

Setting Sails



A Quarterly Publication For Friends And Consumers of San Antonio Independent Living Services

Fall 2012

**Message from
SAILS' Executive Director:
Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.**

S.A.I.L.S Celebrates 22nd ADA Anniversary



Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke,
Executive Director of SAILS

On July 26, 1990 President George W. Bush signed into law the most comprehensive piece of legislation every written for persons with disabilities-The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA acts as civil rights legislation for families with disabilities. We must not forget the original intent of ending unjust segregation and exclusion of persons with disabilities from our "mainstream" society.

Our gratitude goes out to the thousands of people who made up the 'disability rights movement' and whose efforts have helped to change the lives of thousands of persons with disabilities today. These historical "disability advocates" sought justice in our American courts and with Congress to ensure that people with disabilities would be included in all aspects of living. Many of these advocates told their own very compelling stories of discrimination to Congress during the ADA legislative process. They succeeded by way



Banner of SAILS leads
the Unity Pride Stroll, 22nd ADA Anniversary Celebration

of their unwavering commitment to help people with disabilities receive the justice they deserved (Bush).

On Friday, July 27, 2012 San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosts the 22nd Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration with a theme: "honoring our veterans!" The celebration starts at about 8:30a.m. with several hundred enthusiastic supporters who gather at San Antonio's Mercado for the Unity Pride Stroll and then over to 401 Villita for the day's events. Strollers carry company banners along the march towards Villita where nearly 50 vendors await their arrival. Many organizations such as our friends at AmeriGroup Corporation, Alamo Service Connection (ASC), Deaf Interpreter Services, Pride and San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind provide free resources for all.

The keynote speaker shares an inspirational story with everyone. SAILS also honors the designated Disability Organization of the Year and Public Servant of the Year. Many other individuals and organizations are also recognized. SAILS appreciates the participation of the communities in this event, this is the largest ADA celebration in Texas.

**Save The Date for
Saturday - Oct 27, 2012!**

Determined To Live Independently

by Marie Herrera and Gloria Aguirre

Becky Jaramillo had a stroke in January of 2010 and she ended up living in a nursing home. She wanted very much to move out and live in her own place and live more independently. Becky attempted many times to move out from the nursing home but several agencies denied assisting her and even told her that she was unable to live on her own because of her condition. She was absolutely determined to get out and show everyone she could live on her own. So, she contacted SAILS for assistance in relocating her back into the community into her own place to live.

SAILS employees, Marie Herrera and Gloria Aguirre worked together with AACOG Ombudsman Biviana Escobar to provide assistance and help Becky move out of the nursing home after living there for 2 and 1/2 years! Everyone agreed that Becky could live on her own and just needed a little help with housing and relocation. Becky received a voucher for an apartment from SAHA through team efforts. She was able to select her apartment and finally moved in on July 24, 2012!

This is what SAILS calls relocation-back into the community-living more independently! Congratulations Becky Jaramillo!



Marie Herrera (center, standing) and Gloria Aguirre (left), IL/Outreach Specialists of SAILS are instrumental in making the relocation of Becky Jaramillo to independent living a success story



Becky Jaramillo is now living independently in her apartment

SAILS Works With JOVEN Summer Youth Employment

by Marie Herrera



Joven had a great opportunity this summer for teens ages 14-16 to gain some work experience and earn some spending money! SAILS was happy to step up and help two teens, Brandon Mills and Edella Reyna. Brandon and Edella worked at SAILS 20 hours each week completing a variety of skills training and tasks such as data entry, answering telephones, filing and greeting consumers.

The teens also enjoyed volunteering at SAILS American with Disabilities Act celebration held on July 27, 2012. Congratulations to both Brandon and Edella for doing a "slam-dunk" job at SAILS!

2012 NCIL Conference in Washington, D.C.

by Marie Herrera and Gloria Aguirre

Every year the National Council on Independent Living hosts a large-scale conference to advance independent living and the rights of people with disabilities. This year Marie Herrera and Gloria Aguirre attended NCIL's 30th Anniversary conference in Washington, D.C. on June 11-14, 2012 at the Grand Hyatt. They attended several workshops with excellent trainings to better serve their consumers with disabilities in order for them to live more independently. They enjoyed the march to the White House grounds alongside hundreds of disability advocates! Staff met with Ms. Shannon Moore, assistant of U.S. Representative Lamar Smith from San Antonio area, and shared information about San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) and other centers for independent living.

NCIL has long been a force that the centers across the United States can depend on. SAILS will continue to support NCIL and encourages other disability organizations to visit www.ncil.org for more information.



Gloria Aguirre (center) and Marie Herrera (right) of SAILS attending the 2012 NCIL Conference

SAILS Personnel In New Positions and Responsibilities

Irma Medrano



Irma Medrano is a STAP Specialist (Specialized Telecommunications Adaptive Program) offering assistance to Texans with a certifiable disability that interferes with using the telephone.

Albert Pulido



Albert Pulido is now working as SAILS Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) and provides benefits counseling to consumers. This is a DARS fee for services.

Contents

Message from SAILS' Executive Director	Page 1
Consumers Success Stories	Pages 2
Events and Community Outreach	Pages 4, 5, 6
Calendar of Events	Page 7
SAILS Is For Consumers	Pages 3

Events And Community Outreach

SAILS Celebrates 22nd ADA Anniversary



Marilyn Weber peps up the crowd for the unity stroll



Deaf Interpreter Services banner



Grande Communications



Pride Home Health Care



Color Guard at the ADA Anniversary Celebration



2012 ADA Celebration Emcee Elsa Ramon with Dr. Kitty Brietzke

Events And Community Outreach

ADA Event Photographer: Frank J. San Miguel



Keynote Speaker "Bobby" Barrera



Judge Marion Carson receives Public Servant award



Gordon Hartman receives Organization of the Year award



SAILS Board Members David Sosa and Donna McBee present "Bobby" Barrera award



Dennis Borel from CTD receives Advocacy Award



Cathy Valdez from Project Mend receives Small Non-Profit Award

SAILS Celebrates 22nd ADA Anniversary

ADA Event Photographer: Frank J. San Miguel



Dreams Fulfilled Through Music entertains the guests at ADA Celebration



Guests at the ADA Celebration



TIVO Mascot



HEB Buddy mascot and Store Manager Josh

Special Thanks to our Sponsors of ADA Celebration Event



Calendar of Events July, Aug, Sept

JULY

July 2,	Univision interview
July 3,	Staff Meeting, Sam Rosenbloom Filming
July 4th	Independence Day Holiday
July 6	Final Meeting for ADA at Deaf Interpret Services
July 7/8	Conference for Corpus Collesium
July 16	Presentation At University Hospital
July 16	Albert Pulido's Hire Date Anniversary
July 17	Staff Meeting
July 18	Fair Housing Board Meeting
July 23	My Medicaid Matters Meeting/ Teleconference
July 24	Relocation for Becky Jaramillo
July 27	ADA Celebration

AUGUST

Aug 1	Fundraiser At Boston's Gourmet Pizza
Aug 2	Last working day for JOVEN Students
Aug 3	Support Group Meeting At Frank Garrett Center
Aug 7	Fundraiser At Fish City Grill
Aug 7	Pride PHC Bowlathon for Tito Moreno Scholarship
Aug 9	Quinto Sanchez Counseling intern Last Day at SAILS
Aug 9	Mallika Rangarajan's Hire Date Anniversary
Aug 11	Back-To-School Fair At Walzem Community Festival
Aug 13/14	DARS Visit
Aug 15	Elf- Louise Applications
Aug 15/16	TACIL Conference in Dallas
Aug 21	Staff Meeting
Aug 24	Meeting for Blues Festival at Boston's Pizza

SEPTEMBER

Sept 3	Labor Day Holiday
Sept 8	Executive Director's Birthday
Sept 9	Grand Parents Day
Sept 14	Support Group Meeting
Sept 19	Workshop for VIA Transportation
Sept 30	Fiscal Year End

**Save The Date for
Saturday - Oct 27, 2012!**

A Graduate Who Never Says "Cannot"

by Northside Independent School District (NISD)



Damien Kasten, in graduation cap and gown (center),
Steve Gordon, Board Member of SAILS (front)

At some point in their lives, just about every student dreams of walking across a stage to get his or her diploma. For Brandeis High School senior Damien Kasten, the actual walk across the stage was just as meaningful as the diploma. On his graduation Saturday, Damien, who has required a wheelchair almost his entire life, used a walker to make it across the stage to accept his diploma. The Alamodome erupted with cheers.

Born with cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus, Damien spent the first five months of his life in the hospital. He's endured more than a dozen surgeries to replace or adjust the shunt in his head to drain fluid from his head. As a child, if he received special services or participated in school activities, it was only because his mother Abigail wouldn't take no for an answer.

Damien's full-time instructional assistant at Brandeis, Steve Gordon, serves on the board of San Antonio Independent Living Services, got Ty Beck from Jordan Ford to loan him a special needs vehicle so that he could take Damien to prom last month. Gordon went on his own time so that Damien didn't have to be chaperoned by his mom.

"He's made my job so much easier and so much better because of his positive attitude," Gordon said. "Damien is one of those students who makes teaching rewarding."

San Antonio Independent Living Services
1028 S. Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78210



OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)

1028 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210
V/TDD (210) 281-1878 , Fax (210) 281-1759
(800) 474-0295 www.sailstx.org

SAILS Staff

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. Executive Director

Charles Villarreal Accountant
Mallika Rangarajan Executive Administrative Assistant

Gloria Aguirre	IL/Outreach Specialist	Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Marie Herrera	I&R/ Volunteer Coordinator	Irma Medrano	STAP Specialist
Albert Pulido	CWIC		

This publication was made possible by grants from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) 18.57%, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) 18.76%, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 24.08%, Unrestricted 30.59%. The total SAILS annual budget is \$ 705,495.00.

However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the DOE or the DARS and you should not assume endorsement by local, state, or federal government.

Setting SAILS is published quarterly by San Antonio Independent Living Services.

Editor: Executive Director, Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

Producer: ComtekMedia (a HUB Certified Information Technology and Media Consulting Firm)