**Overcoming Loneliness & Getting Back Into A Social World**

Even before COVID-19, nearly 50% of Americans said they experienced loneliness. That figure is only expected to climb. Long-term loneliness is associated with an increased risk of certain mental and physical health problems, including depression, anxiety and stress.

While it’s been a few months since full stay-at-home orders were in place (depending on where you live), many are still feeling the effects of social isolation. Additionally, many are now struggling to overcome the initial loneliness and fear, while navigating how to rejoin society and stay safe at the same time. Here are a few thoughts to keep in mind while starting the process.

**Follow The Guidelines**

Our governing bodies have laid out clear guidelines (6 feet, masks, washing hands, etc.) as they strategically allow business and society to open back up.

**Give Yourself (& Others) Grace & Respect**

Pressure will be coming from all directions - pushing you out of the house or telling you to stay home. Give yourself grace, permission and respect.

To be comfortable with your choices. Don’t pressure others beyond their comfort zone, and be understanding of your own comfort zone.

**Be Flexible & Creative**

Coffee dates may evolve into meeting a friend at the park, or sitting in cars at the parking lot. Yoga or fitness classes may end up outside so fresh air and social distancing can be practiced. Be open to rethinking and reimagining the “normal” so you can interact and be safe.

**Victoria Devereux Gardens Offers Homecoming Mums!**

Victoria Devereux Gardens offers Homecoming Mums!

With public access to the campus garden and nursery still temporarily restricted due to the pandemic, the Devereux Gardens Victoria store continues to serve the community in the store and by taking phone orders.

The store manager Christie Huvar said, “We are happy to schedule deliveries or make arrangements for curbside pickup at our store front location. This also includes items customers might be interested in purchasing from our growing center on campus.”

Christie went on to say that the store receives a dozen or more calls each week from customers eager to purchase cookies or brownies from the Devereux Bakery, our vocational program that has been suspended since the pandemic began.

With the fall season setting in, the store has broadened its creativity and begun to offer customers a crafty and customizable option to order homecoming mums and garters. With many schools in Victoria and the surrounding area resuming this fall favorite tradition, customers are encouraged to contact the Devereux Gardens store to place their orders.

**DevereuxGardens.org**

**361-573-3246**
Our 2020 Graduates are Ready to Shine!

We are so very proud to announce our 2020 graduates, Starr and Brittany from our Victoria campus and Erik from our League City campus. Despite the challenges 2020 offered, their hard work and dedication have finally paid off. They have earned their high school diplomas!

Starr was very active in her time at Devereux. She participated in a hip-hop dance group, was part of the Adult Program Cycling Group, completing 10, and up to 16-mile rides and was a member of the Victoria Shining Stars track team. Starr also participated in the Vocational Pic-Pac Program, developing skills that she could apply directly upon her return to California.

Brittany was a very dedicated student, always going above and beyond to earn her credits to graduate. She was able to participate in the Vocational Program - working in the bakery group to bake cookies and assorted goods that were sold at the Devereux Gardens retail center in Victoria.

Erik is looking forward to his academic career. The RISE program really helped him achieve his treatment goals. He plans to move to an independent living situation and has already been accepted to college - receiving a Devereux scholarship!

Starr, Brittany and Erik overcame the challenges they faced in their young lives, and have blossomed into confident, energetic, and independent young adults. We are very proud of all they accomplished at Devereux, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Staying Active Around Campus

The youth at our League City campus have been staying busy and entertained while social distancing during the last seven months. They’ve been having fun in the sun with water activities such as water slides, paddle boating and fishing! Thanks to donations from our supporters, beautiful puzzles now line the walls of our residential dorms.

The Devereux School at the League City campus is in session. Students are working hard on vocabulary, math and writing skills. Ms. W., our Special Education Vocational Instructor, is preparing them for the future by teaching them how to prepare a resume and interview techniques. Our therapy dog, Otis, is on the clock, too, giving everyone affection during the day.

Essential Staff Member Goes Above and Beyond

Mike Sorrels, Devereux Texas Direct Support Professional (DSP), has been an employee at our League City campus for the past 5 years. Mike works on one of our licensed hospital units and really stepped up during Hurricane Harvey by keeping the kids entertained and motivated during the four-month evacuation. Mike has once again shown his leadership skills throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by creating activities that increase engagement in programs. Recently, Mike introduced a new activity to our clients using tablets to do a Digital Scavenger Hunt. The clients had a ball!

Mike’s initiative and involvement really shine when we get to see our kids in high spirits. He has become a go-to guy on campus for helping other staff keep our kids engaged. As a DSP mentor, Mike assists with mentoring new employees. Devereux’s DSPs play a critical role in helping the individuals they serve to develop the social, emotional, and life skills needed to thrive.

“I love being part of a team that helps the individuals in our care improve, and successfully complete, their program. Being able to witness a child’s transformation while they are here reminds me of why we do this job.”
FRIENDS OF DEVEREUX

Are you interested in making a positive difference in the life of a child, teen or adult in need? Join the Friends of Devereux!

The Friends of Devereux is an amazing group of volunteers that enhances and enriches the lives of Devereux clients through various projects throughout the year. The Friends make Devereux their home away from home.

Both the League City and Victoria campuses are actively looking for volunteers!

Ways you can help include tutoring, birthday parties, library, holidays, events, working at Devereux Gardens and more. If you have some time and want to participate in a worthwhile effort to see the lives of children and adults change, come join us! You will make a difference.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about this vital role, please contact:

Victoria campus
Nicole Loest, Development Associate, at 361-574-7217 or email: eloest@devereux.org

League City campus
Michelle Gardner, Marketing Associate, at 281-335-1000 or email: mgardne3@devereux.org

Backpacks of Love

Over the last few months, several of our clients have found themselves in isolation or quarantine - for the safety and comfort of all in our care - due to COVID-19 protocols.

The amazing Friends of Devereux put together activity bags to help pass the time for these clients. These Backpacks of Love delivered handheld electronic games, puzzles, activity books, crayons, books, movies, etc., and were a huge hit.

The League City Friends began the Backpacks of Love by donating funds for eight backpacks - but more are needed! Contributions can be made online at devereuxtx.org, or you may contact Nancy Rivera at nrivera@devereux.org.

CHAIRMAN’S CHAT
September 2020

The last seven months have been unsettling and challenging for all of us. No one predicted the depth and severity of COVID-19 and the subsequent economic impact it would have on the country. The Devereux Texas Advisory Board has felt the effects along with everyone else.

When it became obvious our annual spring gala would have to be rescheduled, we changed our vision and immediately began working on filling specific needs for the Devereux clients and staff. They were quarantined and needed items such as masks, gloves, hats, and smocks.

The Board was able to make and buy several thousand masks and raised money to cover other needs. We collected and donated games, puzzles, art supplies, and books to help clients fill their spare time.

The Advisory Board has been active in planning for the future. The summer Yawl Ketch the Spirit event will be held on December 3, 2020, at South Shore Harbour Resort. This is always a favorite night out with a nautical flair.

We have moved our annual fall Divots for Devereux Golf Classic to March 8, 2021, at Wildcat Golf Club. The tournament will feature lunch, dinner, golf, auctions and a fun-filled day.

We sincerely thank you and appreciate your past support. Please continue helping us as we work to fulfill the Devereux Mission to aid children, adolescents and adults with behavioral and development challenges.

Bob Reeves
Chairman Texas Advisory Board

KENDRA SCOTT

Kendra Scott Gives Back Event

Perfect time for holiday shopping or to treat yourself!

When: December 3rd, 4th & 5th

Shop: Online, In-Store & Phone Orders

Use code GIVEBACK8353 in your cart or at checkout

New information about tax-deductible donation limits

DID YOU KNOW?

On March 27, the President signed the CARES Act into law to help counter the economic impacts of COVID-19. One little-known perk of this bill is that it offers increased tax incentives for charitable giving for both individuals and corporations.

Itemizing deductions?

The adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for cash contributions was increased for individual donors. You can now elect to deduct up to 100% of your AGI (increased from 60%) for cash contributions made in 2020.

Giving on behalf of a business?

The AGI limit for cash contributions was also increased for corporate donors. Businesses can now deduct up to 25% of taxable income (increased from 10%).

Not itemizing?

It allows for an additional, “above-the-line” deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to $300. If you are not itemizing your 2020 taxes, this new deduction can be claimed.

Please speak with your tax professional for further details.

AMOCO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

“A Member Owned Cooperative Organization”

Amoco FCU Creates Change

Our amazing community partner, AMOCO Federal Credit Union, delivered 98 handwritten notes of encouragement to the teens in our long-term residential treatment program. AMOCO’s thoughtful and generous support has enriched many lives, including the teens in our care.

Through AMOCO’s Create Change program, when you finance a loan – and let your representative know that you would like to pay it forward to Devereux Texas – AMOCO will donate 1% of your loan amount back to our organization!
Devereux Texas would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses that made donations between July 1, 2020, and October 9, 2020. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

Mr. Robert Ballard
Black Iron Corporation
The Honorable Greg and Mrs. Bonnen
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bowles
Mr. David C. Brandt
Dawat-e-Hadiyah Community
Mrs. Marsha Dunn
Five Below
Mary and Robert Franklin
Ms. Jennifer Haley
Mr. Jim Hamilton
Mrs. Suzi Hanks
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hardy
Ms. Jamie Hazelwood
H-E-B, LP

Houston Children’s Charity
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Janis
John P. McGovern Foundation
Ms. Misty Khan
Kroger
Ms. Penny Milner
Dr. and Mrs. Mike Morris
Mr. and Mrs. Ole Nilssen
Mr. and Mrs. Lyndel Norwood
Mr. Obie O’Brien
Mrs. Pamela O’Brien and Captain Jon Halvorsen
Perini Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reeves
Ms. Earlyne Robb

Ms. Joni Robertson
Ross, Banks, May, Cron & Cavin, P.C.
Ruth Jones MacDonald Charitable Trust
Mr. Richard Shull
Ms. Wendy Shumaker
Estate of Lucille M. Smith
Ms. Brenda Spillman
The Spillman Group
Texas Center for Child and Family Studies
Mrs. Barbara Welder
Xi Zeta Eta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
Mr. Stephen Yamin