Goza with their name and your comments
- Text their name and your comments to 325.370.4525

Let's **Shout Out** and recognize others!