



# THE WORD

Volume 1, Issue 1

JANUARY 2012



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### JANUARY

- 20 Shelly Wilkins
- 29 Nancy Sullivan
- 30 Lane Salgado

### FEBRUARY

- 05 Sharon Hallo
- 09 Andi Kiesling
- 17 Laura Upton

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Jan./Feb. Birthdays
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## Meet Our New Staff Members!

### Aryn C. Sollars

Patient Coordinator

Aryn's job is similar to Nancy Holmes' job. She checks benefits, talks with parents about insurance, and interfaces with physicians and insurance companies to keep insurance working as smoothly as possible.

**Birthday:** May 25 - Gemini

**Family:** Single (and oh so happily so!!)

**Hometown:** Niagara Falls, NY. I moved to Dallas 12 years ago after graduating high school. Since then I've earned my bachelors degree from Texas Women's University (May 2009) and masters degree from the University of Phoenix (May 2011).

**Favorite Sports Teams:** Cowboys, but I am a 100% genuine fan. When I lived in NY I was Cowboys fan so it was really quite ironic that I moved to Dallas!

**Hobbies:** karaoke, skydiving, bowling, movies

**Favorites:** Indian cuisine, Starbucks Pike Place coffee, giraffes (even have a tattoo!), contemporary rock/classical music

**Fun Fact:** The most inspirational thing I've ever been a part of was traveling to Ukraine and the Czech Republic. I volunteered for 2 weeks at several different orphanages and tried to better their little lives by creating activities at day camps (arts & crafts, face painting, music, games, etc) and was a back-up singer for Brag Wig at nightly concerts.

### Carmen Parker

Front Desk

Carmen's job includes answering phones, assisting clients, taking payments, reviewing paperwork with new clients, taking all new intakes, assisting with insurance, tracking referrals, and doing anything else that helps keep things running smoothly, including keeping things neat!

**Birthday:** November 28

**Family:** Married 1.5 years, mother of 3, grandmother of 1

**Hometown:** Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Favorite Sports Teams:** Die hard Kansas City Chiefs fan!

**Hobbies:** Coaching football and basketball

**Favorites:** My all time favorite thing to do is shop, shop some more, and just keep shopping if I can!

## WELCOME THESE NEW THERAPISTS!

**Mackenzie Stauffer, SLP**

Late Afternoons, Plano

**Jennifer Sananikone, SLP**

Days, Plano

**Dianne Holt, OTR (Sensory Background)**

Afternoons, Frisco

**Susan Krejci, MS, BCBA (ABA of North Texas)**

Plano (214.650.6708)



Earlier this month, we had a lovely pot luck lunch in the Plano office to say goodbye to Cyndi Smith. She will be missed!

Anne wants to know... "What is it about California???"

## DID YOU KNOW???

### Speech & OT of North Texas supports these charitable organizations:

**Bryan's House** - Bryan's House is a special-care facility in Dallas for children affected by HIV or AIDS, children with other special health needs, and their families. They offer a full range of medical, educational, and psychosocial services.

**Samaritan Inn** - More than just a place to spend the night. It is a holistic program that teaches self-sufficiency and life skills. To assist the needs of individuals and families before, during, and after a homeless situation, The Samaritan Inn provides interactive, in-house programs for its residents and graduates.

**ARC of Dallas and Collin Counties** - The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

**Volunteers of America Developmental Disability Services** - Volunteers of America strives to empower people with intellectual disabilities to be independent and involved in their communities. Our services include in-home supports, case management, day programs and supportive employment, specialized residential services and supported living. (This is the service provider for Anne's son.)

## Insurance News

- Anne was on the TSHA Medicaid Taskforce and attended a Hearing in Austin in November. Input from the taskforce and other advocates made a difference! The drastic cuts have been postponed. Small cuts will not have too much impact on us and/or our clients!
- We have started our first round of claims as a provider for UHC. We are hoping that UHC will be easier to work with than in the past and will be a good referral source.
- Also, the new Cigna contract makes us a provider for Great West.

*We are Always Working to Help Families Have Access to GREAT Treatment!*

## NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE!

- From Michelle Garcia Winner & Pamela Crooke:
  - SuperFlex Comics
  - Worksheets for Teaching Social Thinking and Related Skills
- **More Than Words** (Guidebook & DVD)
- **It Takes Two To Talk** (Guidebook & DVD)



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