

Setting Sails

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

First Annual "Singing the Blues" Music Festival Hosted to Celebrate SAILS 31st Anniversary!



Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke,
Executive Director of SAILS

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) held the first annual Singing the Blues Music Festival on October 27, 2012 at San Antonio's historical Sunken Garden Theatre. Gates opened 2:00p.m. and the entertainment lasted until 10:00p.m. After a real hard rain the day before-the weather managed to clear up for everyone with mild temperatures during the day and cool temperatures as the evening winded on.

A class line-up of musicians performed throughout the day and into the evening beginning with one of the best seasoned and experienced guitarists and entertainers who began his career in Fort Worth, Bobby Mack! He later moved on over to the streets of Austin to sing blues and more. Next, San Antonio's own Ruben V performed keeping the audience glued to the sounds of his tunes and his moves! Ruben V provided a great setup for SAILS featured singer, Grammy award winner, Augie Meyers. Augie performed his great hits from 7:00p.m. until 8:15p.m. He saved "Hey Baby Ke-

Pa-So" to thrill everyone at the end of his performance.

Finally, SAILS wishes to extend a very special thank you to Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, Frost Bank, Valero, Superior HealthPlan, NuStar, Alamo Music, Pride Personal Health, Grande Communications, The YMCA, Silver Eagle (Ben Garcia), KSAT 12. KONO, Group O, Wortham Insurance, SA Blues Society, Augie's Barbed Wire SmokeHouse, CAMP, Speedpro Imaging, CanoCompany, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, P.C. and VIA!



Contents

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

Adelita Gallegos: A Future Entrepreneur

by Mary Blake



Adelita Gallegos

Adelita Gallegos has certainly come a long way towards recovery after living in a shack for two years and bathing at various friends' homes. She admitted that she abused drugs for four years and suffered from anxiety and pain. She told me: "one day I just had enough! I reached out for help and was admitted to a transitional residence and got off drugs. I was on the road to recovery."

Afterwards, Adelita enrolled in St. Philip's College and decided to major in Business Management. It was at this point that SAILS Gateway to Abilities Program (GAP) became a vital support system for her. The bus passes and vouchers helped her tremendously. The GAP workshops provided her with education and support too.

Adelita is more self-sufficient and confident now. She continues to persevere and grows stronger every day. Success for Adelita is gaining an education. She hope to open her own business one day. We, at SAILS, applaud Adelita and her quest to be a true entrepreneur!

Christopher Cruz: Focuses on Abilities in Life

by Mary Herrera

Christopher Abraham Cruz enjoyed his employment as a VIA bus driver for 5 years. He was devastated when he learned that his right leg had to be amputated and he could no longer drive for VIA. Additionally, after he lost his right leg he needed to move from his upstairs apartment to a downstairs apartment, plus needed an accessible parking space.

I met with Mr. Cruz and began to educate him about his options and explained that San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) is an advocacy organization and that our mission is to help people like him become more independent. I was also able to provide him with the necessary referrals to assist him with other employment at VIA. He stayed focused on his abilities; he is now working at VIA as a customer service representative. He lives in a very nice downstairs apartment with accessible parking outside too!

SAILS Staff Attend VOLAR's Conference: Theme: My Strength, My Life, My Choice

by Marie Herrera and Gloria Aguirre

Gloria Aguirre and Marie Herrera attended a very meaningful and insightful conference in El Paso's Center on October 24th and 25th, 2012. The event, Our Lives Disabilities Conference & Service Providers Expo was hosted by VOLAR, the only Center for Independent Living (CIL) located in El Paso. Luis Chew, the Executive Director spent months encouraging staff from all the CILs in Texas to attend.

SAILS staff increased their knowledge about serving people with disabilities through the workshops that included: addressing current legislation activity, physical fitness for people with disabilities, mental health issues, nurturing issues and service animals. They felt the conference provided a holistic approach in providing valuable information and tools to help serve their consumers better.

Hundreds of Advocates Protest in Austin at Rally

by Marie Herrera and Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS staff Marie Herrera and Gloria Aguirre attended a rally at Austin's Capitol building on September 21, 2012. They reported that there were hundreds of people who started at the Governor's office in the Capitol where a delegation of workers delivered 16,000 petition signatures requesting Perry not to block funding for Medicaid. Protesters were upset about Gov. Rick Perry's decision not to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. It is well known that a disgruntled Perry has stated publicly he will turn down federal funds to expand healthcare coverage.



Marie Herrera (left) and Gloria Aguirre (right) of SAILS attending the rally in Austin



Hundreds of advocates protest in Austin at rally

Calendar of Events October, November and December

October

- Oct 2 National Night Out
Presa Community Ctr
- Oct 5 Family Support Conference
Region 20
- Oct 12 SAILS Support Group
- Oct 16 Staff Meeting with Superior Healthcare
- Oct 18 United Way Kick-off Luncheon
- Oct 22 Mental Health Meeting/Church
Reconciliation/Brown Hall
- Oct. 23 Regional Transportation Workshop
- Oct. 27 **SAILS Singing the Blues Music Festival**
- Oct 28 Accessibility Fest
- Oct 31 SAILS In-Service

November

- Nov 3 Caregiver Support Coalition/Tri-Point
- Nov 6 Staff Meeting
- Nov 7 Citi Bank Fair
- Nov 9 SAILS Volunteer Luncheon
- Nov 15 TACIL Board meeting
- Nov 16 SAILS Support Group/Rosemont Ctr
- Nov 17 Mega fair for Military/ Tri-Point
- Nov 19 Mental Health Meeting
- Nov 20 Staff Meeting
- Nov 20 Wonderland Christmas/Morgan's
Wonderland
- Nov 22 Closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 23 Closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 26 SAILS Annual Audit begins
- Nov 29 GAP Workshop

December

- Dec 5 Support Group/Brookhill Church
- Dec 5-6 DARS Review
- Dec 14 Staff Appreciation
- Dec 17-31 Closed for Holidays

Events And Community Outreach

SAILS Celebrates 31st Anniversary: Singing The Blues Music Festival

Event Photographer: Frank J. San Miguel



Musicians from Augie Meyers Band



Bobby Mack performs with his band



Guests want to get up close!



Donna McBee and her guest



Getting down with the harmonica!



The Rodriguez family arrives early for seating

Events And Community Outreach

SAILS Celebrates 31st Anniversary: Singing The Blues Music Festival

Event Photographer: Frank J. San Miguel



Gabe drums for Ruben V



Ruben V excites the crowd



Grammy Award Winner Augie Meyers



Augie and his band



Augie and drummer



Happy guests enjoying "the Blues"

Events And Community Outreach

Special Thanks to our Sponsors of 2012 Singing The Blues Music Festival
To Celebrate SAILS 31st Anniversary!


The Gordon Hartman Family
FOUNDATION



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Miles

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie L. Brietzke

SAILS Appreciates Volunteers!

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at The Barn Door on Friday, November 2, 2012. About 85 of SAILS dedicated volunteers were treated to great food and enjoyed being among friends.

Marie Herrera and Gloria Aguirre enjoyed planning the event again this year. They both did a fantastic job and had fun with the drawings for a few prizes.

Everyone applauded when Quinto Sanchez received a very special award for SAILS volunteer of the year! Last year's recipient, Donna McBee was on hand to congratulate him along with many others. Congrats to Quinto and all the SAILS hard-working, dedicated volunteers. We will see everyone next year. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering at SAILS please call Marie Herrera at 210-281-1878, extension 123.



Mr. Andy Galan, SAILS Board Chairman (left) and Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke, SAILS Executive Director (right) accepting sponsorship from Grande Communications representative Geoffrey Elkins (center)



Gloria Aguirre (left) and Marie Herrera (right) of SAILS presenting the Volunteer Of The Year Award to Mr. Quinto Sanchez (center)



Mr. Lon Oakley, SAILS Board Chair Emeritus (left) Gloria Aguirre (center) and Marie Herrera (right)



Guests at the 2012 Volunteers Luncheon

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
Cynthia Contreras Receptionist

Gloria Aguirre	IL/Outreach Specialist	Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Marie Herrera	I&R/ Volunteer Coordinator	Irma Medrano	STAP Specialist
Albert Pulido	CWIC	IL Program/Communications Specialist	Vacant
		ILS/Consumer & Deaf Support Specialist	Vacant

This publication was made possible by grants from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) 25%, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) 35%, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 25%, CyPres 10%, Unrestricted 5%. 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)