



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 June 26th, 2023

Heat Precautions

Helpful Reminders for you and those we serve:

- Limit outdoor activity, especially midday when the sun is hottest.
- Be sure all vehicles are cool and have properly working air conditioning. If the air conditioning is not working properly, report it to Motor Pool.
- Sunscreen should be worn and reapplied as indicated on the package.
- Pace activities. Start activities slow and pick up the pace gradually.
- Drink more water than usual and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more. Encourage Individuals to do the same thing. Muscle cramping may be an early sign of heat-related illness.
- You and the Individuals should wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- If you or an Individual need to cool down, cool showers or baths are helpful.
- **Never leave anyone in a car unsupervised.**

Unemployment Fraud

NGA (the contracted company that handles CAPPS) is receiving an increasing number of fraudulent unemployment claims. This happens when someone uses your information and files a claim. We are notified when this is done for an active employee and sent information which we then forward to your immediate supervisor to give to you – it's **very** important that you follow the steps outlined in the email **and** immediately change any bank/account passwords you use on-line.

It's also a very good idea to have a credit monitoring service. Credit Karma is a good (and free!) service to use for this. You can also freeze your credit by contacting the three different credit bureaus.

Together We Shine A Field of Honor



A little over a mile away is a restful and peaceful field which honors the departed individuals who lived, worked and created bonds over generations. A field of 15 acres and 1563 treasured souls. The AbSSLC Cemetery began laying rest to residents in 1904 and continues to this day.

Our dedicated Grounds Department staff, led by the **David Payne**, and including **Matthew Arsiaga, Mark Burgess, Clint Kirby, John Pacheco, Tomas Paulino, Pat Roach, Jesse Scheets**, along with **Thomas Deluna** and **Joe Guajardo** lead efforts to provide upkeep to the property, prepare for burial services and deliver a peaceful closure for families. AbSSLC's cemetery has evolved over the years, from changing headstone marker designs in the 1940's to erecting a VSC funded Memorial Reflection Building in 1983. Additionally, in 2022 and 2023, the team has seen 25-30 volunteers assist in the annual Cemetery Clean-Up Day. Volunteers of AbSSLC staff & retirees, Dyess Air Force Base and family members have shown care for this honored field.

For David and the whole team involved, this is cherished passion. They embark on their duties not only as a responsibility, but more as giving back to the residents that they have come to know and support over the years.

The cemetery will continue to evolve and will always need our treasured stewards and volunteers. Thank you to each one of you for maintaining the dignity we all hope for our family members.



Dragon Soul Food Truck – Friday, 6/30 - 1130am-130pm

Shout Outs!

Shout out to **Christian Devora** from the Work Center. He uses his personal vehicle and lawn equipment so the yard crew residents are able to work. They do an amazing job keeping our campus looking great!

Shout out to **Yvonia Paige** (Assistant Unit Director, Unit 1). She has gone above and beyond with helping at 6521 Peach. She has been dedicating her time and energy in helping the home get organized, and on a better schedule to help everyone. Shout out to **Juanita** (LVN) and **Charlotte** (RT) in helping Yvonia with all information to make things more knowledgeable and helpful for the home to run smoothly. Shout out to **Chris Martinez** (Infirmary Supervisor) for stepping up and helping with all the extra tasks for 6521 Peach. And a special thank you to all the **staff at 6521 Peach** for taking the changes in and making them happen.

Our home at 6450 Plum recently had to transition to another home. That's 15 individuals with 15 sets of different things that they needed in a new place. Staff came in early to help and staff that didn't even work on the home stopped by and helped us. My shout out is to the best activities team around they came over after their shift to help us so I wanna say thank you so much **Team Brianna, Mary Ann, Orlando** and for the two or three more that I can't remember their names that need to be recognized as well!

Special thank you SHOUT OUT to **Grant Anderson** at 6710 Circle Drive for helping schedule and transport an individual to Audiology. His willingness to help is much appreciated!

I want to give a big shout out to the following staff **Jessica Flores, Crystal Brown, Gabriel Barajas, Breanna Huggins, Paula Diaz, Laura Fuentes, Jamie Wade, and Macey**. They go above and beyond to show care to the individuals we serve and have made the work environment a pleasant place to work. They are the definition of what teamwork should be and I can't wait to see what the future holds for them. ♥

I just wanted to send you a note on how good the housekeepers are doing here at 6360 1st Street. **Brandon Griffen** and **Maria Alvarado** are doing a great job at the home and are working together to keep it clean and smelling good. They are very courteous to the gentlemen and the staff. Staff came up to me today and told me how impressed they were with them and how clean they were keeping the home. Brandon always knocks on my door and asks me if there is anything extra we need done. And if there is they make sure to get it taken care of. Again I just want to tell you that they are DOING A GREAT JOB.

Shout Out to **Marianna Rivera** – even though she had her work to do, she came out to help with meal prep on a day we were behind. She is very willing to do whatever is needed in the kitchen for those we serve!

I just wanted to take a moment to praise one of the staff members, **Vincent**, at 6700 Circle Drive. I first met Vincent while providing ASL training to NEPT earlier this year I believe. He indicated that this was not his first time being employed at the AbSSLC, so he has experience with this population. What I have consistently noticed when I visit the home is his extreme patience and professionalism while working with the men who live there. He is knowledgeable regarding their routines, how they communicate, and interpreting their nonverbal behaviors. While he is aware of their behaviors, he generally appears comfortable with the individuals he works with and doesn't shy away from interacting with them.

Great BIG Shout Out for **Declan Casey** who works at 6720 Circle Dr. He is very knowledgeable about the individuals he works with and provides great information about how they are doing. Thank you for being so kind and considerate!!

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!