Devereux Encourages You to Stay Informed and Use Available Resources

Following the Parkland, Florida, and Santa Fe High School shootings, mental health is at the forefront of many people’s minds. School districts and communities throughout the state of Texas are coming together to evaluate their safety practices. In addition to an overall commitment to ensuring a safe and nurturing learning environment for students and staff, both Clear Creek and Santa Fe Independent School Districts reference the importance of “relationships and collaboration” in their mission statements. We believe that the development of community school safety committees is a clear demonstration of this philosophy. Devereux staff participated in both the Clear Creek ISD and Santa Fe ISD safety committees charged with evaluating prevention, intervention, response, safety protocols and plans. Both districts continue to address and gather recommendations regarding facilities, security protocol, student mental wellness, security training protocols, policies and procedures, and communications to improve overall school safety. Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health salutes school district leadership and thanks the diverse set of community stakeholders who have come together to address this community problem.

Mental health is a community public health issue and should be treated with the same urgency as physical health. Although our public schools are primarily charged with educating our children, they serve as our partners in shaping the social and emotional health of our children while at school. As a mental health provider, Devereux supports incorporating evidenced-based practices into school curriculum, including social and emotional learning, bullying prevention and response programs, and positive behavioral supports and interventions. In addition, increasing training, support for students, parents and teachers about mental health, and safety is a critical component to prevention and intervention. When students with mental health issues are identified, assessed and receive appropriate attention and intervention, long-term prognosis improves significantly. We support the districts’ ongoing efforts to creative a positive, healthy, informed school environment where students and staff feel safe and emotionally connected and cared for.

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Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health Texas encourages you to reach out, get involved and familiarize yourself with the resources available — and to spread the word to others. You never know when a simple conversation could save a life. In addition to reaching out to local school and community mental health resources, here is some helpful information to keep on hand.

**Hotlines are available 24/7 to help with crisis situations**
Help is just a phone call away. Hotlines staffed by mental health professionals provide immediate attention and encouragement, and can aid individuals in obtaining the help they need.

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 800.273.8255
- **Alcohol and Drug Helpline:** 800.821.4357
- **Teen Help Adolescent Resources:** 800.840.5704

**Long-term treatment can change lives**
Devereux Texas’ services include long-term hospitalization and intensive residential services for ages 11 to 22; residential services for ages K-12 and 18+; community-based living programs; pre-vocational and vocational programs; specialized services for individuals with learning differences, medical complexities, substance abuse and histories of commercial sexual exploitation. Clients receive care, treatment and support, and learn skills and strategies to help them succeed and reach their full potential.

**YOU AREN’T ALONE**

- Approximately 20% of young people ages 13-18 have a mental health condition.
- Nationwide, approximately 44% of adults experience mental illness each year.
- 90% of people who die from suicide have a mental illness.

Early intervention and prevention has the power to prevent shootings and suicides. Make a difference when you spread awareness and openly discuss mental health issues.

**SANTA FE STRONG**

Devereux Advanced Behavioral health wishes to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to all affected by the Santa Fe High School shooting. Our hearts go out to the students, parents and staff, along with all who courageously responded to the tragedy.
Life Skills Day Prepares Students for Life After Graduation

Devereux School students picked up real-world knowledge aimed at helping guide them after graduation during the school’s annual Life Skills Day. On May 18, the students took part in educational sessions: finance and budgeting, interview techniques, social media etiquette, and careers in the STEM industry. The day was a tremendous success, thanks to our Texas Advisory Board members and corporate community partner, INEOS. Thank you for your time, support and dedication to Devereux’s kids.

Pictured, from left: Cory LeBouf with Green Bank, Libby Olson with INEOS, Pamela O’Brien with Pamela Hope Designs, Misty Kahn with Advena Artemis and David King with INEOS.

Devereux is Proud of Our 2018 Graduates

On June 22, Devereux Texas was honored to recognize the accomplishments of four young men and women who completed their high school education at League City’s Devereux School. Although we know our graduates have bright futures ahead of them, it is never easy to say goodbye to clients we have grown to know and love. We were touched at Devereux client Jordan’s sweet words during his graduation speech:

“I appreciate all you have done and helped me out with. You all pushed me to go farther than I planned before I had gotten to the campus. The teachers all helped me get on track and stay on track. The staff — you all have seriously done more than I could ask for. You all have talked to me when I needed someone to talk to. You all have given me great advice that I will use when I get home. You all told me I could get through whatever I had to so that I could make a better life for myself.”

Congratulations, graduates!

Devereux Awarded $50,000 Rebuild Texas Fund Grant

Devereux is proud to announce that the Texas Center for Child and Family Services, in partnership with the Rebuild Texas Fund, recently awarded us a $50,000 Rebuild Texas Fund grant!

Rebuild Texas Fund grants help organizations support the needs and challenges facing Texas’ most vulnerable children and families impacted by Hurricane Harvey, Katie Olse, Executive Director of Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, as well as the Center, said in a news release.

The money will help implement the Devereux Texas Enhanced Trauma Informed Care project, a specialized training program aimed at arming clinicians and staff members to provide advanced-level trauma support.

Although Devereux team members already undergo extensive training, trauma such as that experienced during a natural disaster requires enhanced care, Devereux Texas Executive Director Pam Reed said.

“Our goal is to make sure every member of our staff is providing the strongest possible support to those in need,” she explained.

In total, the Center awarded more than $700,000 from the Rebuild Texas Fund to 12 organizations. The Center will monitor and oversee grant recipients’ ongoing work.

Devereux is grateful for the additional funding, and for the opportunity to serve as an even stronger client resource!

For more information about the Rebuild Texas Fund, visit rebuildtexas.org.
The **15th Annual Yawl Ketch the Spirit... of Devereux** is a boatload of fun, and it will be here before you know it! Join us for fantastic food, live music, auctions, raffles and more, all for a worthy cause. Proceeds help Devereux make a difference in the lives of adolescents struggling with emotional, behavioral and cognitive differences.

**Thursday, August 9**
Opus Ocean Grille | Clear Lake Shores, Texas

Our sponsors gathered to kick off the 2018 event. Pictured, from left: Marsha Cottle with Friends of Devereux, Roy Green with South Shore Harbour Resort, Gloria Greene with Elite Care 24 Hour Emergency Room, Jay Coppock with Associated Credit Union of Texas, Amber Murphy with Butler’s Courtyard, Friends of Devereux President Ashley Walters, Cathie Woitena with Associated Credit Union of Texas, Stacey Malbrough with AMOCO Federal Credit Union and Dale Hardy with GeoSurv, LLC.

**NOT PICTURED:** Marina Bay Dental

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**AMOCO Pays it Forward**

Devereux Texas is proud to be in partnership with our friends at AMOCO Federal Credit Union. When you finance your loan through AMOCO — 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! This partnership is an easy way to give back, without any added out-of-pocket expense. Help spread the news!

**It’s Never Been Easier to Fundraise for Devereux**

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health website makes it simple to make a difference to the children, adolescents and adults in our care.

- Just visit [devereuxtexas.org](http://devereuxtexas.org)
- Click the “Create a Fundraiser for Devereux” banner
- Follow the steps on the page!

Whether you’d like to ask for contributions in lieu of gifts for a birthday or anniversary, honor a loved one or acknowledge a cause that’s close to your heart, this is a simple gesture that changes lives.

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**Purchase Your Tickets Today at devereuxspirit.org**
**Faithful Friends Brings Wet Noses, Warm Hearts to Devereux**

For years now, the pitter-patter of paws has filled Devereux Texas’ League City campus when Faithful Friends brings their dogs in for weekend playdates. Faithful Friends Animal Therapy got its start 25 years ago with a goal of spreading joy and happiness through visits with four-legged friends. Research shows that such interactions with animals have positive effects on therapy, and help reduce blood pressure and stress.

Mary Gibson, who works with Faithful Friends, said the group has made wonderful memories at Devereux. The experience is unique, she said, because the dogs are given the chance to go off-leash and be themselves.

“The kids, in turn, get to be kids — loving the pets back, stroking and cuddling them, throwing balls, sometimes whispering in their ears,” she said. “I’ve always called it ‘blissful chaos.’”

Rob Alexander, also with Faithful Friends, described the outreach as a unique way to give back.

“Many of our animals — including my two dogs — have been coming to visit Devereux for their whole lives,” he explained. “Spending that one hour a week is of great benefit for us, for our dogs and for the clients — with whom we often have a bond as we visit them through the years.”

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**Deacons of Deadwood Name Devereux 2018 Charity Ball Beneficiary**

The Deacons of Deadwood Motorcycle Club has selected Devereux as a beneficiary of their 17th Annual Charity Ball! Please make plans to join us Saturday, September 15, for a rocking evening of food, live music, dancing and other fun, benefitting Devereux’s kids. Thank you, Deacons, for your ongoing support and generosity! For more information about the event, or to purchase tickets, visit deaconsofdeadwood.org.

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**Devereux Clients Bring Their A-Game to Beach Clean-Up**

In late April, a group of volunteers from Victoria’s Adult Residential Program collected 13 bags of trash over two miles at Magnolia Beach. The Devereux group was recognized for its hard work with a meal by a local host. The adult program includes many opportunities for clients to volunteer within the community, including monthly visits to the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent.
The 16th Annual Divots for Devereux Golf Classic is your chance to change lives while you enjoy a day on the green. Join us for a scramble-format tournament benefitting the Devereux School and scholarship program, and help Devereux continue down the path of recovery following Hurricane Harvey. With fun contests, friendly competition and fantastic auctions and giveaways, this is one event you won’t want to miss!

Divots for Devereux Golf Classic

Monday, October 8
Bay Oaks Country Club
Houston, Texas

Tickets and Sponsorships Are Available! divotsfordevereux.org

Devereux Gardens Voted “Best of the Best” Crossroads Florists

Victoria’s Devereux Gardens recently won Best Florist in the Victoria Advocate newspaper’s 2018 Best of the Best competition. The annual contest asks Crossroads residents to vote for their favorite area businesses.

Devereux Gardens is a full gift shop that sells floral arrangements, custom gift baskets, plants, baked goods and more. As part of the retail division for Devereux Victoria’s adult community vocational program, the store allows clients to work within a community retail setting, in a supportive and therapeutic environment.

Laura Mills, Devereux Gardens’ manager and floral designer, said she was proud of the recognition, and honored to serve the Crossroads community.

“Every purchase goes back into the foundation,” she said. “The community likes to visit with clients and see them working. What customers purchase goes back into the foundation, and it helps clients.”
Summer Fun Field Days Encourage Enjoyment, Education

Children in Victoria’s residential treatment program recently visited the Texas State Aquarium as part of Devereux’s Summer Fun Field Days. The outing was part of the positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) program, which provides fun — and educational — outings and campus presentations.

The summer programs kicked off with a campus demonstration by the City of Victoria Police Department, where our children saw police dogs that detect narcotics and received a hands-on patrol car tour. Other activities included visits to the Dorothy O’Connor Pet Adoption Center, the Texas Zoo and a local fire station.

Devereux is grateful for volunteers and the sponsors of our Summer Fun Field Days, including West Farms, Trevino Water Engineering, Bubba Leita Farms, REXCO, Inc. and Bower Brothers. Your support provides the children in our care opportunities that enrich their lives and help us in our goal to help them lead healthy, happy lives.

Artistic Clients Focus on Reflection

“Reflections: Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.” This quotation by Søren Kierkegaard was this year’s theme for the Unit 3 Art Show.

Our creative clients tackled the theme in a number of ways. Some focused on issues such as the reflection of light and mirroring, while others highlighted meditation and even the act of reflecting — and growing from — past experiences.

Therapeutic art offers an outlet to express feelings. Non-verbal means can safely give voice and make the experience of emotions, thoughts and memories visible when words are insufficient. Our clients produced a beautiful and meaningful body of artwork and were fully invested in the process. Some clients also shared poetry at the show.

Event led by Devereux therapist Tiina Anttila.

Thank You, Empowered Women and Elite Care 24 Hour Emergency Room!

Devereux Texas is honored to be the charity of choice of the Empowered Women networking group led by Paula Villeneuve. The group recently raised $600 for our organization while participating in Elite Care 24 Hour Emergency Room’s Seventh Anniversary Community Open House event. Elite Care graciously matched the $600 gift for a total donation of $1,200! We are beyond grateful to both organizations for their generosity and community involvement. Funds collected will benefit the adolescents in our residential treatment program.
We Wish You the Best, Christian!

Devereux Texas’ staff, clients and Friends of Devereux members would like to wish Christian Nguyen the best of luck as he begins his medical school journey. Christian has been a tutor with the Friends for two years and served as Secretary on our Executive Committee for one and-a-half years. His passion to become a doctor and help others made him a great addition to the Friends of Devereux. Christian’s commitment to the organization and to our kids will be greatly missed.

“Having the opportunity to tutor and work directly with the clients at Devereux has been, hands down, my most memorable moment as a Friend of Devereux. I wanted to be someone who could not only teach the subjects that the clients struggled with, but also support them through their tough times — like a friend. Just before returning home, my first-ever client told me, “I want to be an engineer.” Hearing this was bittersweet. I was saddened when he needed my assistance less and less every week, but overwhelmed with joy at the reality that my client had started creating long-term goals for himself. I first joined Friends of Devereux in May of 2016, and it has been a little over two years since then.

I consider this experience to have been an incredible journey for myself, one that I will always remember as I make the move to medical school at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. I hope that the tutoring that I had provided instilled or even sparked confidence in any of my clients as they also continue to grow and move forward in their lives.”

— Christian Nguyen

Join Friends of Devereux and Make a Difference

Friends of Devereux needs your help to support and encourage the adolescents in Devereux’s residential treatment program. Through monthly activities, the Friends provide love, support and a home-away-from-home atmosphere to our youth ages 11-22. The League City intensive residential treatment program is a long-term program in which adolescents spend anywhere from 12 months to several years in care while living on campus. Get involved today and make a positive change in a young person’s life.

Contact Michelle Gardner at mgarde3@devereux.org for more information.

Friends of Devereux members prepare fun Halloween treat bags for our clients.

Birthdays are a big deal at Devereux, thanks to our wonderful Friends of Devereux volunteers.

Our Mission

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health changes lives — by unlocking and nurturing human potential for people living with emotional, behavioral or cognitive differences.
Devereux Texas would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses that made donations between March 7 and June 30, 2018. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

You all have helped me so much since I have gotten here, and I thank you so much.”  – Jordan, age 18