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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Department of Aging & Disabilities Services to host 35<sup>th</sup> annual  
Music Festival in Abilene**

ABILENE, Texas – The Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (DADS) 35<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Music Festival will be held Oct. 11-13 at the MCM Elegante Suites in Abilene.

The music festival will feature competition in various categories, including: Solo, Ensemble, Instruments, Handbells and Rhythm. There will be competitors and staff coming from 10 State Supported Living Centers.

A dance featuring a performance by the Texas Touch Band will kick off the event on Tuesday evening at the Abilene State Supported Living Center. Opening Ceremonies will take place on Wednesday at 8 a.m. at the MCM Elegante. Mayor Norm Archibald will be in attendance to give the welcoming speech. Competition will be held from 9-11:45 a.m. and again from 1-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. On Thursday, competition will resume at 8 a.m. and will continue until 11 a.m. The awards presentation will follow.

Judging the various musical competitions are Danny Barefield, minister of music at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church; Carolyn Newman, retired music teacher; and Kathy Taylor, director of the Woodson Handbell Choir.

The group predicts that 315 individuals will be in attendance and the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that this event will generate \$63,900 into the local economy.

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