



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 October 23rd, 2023

2023 Christmas Lane Shirts

\$25.00 (Small-4X)

- **CHECK or CASH ONLY** ~ due at the time you order!
Make checks out to Abilene VSC ~ In memo put size and CL Shirt
- Place your order at Building 501 - Community Relations/Volunteer Services. Located east of FCT/D - please use the door facing training
- **Last day to order: 11/15/2023**

When you purchase a Christmas Lane Shirt you're helping make smiles bigger and brighter across the WHOLE campus of

AbSSLC (individuals and staff). Your purchase will go towards funding



resident activities such as special dances, May Farm visits, Christmas gifts, sodas at dances, Halloween trinkets/candy/events, color copies, Abilene Zoo membership, staff appreciation events (such as the cookout), decorations for homes and SO much more!

Thank you for your continued support of Christmas Lane! We're looking forward to our 34th Year!

Questions? Call Shae at x3547!

Together We Shine

*When Crunching Numbers ...
Our Accounting Department is 100+*



After spending time with the Accounting Team, two things are quickly apparent - 1) the high volume of work they continually accomplish, and 2) the Team finds ways to support each other along the way!

All of us have exposure balancing our personal finances but our Accounting Team handles multiple types of different funds. From individual accounts of each resident to vendor payments to making sure we have State funds in the right place at the right time. Not to mention travel coordination, petty cash disbursement and Excel spreadsheets that truly "spread" miles.

Eyes blurry yet? Wait! There's more. Our team also handles all these diverse accounts not only for us here in Abilene, but the North Central region for HSCS including Lubbock, San Angelo & Big Spring. They keep updated with different accounting requirements for our SSLCs and State Hospitals, and provide training for other Centers upon request.

Regional Business Manager Hailey Shirley, Accounting Manager Chris White and Supervisor Lisa Dugan provide leadership to 20 dedicated staff. Chris was recently promoted to this position and brings a vision for the team to provide excellent service and genuine connection with other departments.

Our seasoned team frequently goes above and beyond the typical tasks of accounting. Trust Fund Administrator Jane Whalen works closely with families at a sensitive time when an individual passes away to address needs, and Cashiers Melissa Elizondo & Pam Huffman provide a kind and helpful interface with those we serve when cash is requested.

The team is entering a high demand period for their services. Holidays come with extra requests for funds and balancing of accounts. Thank all of you in the Accounting Department. You are tasked with carefully managing public monies and AbSSLC is beyond lucky to have you. We won our own version of the lottery with this fine team!

Are you a Veteran?

CAPPS maintains an indicator that shows employees having past military service. Knowing who is a veteran allows us to honor them on Veteran's Day for their service but indicating this is optional. If you would like CAPPS to show your veteran status (and it's not already there), you need provide your DD214 Discharge Paperwork & EID Number to Monica Jackson (Monica.Jackson11@hhs.texas.gov) and she will update your information.

Shout Outs!

Shout Out to **Terry Moore**! She took the time to attend HRC recently to ensure that what she felt was in the best interest of the individuals she serves was communicated. She was knowledgeable of the individual and what his day to day looks like including how he interacts with staff and peers. She was able to answer questions asked of her and provided extra information that would not have been available for the discussion without her. I appreciate her taking the time to attend HRC and I welcome any other IDT members that want to join HRC to provide input on restrictions being discussed.

I would like to shout out **Shelia**, the Home Supervisor at 6450 Plum as well as the **staff that work** at the home. I had to assess some of the residents over there and they were all extremely helpful. I was extremely impressed at how well the staff were with residents and how smoothly mealtime and medication time ran. Thank you all!

A Thankful SHOUT OUT for **Brandy Dillon**, who works at 5971 Service Avenue, for helping bring a gentleman to Audiology. She had been working since last night, but you wouldn't have known it by how well she interacted with the individual and her up-beat attitude. Staff like Brandy are an asset to AbSSLC and an obvious friend to the individuals she works with. Thank you Brandy!

A Special Shout Out

A very special Shout Out to all of those involved in the 2023 Music Festival

Abilene was the "host facility" this year which required 100s (1000s?) of hours of additional preparation above and beyond the many hours that are normally spent preparing each year. The behind-the-scenes work for this made for an great time.

Many don't realize the incredible amount of love & pride that goes into getting those attending ready to perform their acts. The short times on stage are backed up by lots (and lots) of practice along with getting their costumes ready.

Staff attending with the Individuals are with them around the clock to ensure not only their well-being but to help them have the best time possible. The smiles shown tells the true story – this special trip is an incredible experience for them and the staff made it happen. And the smiles from the staff are just as big, even when exhausted!

Thank you for making 2023 a great year!

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!

- 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!

Photo Explosion!

2023 Music Festival

