

Setting Sails



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

Summer 2014

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

**San Antonio Independent Living
Services (SAILS) Will "Unleash the
Beast" at Free 24th Annual Americans
with Disabilities Act Celebration**

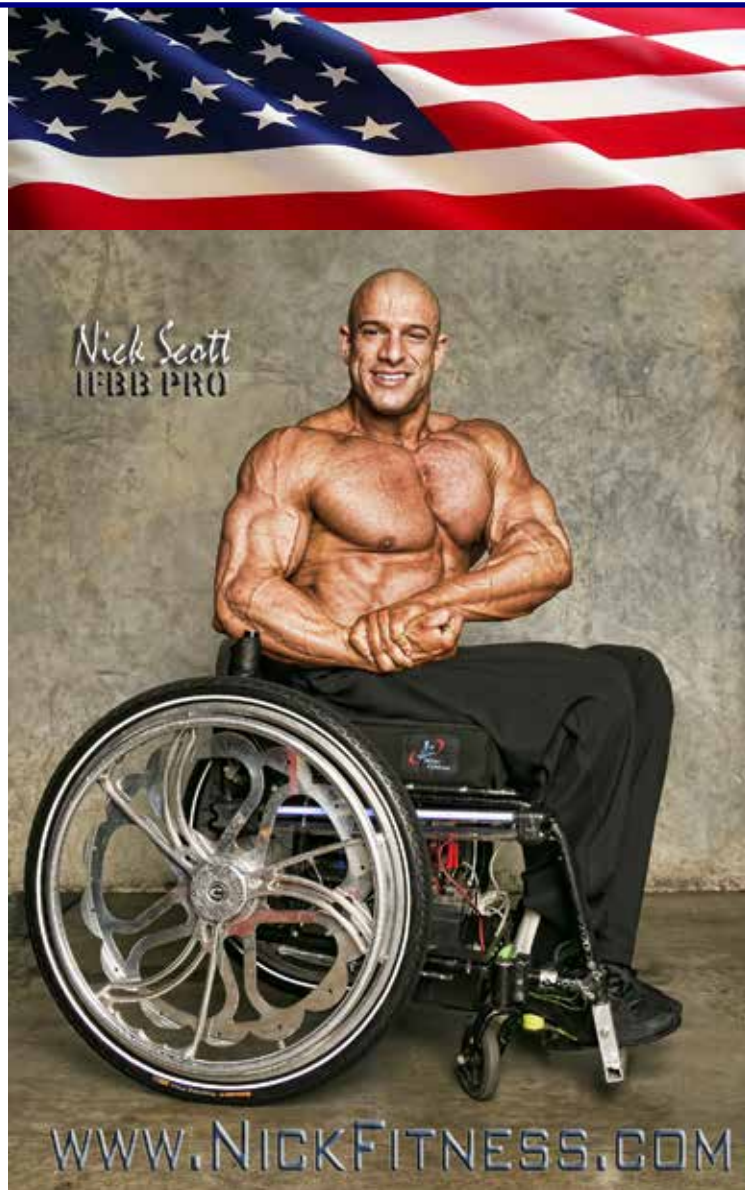


Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke,
CEO/Development Officer of SAILS

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) will be featuring Nick Scott and "Unleash the Beast" for the 24th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration on Saturday, July 26, 2014 from 9:00am until 1:00pm at the downtown University of Texas at San Antonio Bill Miller Plaza. Mr. Nick Scott is the founder and CEO of Wheelchair Bodybuilding and Wheelchair Athletics, Inc. He is truly an inspirational and extraordinary person!

This year's ADA theme is "Health and Fitness for Everyone." Nick will provide his keynote speech and address how it truly is possible for anyone to overcome a disability and become healthy and fit for life! He wants you to be able to achieve your best self!

At the age of 16, Nick Scott was an ordinary teenager with an interest in athletics, when a near fatal traffic accident changed his life as he knew it...forever. After the accident Nick became overweight and discouraged but somehow found the determination, mindset and personal strength to transform his life from a debilitating tragedy into a personal triumph! (*Excerpts from www.nickfitness.com/biography/)



Nick Scott will be the Keynote Speaker at the
24th Annual ADA Celebration, July 26th at UTSA Downtown Campus

SAVE THE DATE!

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
24th Anniversary Celebration**

**Health and Fitness
for Everyone**

**Saturday - July 26, 2014
9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**UTSA Downtown Campus
Bill Miller Plaza**

**501 West Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas 78207**

Join Us For The Rally at 9:00 am

Angela Willams: A Vision Of Success

by Mary Blake, G.A.P. Program Coordinator



Angela Williams

Angela Williams came to my office one day singing the praises of the Gateway to Abilities Program (GAP), one of several programs at SAILS. When I asked her about the reason for her enthusiasm she stated: "Now, through GAP, I know success is ahead for me even with my disability". She

went on to say the Gap workshops have helped her to recognize her strengths and short comings.

In time and with encouragement, Angela began a Degree Program at St Philip's College in San Antonio that will lead to a career and future employment. She exclaimed: " Once I have an income and career, I can eventually become a home owner". This is important to Angela because she has been homeless, living in shelters most of her adult life. She continued: "I will then be a great asset to my community".

Angela has always enjoyed the presenters who facilitate the monthly workshops. She is now aware of the many programs in San Antonio ranging from housing and food assistance to housing and employment opportunities.

This GAP participant also spoke favorably of the case management services inherent in GAP. "My case manager is interested in my goals. She keeps me on track and always has time to interact with me".

Needless to say, the benefits of GAP are also useful. The monthly bus pass helps Angela to be on time for class and for her other appointments while the vouchers for non food items keep her supplied with personal hygiene and other needed products.

I am always looking for new GAP referrals. If you are interested in learning more about the Program, don't hesitate to call me at 210-281-1878 # 116.

One Accomplishment Leads To Another

by Michelene Brown, IL/Outreach Specialist



Robert Ricker

Robert Ricker is a 27 year old man with Asperger's Syndrome. It was first discovered when he was 14 years old, when he was a freshman in high school. Robert first accomplishments began when he was 5 years old drawing story pictures. Soon it developed into short stories that were published in

magazines. He also enjoyed being a boyscout.

As he became older Robert became one of the beta testers for the gaming industry.

He has been at his present job at a dry cleaners for 8 years where he learned how to operate almost every press machine in the business. His hard work paid off because he also graduated from high school with all his friends.

Robert had some difficulties in life and one of them was to overcome his fear of public speaking. He was able to handle this when he delivered the eulogy at his grandmother's funeral. Robert has also overcome his fear of living with other people too. Now, he is moving into his own place with his best friend. This is a real accomplishment! Congratulations Robert! Enjoy your apartment.

Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:

<http://sailstx.org>

**Click link tab "Contact",
and then "Request For Services"**

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 Is For Consumers



Two SAILS Board Members Receive Thanks For Services

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.



Ms. Evelyn Miles-Rivera



Mr. Robert Herbster

Farewell and best of luck to SAILS retiring board members, Evelyn Miles-Rivera and Robert Herbster. Ms. Rivera works in the Finance department at NuStar Energy. L.P. She has served on the SAILS board of directors for approximately 2 years. Mr. Herbster is self-employed providing financial benefits planning and helping individuals meet their insurance needs. We hope he enjoys Houston as much as San Antonio! SAILS is also very thankful for their stewardship and giving.

Former Board Member Returns to SAILS

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.



Mr. Hector Saens returns to SAILS as a Board Member

SAILS Board of Directors and staff wish to extend sincere congratulations to Mr. Hector Saenz for being approved as SAILS newest board member. Mr. Saenz is a past board member. SAILS is pleased to have Hector Saenz return as a board member after more than two decades.

Mr. Saenz is retired from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He has extensive experience working with fair housing and advocacy issues. He also knows very well the meaning of "independent living" as he is a person with a significant disability enjoying his own independent life. Mr. Saenz firmly believes that every person with a disability deserves to be treated with dignity and respect! He is also anxious to help SAILS raise much needed funds to further our mission of serving persons with disabilities

Contents

Page

Message from CEO of SAILS	1
A Vision of Success	2
One Accomplishment Leads to Another	2
Two SAILS Board Members Receive Thanks for Services	3
Former Board Member Returns to SAILS	3
2014 SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair	4, 5
Calendar of Events	6
Consumer Gets Benefits Counseling	6
2014 SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair	7

SAILS Is For Consumers

2014 SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair



Grande Communications



Family Endeavors



St Benedict's Primary Home Care



Barb's Wire & Beads



SAILS staff members meet and greet guests



SAILS Booth with Audie Hanley and Mary Blake

SAILS Is For Consumers



2014 SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair



Guests Enjoying the Bands



Deaf Interpreter Services booth with owners John and Marilyn Weber



Amanda Flood enjoying the fun with guest



LJE Band



The River City Kings Band



Ruben V

Calendar of Events: May, June and July

May

- 2- SAILS Support Group/Presenters on Medicaid and Medicare
- 6- The Big Give SA
- 6-8- DARS Monitoring
- 13- Staff Meeting
- 14- Tour of SAILS by Brackenridge Foundation
- 20- Goodwill Annual Meeting
- 22- SAILS ADA Planning Meeting
- 26- Memorial Day
- 27- City Contract Monitors
- 29- Presentation at Vestal Elementary School/ Career Day

June

- 6- Support Group Meeting
- 10- Staff Meeting
- 11- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 12- Art in the DARK at the Witte/SA Lighthouse for the Blind
- 12- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Workshop
- 13- Staff In-Service Training/Offices Closed
- 18- Human Resource Training
- 19- Presentation at the Salvation Army Transitional Program
- 20- ADA Planning Meeting
- 26- IL Skills Class/Lighthouse for the Blind

July

- 4- Independence Day/Holiday
- 18- ADA Planning Meeting
- 26- SAILS FREE 24th Annual ADA celebration/ Downtown UTSA
- 30- SA Area Foundation 303 Pearl Parkway

Stacy Bowers:

Consumer Happy to Learn He Can Work and Not Lose His Medicare Benefits

By Albert Pulido, CWIC



Albert Pulido, CWIC

I find my job very rewarding when I am able to assist individuals like Mr. Stacy Bowers who is a person who is legally and statutory blind. Mr. Bowers was referred to me by DARS Division for Blind Services. He wanted me to provide him with details regarding how his full time employment would affect his benefits.

Specifically, Mr. Bowers wanted to know how much he can earn in wages without losing his Social Security benefits and how long he would be able to receive his Medicare benefits. I completed a "work incentive plan" and provided him with the dates of his trial work period and his extended period of eligibility under Social Security rules.

Mr. Bowers, who is employed at The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind was so pleased to learn that he would be able to keep his Medicare benefits for 93 months! This allows him to work full time and truly be more independent!

If you know anyone who is seeking benefits counseling please contact Albert Pulido at 210-281-1878.

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

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



2014 SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

VIVA Fiesta! VIVA SAILS! SAILS hosted a family-fun Fiesta Resource Fair on Saturday, April 19, 2014 at Comanche Park 2. Comanche Park 2 is a perfect venue for a family-style fiesta gathering.

SAILS guests enjoyed free live entertainment from three great local bands. The event kicked off with a well-known favorite, Ruben V and his band! Ruben V entertains with a guitar-playin' style that really gets everyone rockin'! LJE Music brought out some young entertainers in keeping with SAILS family fiesta fun. The kids were awesome! The River City Kings whose family members have been entertaining for many years wrapped up the fiesta celebration with a blend of some good ol' country and rock music.

SAILS extends special thanks to all the exhibitors registered for the SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair such as 101 Mobility, Deaf Interpreter Services, Grande Communications, UnitedHealthCare, AHIA, Family Endeavors, Rodney Harris with Primerica, Pride Home Health, Disability Rights, Barb's Jewelry, aSi, Ideal Shoes, Humana, St. Benedict's Home Care, Fair Housing Council, Fit 4 Me, Blind Veterans of America, Linda Knolton's Mary Kay, Cubie Co., Oak Meadows Apartments and Project Mend.

SAILS can't forget to extend warm thanks to all our volunteers who showed up to help set up and assist with the Fiesta Resource Fair. SAILS had volunteers from the Board of Directors, UTSA, Central Catholic High School, NuStar Energy, the Reusewald family, Villarreal family members, Donald Cloman, Freddie Brietzke, David Whitaker, Latasha Dupar and others.

Finally, let's not forget that these special events don't happen without the kindness and generosity of our faithful sponsors. SAILS extends gratitude to Frost Bank for providing bottled water, VIA Metropolitan Transit for printing and advertising, Cubie Co., Al Cano, Deaf Interpreter Services, Valero, NuStar Energy, SAADA, the Swize family, Documation and the Brietzke family.

Our Thanks To Sponsors of 2014 SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair



S.A.A.D.A.

Al Cano
Donald Cloman
Brietzke Family
Swize Family

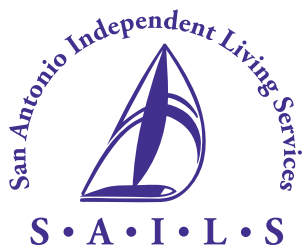


SAILS Board Member Evelyn Miles-Rivera, (right) and friends of SAILS



Medea and friend Liberty enjoy SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair

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

Judy Rosen

Executive Administrative Assistant

Cynthia Contreras

Receptionist

Michelene Brown

IL/Outreach Specialist

Gloria Aguirre

IL/Outreach Specialist

Albert Pulido

CWIC

Mary E. Blake

IL Skills Coordinator

Irma Medrano

CWIC

(Open)

IL/Outreach Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator

This publication was made possible by grants from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) 44%, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) 41.07%, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 14.22, SSA 0.71%. The total SAILS annual budget is \$ 633,202.00.

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: Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D., SAILS' Chief Executive Officer

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