

# Abilene Chamber of Commerce 2009 Business Awards

## Business Person of the Year

Presented annually since 1985, the Abilene Business Council of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce presented the 2009 Business Person of the Year Award to **Liz Phariss**, an individual who has exemplified the ethics and quality customer service necessary to succeed in today's marketplace, has shown the ability to overcome business challenges, has created new job opportunities, offers creative or imaginative products and services, and has been involved in the community.

**Kinder Hearts Home Health Care** began in 2002 when Liz Phariss, a Registered Nurse, saw a need that was not being met in the Abilene community. With the support of her husband, Daryl, and family she began a pediatric agency offering comprehensive home health care services to Medicaid eligible clients under age 21 who are technologically dependent, medically fragile or developmentally disabled. The family-owned business has offices located in Abilene, San Angelo and Wichita Falls and strives to provide thoughtful, personal and compassionate care to sixty-two counties of West Texas.

## 2009 Corporate Star Award

The Abilene Business Council presented the 2009 Corporate Star award to a family-owned distribution company that has served the Abilene area since 1938 – **Ab-TEX Beverages (Dr.Pepper/Pepsi/7-Up Bottling Co.)**.

The award recognizes a local corporation that goes above and beyond for the Abilene community. Aside from sponsorship listings, these businesses do not receive individual recognition. But, they are the first doors knocked on when the community is raising money and asking for sponsorships. And they are the first places that step up to help when the community is in need.

**Ab-TEX Beverages** is led by its **President, Kirk Massey and CEO, Cleber Massey**. Through their leadership and direction, the business pledge has always been to conduct business and employees with honesty, integrity, and respect for the environment and business partners.

Ab-TEX Beverages traces its origins to 1938, when the Dr. Pepper Company sold a franchise to a bottling company in Strawn, Texas. Now located in Abilene, the company's headquarters boasts a modern, high-speed, canning and bottling plant as well as a distribution warehouse. Two recent and major additions to the plant include a \$1,000,000+ bottle line and a 264,000 sq. ft. warehouse which provides Ab-TEX with the ability to offer more variety to customers by utilizing a state-of-the-art electronic picking system and to offer significantly more storage area for packaged products.

Employing 500+ system-wide, the Ab-TEX family is proud to be involved with numerous charitable organizations and give of their time in many communities. They are involved in local non-profit activities and have been participants on the boards of various charitable, civic and community organizations.

With more than a dozen facilities spanning West Texas, their service territory includes nearly 127 counties...almost one third of the total geographic area of the Lone Star State.