



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 July 24th, 2023

Together We Shine

Smiles going to/from this Special AbSSLC Clinic!

Dental Hygienist Pam Acevedo, with the support of Dentists Dr. Jerry Griffin and Dr. Mark Bullock, created a specialized clinic for our campus, focusing on Dental Desensitization. It is a unique behavior management program unlike any other within the SSLC system.

Started in October 2011, the clinic quickly filled with 30 Individuals and today Pam continues to support 15-17 Individuals needing extra care & attention. The 7th Street Dental Clinic is located in Building 509 next to the Beauty Shop.

Dr. Griffin and Pam started the clinic in response to Individuals having difficulty in a Dental clinic setting. Their goal was to reduce the use of sedation, reduce the need for restrictive practices in managing behavior during dental services and improve the oral health for those we serve. Implementing principles and working closely with other professionals from both Behavioral Services and Habilitation Services, the program has created a winning combination of behavior, sensory and dental care that is carefully tailored to the unique needs of each person. Dr. Bullock states the program's long-term goal is to *"teach individuals to be good dental patients in any dental setting."*



But how do they accomplish this? Careful research of the person's needs and motivations, along with a good measure of care and kindness. One person might be enjoying their favorite country song while learning to tolerate soft brushing while another is treated to a light show that helps them to relax. Pam uses a wide range of sensory ideas that make anxious patients begin to trust and enjoy the experience. It may not seem obvious that a person relaxes, laughs and leaves the Dentist smiling and wanting a return visit ... but that is the magic behind a dedicated team that makes a difference above and beyond. Thank you, Dr. Bullock and Pam, for improving lives

Texas State Employee Union

Representatives from the TSEU will be on campus the 26th and 27th at the **(World Famous) 5th Street Diner** from 730am-3pm.

Dragon Soul Food Truck

Friday, July 28th 1130a-130p
3rd Street, East of the Chapel



Geocaching @ AbSSLC!

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world. As of 2021, there were over a million active geocachers in the United States.

Currently there are 13 hidden caches in various locations on campus to find. Please contact Emily Jenkins @ x3910 or Courtney Peace @ x3015 to check out a GPS device. We would love to 'hide' more, so if you want to create one or two please us know and we will get it hidden. Happy Hunting!

Shout Outs!

A huge shout out to all the ladies and gentlemen From **DSP's** To **HAB** to **Q's** to **Electricians** to **Maintenance** who made the move to 6350 1st Street a success. There was a lot of hard work that went into this move of 16+ individuals in one day. The moving crew was amazing. I had the honor of working with **JT**, **Clayton Morgan** and **Joseph Hart** and these guys were very professional, very courteous and a pleasure to work with. I didn't know the name of all the other guys on the maintenance crew but they were just as amazing as these three. Thank you all for your hard work in making it possible for the 16 ladies that that moved to 6350 1st Street to feel at home.

Special shout out and THANK YOU to the **Highland Church of Christ Middle School Youth Group** for coming out and sprucing up the area outside the chapel. After their work in the Chapel yard, they went inside to cool down and made greeting cards for the residents of AbSSLC. The **Volunteer Services Council** provided funds for the spruce up. Thank you to our amazing **Chaplain Mike** and **Jeanne Mari Horton** for organizing the event/activities and the group as well as running around town to purchase the supplies needed. Also, THANK YOU, to the **Grounds Crew** for trimming trees and providing a trailer for the group to load up. This is a perfect example of "Together We Shine" (with help from people ON and OFF campus)! Thanks to all for their hard work, sweat and team work to make this area look great!

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Adventure Cove Staff Appreciation Event. Special THANK YOU to the **VSC** for sponsoring this 3-day event AND door prizes for staff. THIS event is ONLY possible because of people who generously give to the VSC. To those that brought back tickets they were not planning to use, THANK YOU! YOU provided an opportunity for more people to attend. The Adventure Cove crew told us (Cindy & Shae) last night that WE are their favorite group to come to the Cove each year. They say that everyone is so respectful and nice and they enjoy having us. I'm SO proud of AbSSLC and our amazing staff that leave a positive imprint with people in our community. Special shout out to the crew that make ALLLLLLL the things possible and better than ever ~ **Shae**, **Cindy**, **Mike**, and **Jeanne Mari**! Thank you for your willingness to sweat, smile, help with anything and everything, and make everything more fun!

When leaving campus, this week, I saw **Kayla Saucedo** helping a staff member who needed help with their vehicle. THANK YOU, Kayla, for always going above and beyond to lend a hand any time, any place!

Big shout out to our fairly new-to-us Housekeeper **Shawna**. She has been doing a great job keeping the Infirmary clean. She always goes the extra mile and has been cleaning things that I haven't seen cleaned in a long time. Thank you Shawna!

Shout Out to **Kennedy Taylor** at 6700 Circle Dr. for being a great advocate for the individuals that live there. She has personally been following up with one gentleman concerning use of some bathing equipment and encouraging him to use it and then praising him when he does. The importance of this kind of personalized attention to PNMP supports cannot be applauded enough! Way to go Kennedy!

I would like to Shout Out Activity Center Staff **Gabriel Barajas**! He is always willing to help with assisting extra meals on the homes, changing his schedule when the center is sometimes short, and best of all he does it with a smile. The gentlemen from homes 6360, 6350, 6720, and 6730 enjoy the time they spend with him, and his patience is unmatched. Thank you Gabriel for your dependability, flexibility, and dedication to those we serve.

The wall @ 6500 Plum is painted and looks amazing! **Mr. Bloom** is a true professional! I believe this will help, the transition for the new guy.

I would like to give a Shout Out and a huge Thank You to all the **guys in Maintenance** that worked so hard to get 6330 3rd Street looking good after the HVAC was replaced. They painted and put in new floors and cleaned areas that needed it. I appreciate all of them so much. I would check in daily while they were there and they never seemed to get tired of me. They truly went above and beyond!

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!