



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 March 9th, 2026

March 2026 Employee of the Month

Jane Whalen – Accounting



Tell us about your time with AbSSLC. When did you start? What positions have you held since being here?

When I started in August 1983, my position was payroll clerk at Vocational Services. In July 1988 I moved to Cashiers. I began in Accounting as Trust Fund Clerk in 1993.

What makes you do what you do?

Serving the Individuals at Abilene SSLC has been a blessing. I take great pride in knowing their Trust Fund is in good order. There are many rules and regulations for purchases with the Individual's personal money. Knowing if the person or the State should purchase the item and working with Guardians is a big part of my job. Knowing at the end of each workday the 200 plus accounts are balanced is what makes each day a great day.

Tell us about your favorite memory in your time at AbSSLC?

Over the years I have volunteered for dances, carnivals, family day picnics and many other facility gatherings. When I see the smiles and joy on the faces of the folks we serve it warms my heart. My favorite time is at the formal dance, to see them all dressed up and to know they feel special.

What recommendations do you have for other staff?

As an employee we all have jobs to serve the folks here at Abilene SSLC but if we each take the time to make at least one Individual feel special during our workday, you have succeeded in serving. The smallest gesture of kindness can go a long way in showing the folks we serve feel special.

If you have a magic wand, what is something you would change about AbSSLC to make it better for those we serve?

When I was in NEPT in 1983 I saw a sign on a small board that said "behind every pair of eyes is a person". That saying has stayed with me each day. The folks we serve all have different needs, wants and goals but one way we can serve them the very best is remember that first they are a person.

What is something you want everyone to remember in their work?

Each of our job descriptions has a part that states "other duties as assigned". As employees we have a list of things we must do each day but remember, kindness is a courtesy we can give to not only our fellow employees but the folks we serve. Take the time to make someone feel special.

Any other comments to include your story?

Working here for the past 43 years I have made friendships that will be with me forever. Take the time to know your co-workers, it has been said we spend more time with our co-workers than our own families. Make the time to build friendships, this will make each workday better.

April 2026 Employee of the Month

Nominations

Nominate that amazing employee who makes a true difference for those we serve!



Link: [AbSSLC Employee of the Month Nominations \(April 2026\) – Fill out form](#)

IRIS Outage



IRIS will be unavailable from 10p to 4am on Wednesday, March 11th.

Remember, **you** make the difference!

Shout Outs!

Shout out to **Teresa** and **Ashley** who keep our Lab running smoothly and efficiently with such grace! They are eager to help in any way they can with their top concern the wellbeing for our Individuals. They are both amazing teachers when explaining the reasons labs are ordered in special manners. I learn something new and helpful each time from them. It's truly amazing how the two of them care for our entire Campus from Monday to Friday, 0600 to 1400, with such willingness and compassion. Thank you Teresa & Ashley, for your dedication & efforts from behind the scenes! Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

If you missed our Special Chapel honoring Black History Month, you missed a good one! Special THANK YOU to the group from **True Religion Church** and **Pastor Jay** who elevated worship that night in the gym, in celebration of Black History Month. Everyone enjoyed the service, and we appreciate them coming to visit. Special THANK YOU and shout out to **Pam Wilson, Canesha Roberts & Chaplain Mike** for arranging their visit and participating in the celebration worship night

Shout Out to **Amanda, Mike (& JM), & PJ** for always being willing and ready to make my thoughts/ideas come to life. YOU went above/beyond the idea of "serving cake" for the Annual Leadership Awards. It was SO pretty, fun, and festive! AND ... you're definitely professionals when it comes to serving cake and punch! 😊 THANK YOU for always showing up with smiles and a positive attitude ready for whatever! I'm so thankful for EACH of you! 🙏

Abilene makes the Friday Photos!

ABILENE SSLC



In celebration of Black History Month, members from True Religion Church in Abilene led worship during a special Wednesday evening chapel service at the facility. Chaplain Mike Horton, Canesha Roberts and Pam Wilson, at left, arranged the visit and posed for a photo with members of True Religion.



Life Safety Code Tip of the Week

When used, power strips are only for temporary purposes and not overloaded. They can only be used for computers, TVs, etc. Power strips cannot be daisy chained together!

Shout Out Abilene!

We want to hear from you! Have a **suggestion** on how to make Abilene SSLC the best place ever to live & work? Have a **concern** to express? Want to **recognize someone** for their amazing work? **Shout Out and let us know!**



SCAN ME



You can also email your Shout Out to jeff.goza@hhs.texas.gov or text it to 325.370.4525!