

Setting Sails



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

Fall 2014

SAILS Hosts 24th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebration at UTSA



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

Every year San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosts an annual celebration to commemorate the signing of the original 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Once again, this year's ADA celebration was held on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at the downtown University of Texas at San Antonio campus beginning with a lively pep rally with chants of "ADA All the Way!" Mr. Nick Scott, CEO, wheelchair bodybuilder and motivational speaker of NickFitness delivered his robust and passionate speech relating his challenges that he faced with utmost determination after a tragic automobile accident that left him partially paralyzed until he finally "unleashed the beast." He shared a message of transformation of health in fitness for everyone!

SAILS planning committee selected several deserving individuals and organizations who were recognized and awarded a plaque: Sheriff Susan Pamerleau for Public Servant of the Year (unable to attend); John and Marilyn Weber for Promoting Accessibility & Inclusion Award, HEB for Large Employer of the Year Award, KENS 5 for Media award, Center on Independent Living (COIL) for Small Nonprofit of the Year. Individual advocacy awards were presented to Yolanda Ortega and Kay Chiodo. A Family Advocacy Award was presented to Lori, Barbara and Bob Collins. West Corporation received a special award for Diversity in Employment.



Nick Scott, keynote speaker, shows his muscles

SAILS invited over 50 community exhibitors to share valuable information and services for the guests attending the ADA celebration. All the attendees were treated to a free lunch from HEB! SAILS extends a very special thank you to our HEB for their support of the 24th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration.

SAILS wishes to extend deep appreciation to the ADA planning committee members: Patty Byrd, Dennis Wolf, Gloria Aguirre, Michelene Brown, Hector Saenz, John and Marilyn Weber, Jerri Ann Jones, Larry Carlton, Claudia Walker, Ruben Ramos, Connie Reid, Elena Hernandez, Geoffrey Elkins, Duane Long, and Larry Lane. Thanks to all these committed partners! Special thanks to our ADA sponsors: Amerigroup RealSolutions (our T-shirt sponsor), HEB, VIA Metropolitan Transit, Frost Bank, Valero, Alamo Serviced Connection, HealthSouth (RIOSAs), Documation, Deaf Interpreter Services, David Massey's Allstate, Total Mobility Services, Nustar Energy, PCSI, Pax Financial, Project Walk, Humana, 101 Mobility and Cano Company.

Success Story

by Gloria Aguirre, IL/Outreach Specialist



Gloria Aguirre

Mr. Michael Figueroa is a consumer of San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) and has a couple of disabilities. He is a person who happens to have a visual impairment. However, that did not stop him from setting a goal to improve his computer skills.

I met with Michael and he requested an independent living plan for his goal.

He told me that he was very interested in the Hadley School for the Blind and the opportunity to enroll in an online class called, "Using Excel." He asked for my assistance with completing the necessary paperwork.

Recently, Michael received a letter informing him that he was accepted for the course. He is so excited and will be sending his lessons to the Hadley School once a month. I will follow up with him as he progresses and learns how to use excel. Michael says, "a disability should never keep you from achieving your goals!"

Success Story

by Michelene Brown, IL/Outreach Specialist



Sandi Mabe

Ms. Mabe has been struggling since 2008 to find employment. She became depressed which caused her to lose interest in finding a job. Ultimately, she ended up homeless. Her history was living from place to place and renting a room here and there. At one point she managed to be a caretaker.

She was also at Haven for Hope for two years after staying in their Prospect Courtyard.

Recently Ms. Mabe located a job with Tall Grass Talent Group as a demonstrator for lawn materials. Finally, the San Antonio Housing Authority contacted her for housing assistance. Ms. Mabe is slowly moving into her independence again and living more comfortable in her own apartment! SAILS wishes to encourage Ms. Mabe to continue to strive for goals to manage her life and live happy and as independent as possible.

SAVE THE DATE! Friday, October 24, 2014

**Diamonds and Denims
2014 GALA**



Featuring Country Music



7:00pm-10:00pm
Friday, October 24, 2014

at
San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter
101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205
Registration 6:00pm
Live Auction (closes at 9:00pm)

SAILS Is For Consumers



Special Thanks To Our Sponsors Of 2014 ADA Celebration Event



Exhibitors:

101 Mobility
Affordable Health Insurance Agency
Alamo Mobility
Alamo Service Connection
Amedisys Hospice
AmeriGroup RealSolutions
Bee First Primary Home Care
Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center
Center for Healthcare Services
Center on Independent Living
Department of Aging and Disability Services
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Deaf Interpreter Services
Dreams Fulfilled Through Music
Epilepsy Foundation
Fair Housing Council
Family Service Association
Fit4Me
Frost Bank
Grande Communications

HealthSouth RIOSA
Humana
Legacy Home Health
Life Lane Pharmacy
Linda Knolton Mary Kay
Mystic Park Rehabilitation
Nick Scott
Professional Contract Services, Inc.
Packard Law Firm
Project Mend
R & K Homes
River City Group
San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind
San Antonio Independent Living Services (host)
Smile Center
Sunshine Cottage for the Deaf
St. Benedict's Primary Home Care
Total Mobility
United Healthcare
UTSA
VIA Metropolitan Transit
West Telemarketing

SAILS Is For Consumers

24th ADA Anniversary Celebration, SAILS 2014

(photos by F.J. San Miguel)



Amerigroup Real Solutions/ ADA T-shirt sponsor 2014



Jeri Ann Jones from VIA speaks with guests



Dr. Cleo/Mascot for Molina Healthcare



Deaf Interpreter Services Exhibit



101 Mobility



ADA attendees visiting exhibitors

SAILS Is For Consumers



24th ADA Anniversary Celebration, SAILS 2014

(photos by F.J. San Miguel)



Humana Marketpoint exhibit



HealthSouth (RIOSAI) exhibit



Alamo Mobility shows off Wounded Warrior vehicle



Nick Scott shows his muscles for Target volunteers



Ty Beck from Jordan Ford presents the MV-1 accessible vehicle



SAILS Board Chair Patty Byrd presents winner of HEB cards



Calendar of Events: August, Sept, Oct

August

- 1- First Friday
- 5- Presentation to Lions
- 8- Epilepsy Foundation Presentation
1:30pm-3:30pm
- 11- Fair Housing Meeting
- 12- Staff Meeting/Presenter: Dr. Peterson
Living Well to 100
- 13-14 TACIL Meeting in Austin, Texas
- 20- SAILS Planning Meeting
- 26- SAILS Staff Training from Red Cross
Emergency Preparedness
- 26- Regional Coordination Transportation
Steering Committee Meeting
- 28- Dr. Tim Peterson: Presentation on Stressful
Life

September

- 1- Labor Day/Holiday
- 5- Presentation by 101 Mobility/Jill Taylor
- 8- CEO/Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. *Birthday
- 9- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 12- Project Mend's Taste of the Town
- 14- SAILS "Goodwill Stuff the Truck" Fundraiser
- 16- SAILS Fish City Grill Fundraiser
- 19- Antioch Exhibitors/Fair
- 19- Gordon Hartman's "Free to Soar" GALA
- 23- SAILS In-Service
- 25- Dr. Peterson: Presentation on Nutrition

October

- 1- First Friday
- 3- Texas Department of Aging and Disability
Presentation
- 7- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 17- United Way Luncheon
- 18-21 APRIL Conference/Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 24- SAILS Diamonds & Denims GALA/Marriott
Rivercenter
- 26- Accessfest
- 30- Caregiver Power of Attorney & Guardianship
1:30pm-3:30pm

National Conference on Independent Living held on July 28-31, 2014

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

Staff from San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the annual National Conference on Independent Living (NCIL). The theme this year was Prevail! Advocates from all over the United States came together to let their voices be heard and support independent living programs that are so essential for people with all types of disabilities.

Staff learned about NCIL's advocacy efforts throughout the year. A representative from the President's Administration was in attendance at the opening plenary to provide strong support and a plan of action to implement civil rights for people with disabilities. Hundreds of conference attendees lined up outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Tuesday to march all the way to our nation's Capitol where there was a large gathering for a rally. Wednesday evening everyone enjoyed the 24th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration! Staff also enjoyed meeting our representatives on "Hill visits."

The conference workshops were well attended and designed to provide information and insight about disability and independent living issues that centers like SAILS are involved with throughout the year. There were many engaging sessions such as the topic of transit and working with people with disabilities and youth transition. I took my middle granddaughter, Medea, who attended as a first time youth. She thoroughly enjoyed learning about the process of helping young people with disabilities transition from high school to employment, college and independent living. All an all, the experiences at the annual NCIL conference will have a lasting memory, of course, until next year!

SAILS Is For Consumers



SAILS Staff members, attending 2014 NICL Conference, are getting ready for the march



SAILS Staff members attend sessions of 2014 NICL Conference

Welcome New Board Member Audi Hanley

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.



Ms. Audi Hanley, SAILS New Board Member

SAILS Board of Directors, CEO and staff wish to extend sincere congratulations to Ms. Audi Hanley, employee of NuStar Energy, L.P. as the newest board member. Ms. Hanley volunteered to step up after Ms. Evelyn Miles-Rivera, also an employee of NuStar Energy, L.P. left the board. Ms. Hanley works in the Legal Department handling compliance issues.

She is no stranger to SAILS because she has volunteered for events the past two years. Ms. Hanley says, "after seeing the challenges that my disabled niece experiences I decided to devote more time working with organizations like SAILS that serves people with disabilities." She can't wait to help SAILS raise funds to further the mission of helping people with disabilities to live more independently. Welcome to the SAILS Board Audi!

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Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:

<http://sailstx.org>

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

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)

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