



Left Hand Right Hand

April 2023

Parkhill

We are extremely thankful for [Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc.](#) and Alyssa for her Interior Design consultation and grant application. We were surprised by Alyssa with news PCS was chosen for the Building Community grant in the amount of \$18,000 to renovate our Amarillo lobby. We want our clients to feel welcome and at home when they enter our doors and we hope this will provide just that. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We look forward to this special space in months to come.



The *Grand Opening*

of our new Memphis Office was a success. We were able to launch a Hygiene Closet in Memphis as well. The closet will be available to families in need on the second Friday of each month. Special thanks to The Sun for covering our story and the Memphis Chamber. The new location for our Memphis Center is 605 W Main.



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18 PAGES - PLUS INSERTS

\$1

See QUEEN, Page 4A

Panhandle Community Services opens Memphis site



The Red River Sun/Bev Odom

The Memphis Chamber of Commerce welcomes Panhandle Community Services (PCS) with a ribbon cutting at its new home, located on Main St., Monday, April 17. From left: PCS staff Benita SanMiguel, Dennis Garvey, Audra Rea, Lisa Matthyse, Melissa Darsey, Bianca Ramos, Katherine Monroe, Magi York, Christy Hilbert, Robert Carlton and Marcia Campbell and Memphis Chamber of Commerce volunteers Judge Ray Powell, Kim Hill, Leslie Ivy, Dale Miller, Jill Cromwell, Dickie Cloyd, Tracey Ware, Pauline Johnsey and Cindy Woodard. Memphis Chamber of Commerce Director Kim Cloyd, partially pictured, far left, take a photo.

By Bev Odom
The Red River Sun

MEMPHIS — Located in the newly renovated Cyclone Building, 605 West Main St., Panhandle Community Services (PCS) shares the spacious office suits with Dale Miller's Millwood Properties, while PCS Communications Specialist Bianca Ramos and PCS Family Development Specialist Katherine Monroe greet clients with a wealth of knowledge.

With the Memphis site servicing Collingsworth, Donley and Hall County residents, PCS offers an array of services, explained by PCS Utility Specialist Marcia Campbell, including a water program.

"The water program helps



Memphis Chamber of Commerce member Tracey Ware takes a sneak peak of the newly launches Hygiene Closet with Panhandle Community Services (PCS) Family Development Specialist Katherine Monroe and Utility Program Specialist Marcia Campbell. Since hygiene items can't be purchased with food stamps, clients can receive one roll of toilet paper per family member as well as five additional free items per month.

qualified residents pay bills," Campbell said. "We appreciate the Memphis City Council being willing to work with us and wait for payment. We

See PCS, Page 4A



PCS announces new board member

Panhandle Community Services is proud to announce the appointment of their newest board member, Esmeralda Mills, to serve as the public sector representative of area five, which includes Oldham, Deaf Smith, Parmer, and Castro counties. Mrs. Mills has lived in Friona most of her life. She married her high school sweetheart and has four children. She enjoys serving her community, and we are excited to have her as part of our leadership here at Panhandle Community Services. She also serves on the City Council, Friends of the Library, and the Parent Involvement Committee.

Esmeralda explains why she looks forward to serving on the board, "My parents were immigrants when they arrived here over 40 years ago. Since then, my mom has become a citizen and my father a resident.



Esmeralda Mills

my father a resident. When they arrived, they didn't qualify for government help, and the jobs available were paid on a lower wage scale. From that experience, along with marrying my husband at a young age, to now being owners together in a successful family business, you can imagine I have been on all levels of the income scale. I feel honored to bring my experiences to an organization that is changing lives and leading change."

A unique aspect of the Board of Directors from

PCS is that they make up what is called a "tripartite board" consisting of equal representation from the low-income sector, the private sector, and elected officials. This structure brings together community leaders from each group to develop robust responses to local community needs. Panhandle Community Services has a new office in Friona at 901 Main Street and is currently hiring a communications specialist.

Headquartered in Amarillo, Texas, PCS has 12 service centers to assist the top of Texas. They are a Community Action Agency and work hard with their community partners to change lives and lead change in the lives of low-income people. All of the programs PCS facilitates are geared toward walking local citizens out of poverty. These include the rural county bus system, housing, and utility assistance, a family development program, and more. Find complete information on www.panhandlehelp.org.

Friona★Star

Thursday | March 23, 2023



PCS

From Page 1A

us and wait for payment. We have lots of utility assistance available."

As an added bonus, the Hygiene Closet also launched during the Monday, April 17 celebration.

"The closet provides basic hygiene items, like soap, shampoo, cleaning products and more," Campbell said. "Families and anyone who has a need may visit the Hygiene Closet once a month. We accept hygiene donations, as well as monetary help, to keep the closet stocked."

"When it comes to hygiene items, you can't buy these items with food stamps," PCS Amarillo Director of Family Services Audra Rea added. "We have people choosing between shampoo or deodorant. We talk about how we want people to better themselves, but sometimes it's unduly burdensome. We want to lift some of that burden with our Hygiene Closet."

Also available, the Housing Choice Voucher Program subsidizes housing costs, allowing low-income individuals and families to live in quality housing, Rea explained.

"We can assist homeowner who are behind on mortgage or property tax payments," she said.

Covering all 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle, local staff work alongside support specialists in Amarillo to "change the lives of low-income people by bridging the gap from poverty to self-sufficiency."

PCS Career Coach Jennifer Brock also has suggestions for clients seeking help with issues getting a job.



Hall County Judge Ray Powell visits with Lila Hoobler, Jill Cromwell and Mollie Moffitt during the Panhandle Community Services open house, which was held in conjunction with its ribbon cutting, last Monday afternoon. In the background, Grace Holman waits for her friends. The Cottage prepared the spread of colorful refreshments.

"We assist with building resumes and cover letters, job referrals, outsourcing applications, networking and interview skills," Brock said.

"There's something out there for everyone. We also have information on 14-week programs to become a plumber or firefighter and how to move from just a job to a career."

From career coaching, transportation, family development, utility assistance, housing and weatherization to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and health navigators, plus Restoring America's Heroes and emergency assistance available to veterans, PCS is dedicated

to helping people help themselves and each other.

For education and outreach support in applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Education, call 806-342-6135 or email melissa.darsey@pcsvcs.org.

"We also have legal aid services that come to Memphis to assist clients," Campbell added. "We are very excited about our new office, and we invite everyone to stop by and visit us in our Memphis location."

For more information on PCS, visit www.pcsvcs.org. Memphis staff can be reached at 806-609-9929.

panhandlehelp.org
806-372-2531

- Mortgage
- Rent
- Utilities
- Vehicle Loan Payment

VETERAN ASSISTANCE

PANHANDLE
COMMUNITY SERVICES

EVENT IS FUNDED BY THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION IN TEXAS.

PANHANDLE
COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUPER HERO FAMILY EVENT

FREE!

**TUESDAY
MAY 2ND
4-7 PM**

**PANHANDLE COMMUNITY SERVICES
1309 SW 8TH AVE, AMARILLO, TX 79101**

**COME CELEBRATE
COMMUNITY ACTION
MONTH WITH US.**

WE CARE, SHARE YOUR STORY!

GAMES

**DOOR
PRIZES**

**PCS
RESOURCES**

FOOD

**PCS EVENT - NO OUTSIDE
VENDORS UNLESS
CONTRACTED.**


ADDITIONAL SPONSORS: AMARILLO NATIONAL BANK, LAST EXIT PRODUCTIONS, NOTHING BUNT CAKES, SANTA FE COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION, TEXAS TEA, THE ART PLUG-IN, THE EATERY ON 6TH STREET

Items available in our closets benefit those in need. We do not collect information or ask for documentation. We offer items families are unable to purchase with SNAP benefits.



Amarillo Hygiene Closet Day,
with Kristal Diaz



**superior healthplan**

PANHANDLE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hygiene Closet

Amarillo Closet: Open the last Tuesday of the month 1:30 to 3:30pm
Dumas Closet: Open the 2nd Wednesday of the Month 1:30 to 3:30pm
Hereford Closet: Open 4th Wednesday of the Month from 9:30 to 11:30
Memphis Closet: Open the 2nd Friday of the month 1:30 to 3:30

NECESSITIES FAMILIES ARE UNABLE TO BUY WITH FOOD STAMPS

Such as: soaps, shampoo, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine products and more

panhandlehelp.org 806-372-2531

PANHANDLE
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Welcome to our New Communications Specialists



We are currently recruiting landlords. If you are currently a HUD landlord or interested in becoming one we invite you to our next landlord briefing.

HUD Specialists and Inspectors will be on site to share information and answer any questions you may have. Email amada.hypolite@pcsvcs.org to RSVP or call 806-372-2531

The Briefing will take place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 10 until 12 at our main office 1309 W 8th, in Amarillo.



Kristal Diaz is our new Communications Specialist in Amarillo. In her free time, she likes to try new recipes from Tik Tok. Kristal has a Pitbull named Sage who loves her pup cups (treats) from Cliffside Coffee and says she loves to help people.

Liliana Palacios has three children, 6th grade, 1st grade and kindergarten. (two girls, one boy) She has a Shitzu named Pongo and they are all big football fans especially for Texas Tech. She grew up in Friona and married her high school sweetheart. She has started as our Communications Specialist in Friona.



McKenzie Glenn, says she is so excited to be joining the PCS team. She had a miracle baby Skylar Jade almost four months ago and being her mom, she says, is the best job of all. She loves to bake and cook and cannot wait to teach her daughter all of her skills in the kitchen. She is excited for this new journey and to help serve her community of Tulia.



NEED HELP



APPLYING FOR SNAP, TANF, MEDICAID, CHIP, OR MARKETPLACE HEALTH INSURANCE?





Healthcare Navigators



TEXAS
Health and Human Services
Texas Community Partner Program










THIS NAVIGATOR PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) AS PART OF A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARD TOTALING \$ 1,737,175 WITH 100 PERCENT FUNDED BY CMS/HHS. THE CONTENTS ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF, NOR AN ENDORSEMENT, BY CMS/HHS, OR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.





Volunteers through AmeriCorp Seniors, The RSVP program, contribute 1000's of hours and millions of dollars worth of impact across the Texas Panhandle. Appreciation banquets were held to pour a little sunshine back into those who spend so much time giving back.



The Early Bird Award goes to Virginia Ansley at our thank you banquet in Hereford.





BEHIND ON HOME LOANS, UTILITIES AND OTHER EXPENSES?

We have emergency funds ready to help eligible Texas homeowners affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. **Get up to \$65,000 in grants for:**

 HOME LOANS	 PROPERTY CHARGES	 UTILITY BILLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional home mortgage • Manufactured housing • Contracts for deed or land contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property taxes • Homeowners' insurance • Homeowner or condo association fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity • Propane • Water • Natural Gas • Wastewater

For questions and more information: 833-651-3874 (Toll free)
Mon - Fri 8am to 6pm (CST) | Help is available in multiple languages.

To see if you qualify and to apply:
TexasHomeownerAssistance.com



**TEXAS
HOMEOWNER
ASSISTANCE**

Get in-person help from your local support center:



PANHANDLEHELP.ORG | amy.francis@pcsvcs.org | 806.372.2531



Texas Homeowner Assistance is administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Providing false, incomplete, or inaccurate information on application forms or seeking duplicative benefits may result in up to 5 years of imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$10,000 for each occurrence. Program limitations and eligibility requirements apply and not all households may be eligible. See TexasHomeownerAssistance.com for details. Funds are limited and may not be available by the time a household applies.



We've Moved and Made Some Changes



COME AND VISIT US

NEW Office Spaces in
Memphis at 605 W Main
& Friona at 104 9th Ave.

Office hours in Perryton have
been extended. M-F 8-5

We have closed branches in
Shamrock, Clarendon, and
Wellington

ATTENTION!

**FREE INTERNET
& TABLET**

The Affordable Connectivity Program or ACP is a government assistance program by the FCC designed to ensure that low-income households can afford the broadband they need for work, education, healthcare, and more.

Click our link [PCS \(swaconnect.com\)](https://swaconnect.com) or find more information on our website at panhandlehelp.org



Open positions posted on www.panhandlehelp.org/careers

- Communications
- Transportation
- Accounting



Free Career Coaching



We can help with:

- Online job searches.
- Cold-calling businesses.
- Building interview skills.
- Help you find a career to match your interests.
- Leads and referrals to staffing agencies.
- Interview techniques.
- Knowing proper attire for different types of interviews.



**Resume and
cover letter
preparation.**

More information :

 panhandlehelp.org



Contact (806) 342-6164
jennifer.brock@pcsvcs.org
annette.lusk@pcsvcs.org



All Star Success

We recently ran into Nichole Thompson, at a Sod Poodles game. Nichole is a local State Farm agent from Amarillo and shared with us how PCS had helped her while her daughter was a baby and she was obtaining her education. We live for these kinds of success stories. They are fuel for our staff. Nichols daughter is now in college and we wish her all the best.



PCS Staff Christina, Dallas, & Benita selling launch-a-balls at a Sod Poodles game.



Several of our staff were able to participate in Texas Legislative Days in Austin along with 60 others from The Texas Association of Community Action Agencies. We were able to advocate for the Texas Panhandle and connect with our Representatives and Senators updating them on issues directly impacting Community Action Agencies and low-income families.



Christina Cristan, Kaitlin Mosley, Christy Hilbert, Representative Four Price, Audra Rea, Magi York and Susie Ybarra



Posing with Senator Kevin Sparks

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope and makes America a better place to live.