

Attendants of the Year

To Whom It May Concern:

I am nominating Susan Donohue for attendant of the year, and I'd like to tell you why. Coming home, I can rest assured that my daughter has been well taken care of. Natalie has numerous needs. She drives a power chair but requires constant attention so as not to be in any danger. Our attendant makes sure Natalie is engaged the entire time she is with her. I was surprised to get a note of the day's activities on her first visit. I was impressed that not only was she in tune with Natalie's needs, but the family's need to know that all was well. Children like my daughter don't have many opportunities outside, and my daughter loves the outdoors. Susan takes her outside regularly, and exposes her to things like gardening, decorating pumpkins, getting the mail, taking out the trash, and visiting the chicken pen with her. We live on the outskirts of town and have a little land, and she takes her out often.

She researches jokes that Nat may be able to learn and remember, and posts them on the refrigerator for us all. Holidays always bring some kind of appropriate activity or project for them to do. It's difficult to know how much Nat appreciates her efforts, but we as parents do. I hope that she is chosen for attendant of the year because she really desires it.

Sincerely,
 Lora Cotton



In honor of Susan's recognition as our DSSW Attendant of the year, she received a \$250 gift of her choice. Congratulations Susan, we hope you realize what a wonderful impact you have on the people around you.

As our CDS Attendant of the Year, Jenny received an engraved crystal vase. Thank-you Jenny, your commitment and thoughtfulness is an inspiration to all of us.



CDS Attendant of the Year

I would like to nominate Jenny Grabert... Jenny has helped us with Grace's therapies, taken her to and from school, come with me to doctor appts, taken her to the mall so I can help my older children with shopping, been there for all her birthdays, helped me with her at church, come with us on short trips, and helped with her even when she was sick. My older children have taken to her like a big sister, and she even helps them with their homework. Grace gets so excited when Jenny comes to work and she loves Jenny's husband Forest as much if not more! She knows all of Grace's health and personality quirks. Grace was getting ABA therapy for behavior issues more than a year and a half ago... Jenny stuck with it and was tough as nails when we needed her to be. Grace quickly caught on and her behavior made vast improvements! We are so glad she was on board and stuck it out with us. We are thankful for someone we can trust our little girl with who loves her as much as we do.

Jennie Dendy

Lights of Love a great way to give

Lights of Love 2009 is an Austin event at the open-air Mueller Hangar and the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. Participating in this 5K evening is a direct way to make an impact in the lives of families.

This year our DSSW Austin agency participated. It was a very cold night, but everyone had fun and it supported a great cause. We started the fundraising and t-shirt design contest in October. Many office members started walking together, exercising and running to get ready for the race. The process was a great team-building project that promoted teamwork and supported a health by encouraging fitness and exercise. The proceeds from the race and fundraising went to benefit the Ronald McDonald House at the Dell Children's Hospital. Thank you to everyone that participated in the race and to everyone that made donations.



Those who participated:

Wendy Baker, Administrator
Holly Freed, Lead Program Director
Kelly Robinson, Program Director
Tara Devilbiss, Program Director
Kristen Castro, HR Coordinator
Sharon Hunt, Administrative Assistant
Veronica Trevisan, Scheduler



Calling All Artists design our holiday cards

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. This was the second year that we sent out holiday cards to our clients and vendors. This year we are holding a contest for the design that will go on our 2010 cards. All clients and attendants are eligible to enter. The winner will have their artwork sent to over 6000 people in Texas. Here are the rules:

- 1) You must be either a client or employee of DSSW or CDS in Texas.
- 2) Entries must reach our offices via email or postal service by November 10, 2010. Please include your name, whether you are a client or attendant, and a little bit about yourself.

3) Mail all artwork to:
Holiday Card Contest
6243 IH-10, St. 375
San Antonio, TX 78201

Or email a jpg, pdf, tif, eps, or ai file to:
caretx@dsswtx.org

4) Due to the many different spiritual beliefs of our clients, artwork that is specifically religious will not be accepted. Yes, Christmas trees, angels, and things of that nature are alright. All artwork once received is the property of DSSW.

We will showcase our top runners-up in our newsletter so everyone can see what great designs you all came up with. Please, if you have an questions or concerns do not hesitate to email us at caretx@dsswtx.org.

CDS

corner

in Texas

Just the Fax, Ma'am new numbers to know

We have good news to start off the New Year!! One constant problem for all of us on CDS is when payroll comes around, we have busy signals on our fax lines. Well, we have taken steps to solve that problem.

Effective immediately, we have added nine new fax lines to help relieve payroll backlogs. Please see the list on the right, and use the number that matches the last name of the person receiving services. The old numbers still work, but we would ask that you try not to use them.

At the end of the list is a special line to use for sending in new hire paperwork and reimbursement requests.

CDS-GROUP-AB 877-726 4910
210-785 3470

CDS-GROUP-CD 877-726 4911
210-785 3471

CDS-GROUP-FG 877-726 4912
210-785 3472

CDS-GROUP-HP 877-726 4913
210-785 3473

CDS-GROUP-ILN 877-726 4914
210-785 3474

CDS-GROUP-MO 877-726 4915
210-785 3475

CDS-GROUP-RS 877-726 4916
210-785 3476

CDS-GROUP-UVWXYZ 877-726 4917
210-785 3477

CDS-GROUP-EQT 877-726 4918
210-785 3478

New Hires & Reimbursement Requests
877-726 4919
210-785 3479

*your life
your direction*

FAXED
finally!



TEXAS COUNCIL ON AUTISM & PERVERSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

The Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders has launched their new enhanced website. This site will be a great source for news on current federal and state legislation pertaining to Autism and PDD. As well, there is an expansive list of links to state, regional, and local agencies and services providers.

Wondering about the latest research and reports on autism and PDD? This site contains a large catalogue from both governmental agencies and leading universities.

Looking for a comprehensive definition of what autism and PDD are? This site has

compiled non-repetitive sources to help inform those looking for a better understanding of autism and PDD.

The Texas Council on Autism's mission is to "advise and make recommendations to state agencies and the state legislature to ensure that the needs of persons of all ages with autism and other pervasive developmental disorders and their families are addressed and that all available resources are coordinated to meet those needs." and this website is a step in the right direction.

Check it out for yourself at:
www.dads.state.tx.us/autism/index

Or Google "Texas Autism Council"

A Few More Things we think you should know

1) We here at Care, TX have so much information that we want to share with you. Unfortunately the cost of printing anymore pages is high and with a readership of over 6000, it is too much for us to add anymore to this publication. But, if you enjoy reading Care, TX and are a “computer person” then we invite you to give up your paper issue and read us online. Email us here at caretx@dsswtx.org and you will receive our publication via email. Please include the your name and the client name in your email. Oh, and you will be doing your part to save a tree. Everybody loves trees! Except maybe for cedar trees...those allergies are vicious.

2) Due to space issues, we will continue our series “Coping with Caregiving” in the next issue of Care, TX. We apologize for any inconvenience this created.

3) Questions? Comments? Concerns? Please let us know. Also if you have anything that you think would be relevant to our readers, please write or email us. Once again the addresses are:

caretx@dsswtx.org

or

Care, TX

6243 IH-10 West, Suite 375

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