



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 April 6th, 2026

Employee of the Month – April 2026

Marie Castillo – Home Supervisor @ 5962 Walnut

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

I began my journey at ABSSLC on November 1st, 2020. I initially worked the night shift at 5972 Service Ave. Eventually, I transitioned to the morning shift 5971 Service Ave, and after a while, I became a HAS, then a URC, and now I hold the position of supervisor for 5962 Walnut.



What makes you do what you do?

I truly care about people and the positive difference I can make. Assisting others and witnessing their growth motivates me. I'm motivated by making a real impact and doing work that actually helps people. I take pride in what I do, and I am driven to do it well every day!

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

My favorite memory for me was when I helped transform a challenging situation into a positive outcome. I had an amazing team by my side; we stuck together, got through it, and came out even stronger when 5962 Walnut was being established. It served as a reminder of why I take pride in my work and the importance of leadership and consistency. I will forever be grateful for everyone's help.

What recommendations do you have for other staff?

Stay consistent, communicate, and take pride in your work. The way we treat people matters just as much as the work we do!

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

I'd improve communication, sometimes we fall short on this.

If you have had a mentor at AbSSLC, can you name that person and something they instilled in you?

Kim Rankin saw potential in me that I didn't fully see in myself at the time, this really helped build my confidence, and that made a big impact on how I show up today.

Any other comments to include your story?

I've grown through both my successes and my setbacks - each experience has taught me something valuable, and I use those lessons to improve how I lead, communicate, and support others. I believe growth never stops and I'm always open to learning!

Spring
Benefit
Golf
Scramble!



Register
Now!

Date: 5/15/26

4-man Scramble

\$400 per Team of 4

(\$100 for current AbSSLC Employees)

Registration closes: 4/14/2026

Maxwell Golf Course

Click [here](#) to register!

May 2026 Employee of the Month Nominations



Click the box above to make
your nomination!

Annual TB Test Clinic

Monday, April 13th & Tuesday, April 14th
6am – 11am and 1pm – 3pm
Lonestar Café Conference Area

Spreading Kindness One Banner at a Time!

Perhaps you have noticed a new banner near the front gate? A banner named "Kindness Is..." states actual words from a few of our residents about what kindness means to them. This banner, like several others across the campus, comes from the creative staff at the Activity Centers. **Brittany New, Amber Davis and Keri McClure** have taken it to heart to look out for Recognition Days for many of our departments and create works of art for us to enjoy as we start our day or drive around campus.



The Activity Center team has over 150 banners in storage and pride themselves on bringing brief moments of happiness. This Kindness banner is one of four being created during April and May to reflect on the kindness we get from the residents who live here. The sewing room staff bring new life to bed sheets, while acrylic paint base coats toughen up the banner to withstand the Abilene weather.

These Kindness banners will travel throughout the campus and requesting a "visit" by the banners to your banner board is as easy as asking Keri or Amber. The Activity Center teams make our days brighter and their banners that pop up is a reminder of how blessed we are to have their kindness in our lives.

Kindness Matters

AbSSLC Makes the Friday Photos!

ABILENE SSLC



The facility recently held a fashion show in celebration of 122 years of taking care of people and to help a resident achieve a goal to participate in a fashion show. More than 20 residents participated, each with a staff chaperone. Pictured are Pam Wilson and Jacoria Ford.

Calling 911

If you accidentally call 911 (it happens more than you would think), please don't just hang up. Stay on the line with the dispatcher and let them know the call was an accident.

If an Individual calls 911 due to a behavior, try to let the dispatcher know it's not an emergency. It's also good to call our Switchboard to let them know about the call.

Call 911 for a true emergency? Please ensure you all call the Switchboard so we now to expect them at the gate.

See Something
Say Something
Do Something

Shout Outs!

I would like to give a shout out to **Jessica Garcia**. Jessica has an important role out here that no one really know about. Thank you for all that you do for the individuals and for the staff. Thank you for taking out the time to help out others even when your plate is overflowing.

I'd like to give a huge Shout Out to **all those who braved the cold, windy weather** to help out with cemetery cleanup last week! We did a ton of weed-eating, ground repair, tree & brush trimming, and more. The Grounds guys (they are amazing) transported many trailers full of brush. We got a LOT done and everything looks great. You gals & guys totally rock. Thanks again.

A huge shout out and THANK YOU to this **"always amazing Rec Crew"** who never says "it'd be easier to cancel..." but instead always says "let's make it work" no matter the issue. Today was the perfect example of this when the Bunny Hop was in jeopardy of being cancelled due to an unexpected electric pole issue. Instead, they loaded up and moved the dance outside (hauling tables, chairs, ice, drinks, speakers, music, and the FUN)! Thank YOU Rec Crew for ALL you do! AND thank you to everyone who joined and for the fabulous **Activity Center Crew** for getting people to the Bunny Hop! Y'all are EGGstravagant!

Thank YOU, **Amanda**, for always being up for whatever the day may bring 🍌 AND having a smile, working hands/feet, positive attitude, and bringing the FUN to everything we do and everywhere we go! I'm SO blessed by YOU!

Shout out to **Carlos** from Security for airing up my tire – I really appreciate you taking the time to help me out! Also, a big thanks to all our security team for everything you do each day. It doesn't go unnoticed. We appreciate the role you play in keeping things running smoothly around here.



Life Safety Code Tip of the Week

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!