

Setting Sails



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

Winter 2013

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

Executive Director of S.A.I.L.S Attended The A.P.R.I.L. Conference



Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke,
Executive Director of SAILS

The 19th Annual National Rural Independent Living Conference, Honoring the Past and Celebrating the Future and Putting Your Passion to Action, was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 25-28, 2013. There were nearly 400 attendees with 65 youth participating in the conference this year. Congratulations to the new youth attendees!

The conference workshops were ideal for supporting independent living and services that all the centers uniquely provide to persons with disabilities. The Youth Agenda began on Friday to welcome and orient the young advocates of our future to the core of what independent living services entail and how to become involved in the independent living movement and train to become future leaders as we forge into the future.

The keynote speaker, Woody Osburn who with Phil Stinebuck founded Green Country Wheelchair Sports in the 1980's provided a lively presentation with some examples of his very active advocacy efforts in the disability rights movement. Osburn is a native



A group discussion panel at the 19th Annual National Rural Independent Living Conference that Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke, Executive Director of S.A.I.L.S., attended

Oklahoman who was born and raised in Sulphur. He moved to Tulsa after he was injured in an automobile accident in 1979 that left him with quadriplegia. It was there where he was introduced to the independent living movement and he has not stopped since. One dynamic example is Osburn's collaborative effort with an attorney who filed a number of lawsuits that resulted in changes to improve access to apartment complexes, restaurants and other businesses in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Finally, Jim Brocato, Executive Director of RISE (Resource, Information, Support and Empowerment) in Texas was awarded the Earl Walden Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rural Advocacy. Eryn Sanders, a Rural Outreach Coordinator for The Ability Center of the Greater Toledo-Ottawa County office was presented with this year's Linda Gonzales Award for Outstanding Rural Youth. Linda Gonzales was known as the "Queen of IL." She will always be remembered.

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Orlando's Journey to Success

by Mary Blake



Orlando Dedman

Orlando Dednam recently came to my office singing the praises of the Gateway to Abilities Program (GAP). He is a member of Haven for Hope and a student at San Antonio College (SAC). Orlando is en route to become a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor.

He stated, "GAP has made it possible for me to achieve my primary goals. My case manager has consistently encouraged me to choose a career rather than looking for a job." He went on to say the classes supplied him with specific information designed to strengthen his quest for success. Many presenters helped him to select a major that would prepare him to serve the local community. During the course of conversation, Orlando thanked me for the bus pass stating "without it I probably wouldn't be able to get to class on time".

As the interview closed, Orlando assured me he would recommend SAILS and GAP to every motivated person he knows "who wants to change his life style to become productive and successful".

Congratulations, Orlando. Your friends at SAILS are proud of you. May every success be yours in full measure.

Rodriguez Achieves Full Time Employment

by Michelene Brown



Arturo Rodriguez

Mr. Arturo Rodriguez arrived in our wonderful city of San Antonio from St. Paul, Minnesota where he worked at The Regents Hospital as a guest service representative for 20 years. He came to San Antonio due to his mother's poor health and to be helpful to her.

After relocating to San Antonio he soon learned that he needed a good job. He was able to transition from being unemployed to gainful employment when he successfully landed his new job at West Telemarketing as a consultant where he assists people receiving Medicare to sign up for their primary health insurance.

Mr. Rodriguez is very happy with his new job and with SAILS. He strived for success and achieved it. SAILS recognizes Arturo Rodriguez for his diligent efforts in seeking a job and loving support of his family.

For additional information on the programs, services that SAILS offers for consumers in the communities we serve, please visit our website <http://sailstx.org>

SAILS participates in 7th annual Accessibility Fest

by Arlene Gomez



SAILS staff provides information to public attendance of the Accessibility Fest

"Superheroes" were the order of the day at the 7th annual Accessibility Fest held on October 27, 2013 at El Mercado in downtown San Antonio. Not only was the costumed type in abundance, but the "superhero" agencies serving the disabled community were in abundance as well. This annual event is hailed as a gateway to resources, opportunities and independence for individuals with all types of disabilities, and SAILS was there to support it.

SAILS staff members Carolyn Colley, Michelene Brown, and Arlene Gomez represented the agency at the event along with hundreds of other partner organizations and businesses representing a myriad of services. It was a fun afternoon of meeting new people and sharing information about the great work SAILS does. Staff also took the opportunity to learn about other services in the community that may benefit our consumers. It was a well-attended and festive event celebrating the uniqueness of us all, and SAILS appreciated the opportunity to participate.

Social Security and Ticket To Work Program

by Irma Medrano



Irma Medrano

SAILS was awarded funding from the Austin Resource Center for Independent Living (ARCIL) as a subcontractor to implement the Social Security Ticket to Work program. Ms. Irma Medrano was formerly employed at SAILS as a specialist under the STAP program. She is now SAILS newest Community Work Incentive Coordinator.

Irma recently traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah for a week of extensive training and assessments in order to be well prepared to help her new consumers. Consumers who are currently receiving Social Security Disability Income or Social Security Income may qualify for Irma's assistance if they are interested in returning to work.

Irma will work along with her coworker Mr. Albert Pulido who had numerous years of experience in this field of work already. Please join SAILS in congratulating Irma Medrano. Please call 210-281-1878 and ask for Irma or Albert.

Current SAILS events can always be viewed on our Facebook page:
<http://facebook.com/sailstx.org>
Click To Like Us!

SAILS Hosts Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.



Volunteers of S.A.I.L.S. enjoy their day of recognition at SAILS Volunteers Luncheon, November 8th

On November 8, 2013 SAILS hosted the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at The Barn Door Restaurant located at 8400 N. New Braunfels Street. There were nearly 90 excited volunteers who attended and enjoyed a delicious meal and music by Larry Williams. SAILS has over 200 volunteers who annually help out with various events and projects. SAILS deeply appreciates the caring and compassion from all our volunteers and we recognize how valuable each of them truly are in helping us meet our mission to serve persons with disabilities. We wish to extend a very special congratulations to Jesse Zaragoza for earning SAILS Volunteer of the Year Award.



Jesse Zaragoza receives SAILS 2013 Volunteer Of The Year Award



David and Olga Massey from Allstate



Lorne Pederson and Ron Flores from Pride Home Health

**You can sign up to volunteer,
to help people with disabilities,
SAILS consumers, on our website:
<http://sailstx.org>
Click link tab "Volunteer"**

SAILS Is For Consumers



SAILS Partners with Goodwill, "Stuff The Truck" Campaign

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.



Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke, Executive Director of SAILS accepts the check from Goodwill as SAILS partners with Goodwill in a "Stuff The Truck" campaign

Goodwill Industries makes a good community partner for nonprofits like SAILS. Goodwill's Partners for Good Program is one way to raise awareness and raise funds. On September 22, 2013 SAILS organized and gathered together large bulky items, clothing, toys and may more items at Bjorn's on highway 281 to be donated to Goodwill Industries. SAILS tagged this fundraiser our "Stuff the Goodwill Truck!"

If an organization is approved to participate in Goodwill's Partners for Good Program they can earn up to \$1000 for each Goodwill Industries truck that is filled with much needed donated items. It was certainly a great success because SAILS filled up nearly 2 1/2 trucks to earn over \$2000! It was a win for Goodwill Industries too because Goodwill changes lives through providing employment opportunities. Thanks Goodwill! And thanks Bjorn's! And special thanks to staff, board members, and volunteers who helped with donated items and their valuable time!

SAILS EXTENDS WARMEST THANKS TO OUR 2013 SPONSORS



and
The Brietzke Family
Al Cano
Michael and Judy Rosen
Ms. Swize
Michael and Evelyn Lopez
Robin San Miguel
Lon Oakley, Jr.
Charles Gonzalez
Deborah Fraser
Dennis Wolf
Dr. Paul Darrow
Stephen Rohrbough

November

- 1 Families with DisAbilities Support Group Meeting 1-3pm Rosemont at Highland Park Apartments
- 2 Deafestival at Comanche Park 2
- 8 SAILS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon The Barn Door Restaurant
- 12 SAILS Staff Meeting 9:00am
- 14 NeuroRestorative Open House
- 16 MDA Fall Festival
- 18 Fair Housing Board Meeting
- 19 SAILS Staff Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 20 SAILS Board Meeting 6:00pm-7:30pm
1028 So. Alamo
- 21 The Main Event Fundraiser
- 27 Closed at 12noon
- 28/29 Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 6 Families with DisAbilities Support Group Holiday Party Parkhills Baptist Church
- 10 SAILS Staff Meeting 9:00am
- 13 SAILS Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 14 SAILS Staff Teambuilding at The Main Event
- 18 SAILS In-Service
- 19-31 SAILS Offices Closed for Holiday Break

January

- 1 Happy New Year! Closed.
- 2 SAILS Reopens
- 3 Families with DisAbilities Support Group Meeting 1-3pm
- 11 SAILS Board Retreat/Board Meeting Lions Field 8:30am-1:00pm
- 14 SAILS Staff Meeting at 9:00am
- 17 ADA Planning Committee Meeting 10:30am-11:30am 1028 So. Alamo

Deafestival: Flying Fingers and Waving Hands

by Carolyn Colley



Consumers at the Deafestival



Attendees enjoy activities at the Deafestival booths

Deafestival is the one time of the year when people who are deaf can celebrate Deaf culture. Deafestival was held at Comanche Park 2 on November 2, 2013. San Antonio College interpreters attended the event along with many vendors from social service agencies and governmental agencies who serve the deaf. It was also a great time to renew old friendships and make new friends too. I was very pleased to spend the day at the SAILS booth and distribute brochures and visit with everyone about our free services too.

S.A.I.L.S. Welcomes Two New Members of Board Of Directors



Patricia Byrd

SAILS welcomes Ms. Patricia Byrd to SAILS Board of Directors. Ms. Byrd is retired from the Social Security Administration after working there 26 years. She is currently working as an independent insurance agent representing over 35 health and life insurance companies. She specializes in the senior market with services to persons primarily 65 years and older. Ms. Byrd is very active in her church and local networking organizations. She is not shy and likes to tell people that she loves fundraising!



Robert Herbster

SAILS welcomes new board member Robert Herbster. Mr. Herbster is an attorney who brings his expertise in corporate law, taxation, management, employment law and governmental relations. He also has much expertise in marketing, business consulting and organizational development. He was the Executive Director of International Consumers Alliance and past board member of the Church of the Pilgrimage UCC. SAILS looks forward to Mr. Herbster's service on the board of directors.

Welcome New S.A.I.L.S. Staff

**Arlene Gomez
Independent Living Specialist
and Volunteer Coordinator**



Arlene Gomez

SAILS welcomes Arlene Gomez as the most recent addition to staff. She has worked in the San Antonio non-profit sector with organizations serving the special needs community for the last 14 years. Her most recent position was with CAMP where she served six years in their Family Support Program department. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and Certification in Non Profit Management from UTSA. She has a passion for helping others and is looking forward to helping consumers reach their goals, as well as making the volunteer program the best it can be.

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OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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SAILS Staff

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. Executive Director

Charles Villarreal	Accountant
Judy Rosen	Executive Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Contreras	Receptionist

Carolyn Colley	IL/Outreach Specialist	Arlene Gomez	IL Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator
Michelene Brown	IL/Outreach Specialist	Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Albert Pulido	CWIC	Irma Medrano	CWIC

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