Devereux Celebrates 60 Years in Victoria, Texas

On November 19, 1959, Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health opened the doors to its location in Victoria, Texas. Since then, Devereux’s programs have provided mental health services to children, adolescents, adults, and families. Through these 60 years of treatment and nurturing care, thousands have found brighter futures.

EARLY YEARS

In 1912, Helena Devereux opened the original location of the Devereux Foundation in Philadelphia. In the mid-1950s, Dr. George Constant, a respected psychiatrist from Victoria Texas, persuaded Miss Devereux to allow him to open a new branch in Victoria County on unoccupied land formerly part of Foster Field Air Force Base. At its inception, over 120 children, adolescents, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities or mental disorders were admitted.

Five years after Devereux Victoria opened, its success convinced Miss Devereux to allow Dr. Constant and his “Victoria Committee” (County Judge Frank Crain, Morris Roberts, D. E. Blackburn, Albert York, and M. O. Simon) to find land for a new facility. In a fortunate turn of events, Dr. Constant secured a donation of 450 acres of land located 12 miles south of Victoria, on Highway 59.

The first half of the new campus was constructed one building at a time. By 1971, the final buildings were open and operating as children's programs.

The second half of construction consisted of an administrative building and four villas: a school, pool, gym, and dining hall. By October of 1974, Devereux Victoria was full - all 270 beds!

MODERN TREATMENT

Dr. Ruth Constant, the widow of Dr. George Constant, always supported her husband’s lifetime dream. Dr. George strongly felt that through love and proper care, everyone’s human potential could be unlocked. Dr. Ruth continues to share that dream. Having served on the Devereux South Texas Advisory Council for several years, Dr. Ruth believes, “Rather than an obligation, to me, it is an avocation.”

Today, the Victoria campus offers a wide variety of residential programs for children suffering from abuse and serious emotional disturbances. We also provide programs for adults with severe mental health and developmental disabilities. These include adult residential, community living and adult day programs. Through the Devereux Gardens retail store in Victoria and the campus Growing Center, clients gain valuable vocational experience.

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health employees more than 7,500 staff nationwide and operates 15 centers in 13 states. Devereux offers a comprehensive, national network of clinical, therapeutic, educational, and employment programs and services that positively impact the lives of tens of thousands of children, adults and their families every year.

2019 Nonprofit of the Year

We are honored to receive the 2019 Nonprofit of the Year award from the League City Regional Chamber of Commerce! The award was presented to Director of Development Joni Robertson and Executive Director Pam Reed by Dewan Clayburn, President of the League City Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Devereux has been part of the League City community since 1992, and we are looking forward to continuing to grow with the city moving into the future.

Sneak Peak of the Hibiscus Festival Revival in May

Our horticulturist, Tim Hoover, and our vocational participants are growing and nurturing dazzling hibiscuses for Devereux Garden’s May Hibiscus Fest (date TBA). This upcoming revival event has everyone enthused about the striking colors and beautiful blooms.

Over 40 specialty varieties will be showcased and available for purchase at the festival. Many have already begun to bloom and can be purchased immediately. All proceeds support the Adult Vocational programs.
Join Friends of Devereux and Make a Difference

Friends of Devereux needs your help to support and encourage adolescents in Devereux’s League City - long-term intensive residential treatment program. Through monthly activities, the Friends provide love, support and a home-away-from-home atmosphere to our youths ages 11-22. The residential treatment program is where individuals work towards completion of their high school education and treatment. Get involved today and make a positive change in a young person’s life.

If you are ready to make a difference to youth in need while making new friends, contact Michelle Gardner at 281-335-1000 or mgardne3@devereux.org for more information. We hope to hear from you!

Prosperity Bank Volunteers Bring Birthday Smiles

Through the unwavering support of Prosperity Bank's volunteers and sponsors, the Victoria children's party celebration last fall was filled with pumpkin crafts, karaoke, cupcakes, and non-stop smiles. We are grateful for your time, enthusiasm, kindness and compassion! You make these important celebrations for children in our care possible.

Because Ms. Balshaw’s class is so fun and therapeutic, the 11 to 22-year-old students love attending class twice a week. The art class also counts toward the credits necessary for their high school diploma.

Art Class Builds Motivation and Pride

Students at Devereux League City find they have the perfect conduit to therapy, nature, and creativity in Ms. Beverly Balshaw’s art class. During class, the students work on a variety of individualized projects designed to meet their specific needs. Ms. Balshaw also combines content from other core subjects, such as math and English/Language Arts, to help students fully express themselves.

Many of the students have experienced significant trauma in their pasts and have difficulty verbally expressing their feelings. This art class is instrumental in helping them to overcome those difficulties. The art class allows all of the students to experience success by creating art based on their own feelings. This instills a feeling of pride which they can build upon and incorporate into other aspects of their daily lives.

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April 24 Hotel ZaZa

Are you ready to shine at the party of the year? It’s time to pay tribute to fashion’s biggest day – the annual Met Gala, with our very own, Dev Gala! Proceeds benefit Devereux’s children, adolescents and adults.

savorthelove.org

June 25

South Shore Harbour Resort

Enjoy a delicious seated dinner, live entertainment, dancing and a boatload of fun! Proceeds benefit Devereux’s children and adolescents.

devereuxspirit.org

October 5

Wildcat Golf Club

A round of golf for a worthy cause! This scramble-style tournament benefits the Devereux School and scholarship program.

divotsfordevereux.org

2020 Events
Children’s Holiday Party

There are not enough words to describe how grateful we are to the dedicated, compassionate, amazing volunteers and sponsors from the Victoria College Foundation, Victoria College Student Government, and Discount Tire. They created an unforgettable holiday party for the children in the Victoria residential program. The party included exciting crafting activities, a scrumptious meal, holiday goodies, and a visit with Santa!

Gratitude for Angel Tree

Donors and Sponsors

Thank you to our dedicated sponsors who provided holiday gifts and big smiles to Devereux Texas individuals. This Christmas, Angel Trees were located at Discount Tire and Olive Garden in Victoria, Crosspoint Church in Pearland, and at League City United Methodist Church.

The teens in our Devereux art class didn’t forget our furry friends this Christmas. They enjoyed making dog toys to donate to area animal shelters. The students had a great time while gaining social skills and self-awareness through their valuable volunteer work. We’re sure the dogs had a grr-eat holiday!

Devereux League City Teens Give Back

For eight years, teens in League City’s intensive residential treatment program have partnered with the Houston Children’s Charity to sort children’s gifts. Volunteering and giving back to the community helps remind them how rewarding it is to think beyond themselves and experience the joy of giving.

Devereux Texas would like to recognize the following donors for helping make the season brighter for individuals in our care. It was the community who helped to bring the magic of the holiday season to our residents on Christmas morning:

Faith For Life
Friends of Devereux
Friends of League City Animal Shelter
Juanderful Burrito
Kids’ Dreams Matter, Inc.
Lions Club of League City
Quilters Guild
Rachel’s Circle at First English Lutheran Church
All other groups and individuals

In addition to our amazing donors and sponsors, we are also grateful to our wonderful group of volunteers who gave their precious time the week before Christmas to wrap hundreds of presents that were placed under the Christmas tree for each child, teen, and adult in our care. Thank you to our League City Friends of Devereux and quilting friends at the Quilt Guilds in Cuero and Victoria. We sincerely appreciate each of our volunteer wrappers for your big hearts and the gift of your valuable time. You are true friends of Devereux Texas!
Devereux Texas would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses that made donations between August 1, 2019, and 2020. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

“If it weren’t for Devereux, I wouldn’t be here right now.” – Eric, former client

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