

# Setting Sails



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

Winter 2014

## A Grand Evening at SAILS Diamonds and Denims Gala



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

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted a fun-filled "Diamonds & Denims" Gala fundraiser at the Marriott Rivercenter on Friday, October 24, 2014. Guests enjoyed a four-course meal with featured entertainment provided by San Antonio's well-known Rick Cavender Band. Guests donned their Western wear with their fashionable "bling" to top off the evening's theme.

Mr. Gordon Hartman was the evening's special guest speaker and complimented SAILS services to people with special needs. He stated that he looks forward to continuing his partnership with SAILS. The GALA included a special silent auction that was a great success due to the generosity of so many local businesses and board members who donated for a good cause.

SAILS wishes to extend sincere gratitude to all Diamonds and Denims sponsors who helped make the event a grand evening and a success: The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, NuStar Energy, Valero, Deaf Interpreters Services, Frost Bank, Group O, Documation, Superior Healthcare, Packard Law Firm, Carter Lay, WellMed, The Brietzke Family, Alamo Mobility, Al Cano, Hector Saenz, AmeriGroup RealSolutions, Project Mend, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, Thoa Vo, Dr. DeBacher, David Massey's Allstate, Gonzaba Medical Group, AceMartRestaurant Supply, USAA Foundation, VIA Metropolitan Transit,

SAILS Board of Directors, Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG), Health South and Professional Contract Services, Inc. SAILS extends a warm thanks to those individuals who purchased seats to attend the Diamonds and Denims Gala. We cannot do it without each and everyone of you! Thank you very much! I look forward to seeing everyone next year!

## Special Thanks To Our Sponsors Supporting SAILS Events In 2014



Donald Cloman

Brietzke Family

HEALTHSOUTH  
A Division of Kaiser Permanente

## Consumer Learns that Advocacy Works

by Gloria Aguirre, IL Specialist



Diana Castro

Ms. Diana Castro is a consumer of San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) who learned the value of advocacy. Ms. Castro has two adult sons who have disabilities. She learned quickly that she needed to be their advocate to locate resources and services. She admits that

it is challenging at times because some agencies inform her that her sons must make the contact with various agencies since they are adults.

Ms. Castro says that she has been successful advocating on behalf of her sons for counseling services and obtaining their medications but it is hard to locate free or low-income assistance. She says, "There are still some setbacks but I don't let that stop me. I continue to move forward to keep helping my two sons to help them reach their full potential."

## Cindy's Brain Injury Leads to Better Choices

by Michelene Brown, IL Specialist



Cynthia Robalin

Cynthia (Cindy) Robalin was married with four children. She divorced and had to find a way to support herself and her children. She started an ironing service and provided massage therapy until her children were grown up. During Cindy's life she admits that she made poor

choices in choosing her friends and relationships. After a serious brain injury in October of 2012 Cindy struggled to recover and to regain a sense of herself. Although she lost her house she says, "since my brain injury I have come to realize that I actually have more choices in life. I did not think that this was true before."

Cindy is starting over again and looking for a place to live independently on her own. After all the hardship she has had in her life she maintains a positive outlook and says, "I really feel like I have the support that I need at SAILS!"

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

**Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:**  
<http://sailstx.org>  
Click link tab "Contact",  
and then "Request For Services"

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## S.A.I.L.S. Welcomes Our New Member of Board Of Directors



**Rodney Harris**

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) board of directors and staff would like to welcome Mr. Rodney Harris as a new board member. Mr. Harris was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. At five years old he was taught to read music and play the trumpet and later in middle school he learned to play the guitar. Mr. Harris is an ordained minister, and also working on to become a licensed Financial Planner. He recently retired after working at Yellow Roadway Corporation for 35 years.

Mr. Harris is no stranger to SAILS because he has been volunteering at our events since 2005. He says, "he is honored to be able to be a board member now and ready to do even more for SAILS!" Welcome Rodney Harris!

## 2014 Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

On November 14, 2014 SAILS hosted our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at The Barn Door Restaurant located at 8400 N. New Braunfels Street. Approximately 80 excited volunteers joined us in a wonderful meal and program recognizing our "Volunteer of the Year" and everyone who volunteered at SAILS during the year. SAILS has over 250 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 also congratulate Mr. Joe Creasy for being selected as our 2014 "Volunteer of the Year!"



Mr. Joe Creasy accepts 2014 SAILS Volunteer Of The Year Award. From left to right: Dr. Brietzke, CEO/Development Officer, Lynn Cruz, Independent Living IR Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator, Patty Byrd, Chair of Board of Directors, SAILS

**Save The Date**

**2015 Fiesta Resource Fair  
April 25, 2015**



2014 SAILS volunteers and guests at the Appreciation Luncheon

# SAILS Is For Consumers

## 2014 Diamonds and Denims Gala, SAILS 33rd Anniversary Celebration

Photographs by Frank J. San Miguel



2014 SAILS Diamonds and Denims Gala Poster



Board Chair, Patty Byrd and husband Phil



Alamo Mobility's guests enjoying the Gala



Robbie Callis, Cheryle Iglehart and Dr. Brietzke



Auction items for bidding



Special Guest Speaker Gordon Hartman

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## 2014 Diamonds and Denims Gala, SAILS 33rd Anniversary Celebration

Photographs by Frank J. San Miguel



Rodney Harris blesses the Gala



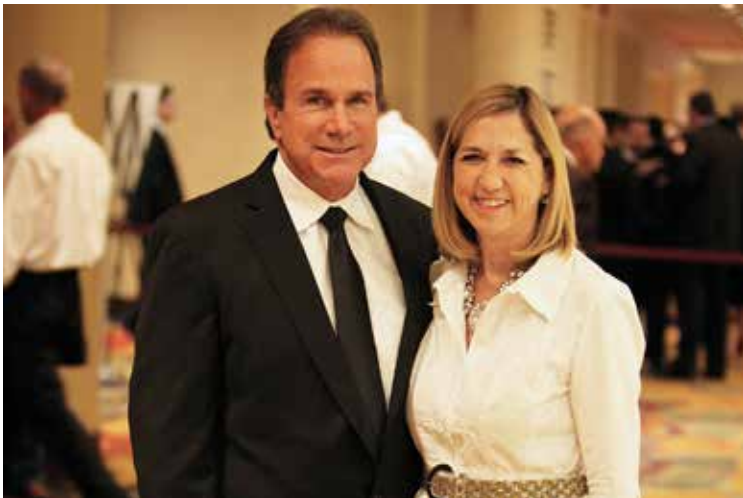
Shopping for Auction items



Rick Cavender "strumming and singing" Country



Gala Guests



Jerri Ann Jones and guest



Susan and Sydney Stoval display Americus Diamond necklace

## November 2014

- 3- Fair Housing Board Meeting
- 4- SAILS staff meeting
- 7- SAILS Support Group Presentation/DARS
- 11- Veteran's Day!
- 12- TACIL Board Meeting
- 12- SAILS Quarterly Board Meeting 6:00pm
- 14- SAILS Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- 20- SAILS Support Group/Presentation on Medicare
- 21- SAILS Staff In-Service
- 27- Thanksgiving Holiday (closed)
- 28- Thanksgiving Holiday (closed)

## December 2014

- 3- DARS Monitoring Visit
- 5- First Friday Meeting & Support Group Party
- 9- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 12- SAILS Holiday Luncheon
- 18-31 Holiday Closure

## January 2015

- 1-2 Holiday Closure
- 5- SAILS Offices re-open
- 6- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 9- SAILS Support Group/Presentation TBA
- 10- SAILS Board of Director's Retreat/Board Meeting
- 16- 1st ADA Planning Meeting
- 27- SAILS Staff Meeting



Gloria Aguirre and Judy Rosen, SAILS staff members, at the 2014 APRIL Conference

## SAILS Staff Attends 20th Annual National Conference on Rural Independent Living held on July 28-31, 2014

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

The Legacy continues: With Great Power, Comes Great Responsibility was the theme this year at the 20th Annual National Conference on Rural Independent Living held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 17-20, 2014. Three SAILS staff attended the conference to gain more professional education and training for independent living services.

The conference keynote speaker was Mr. Aaron Bishop who is the current Commissioner for the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) at the Administration for Community Living at within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Workshops included training for a quality and compliant RSA audit, a presentation on how to support consumer engagement in decision-making at CILs, higher education and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), youth peer-to-peer mentoring programs and outreach to rural communities and more.

There are many challenges for persons with disabilities who live in a rural community, such as transportation and affordable and accessible housing. The conference covered ways to remotely access people residing in extremely rural settings using Google maps (2014 APRIL Conference agenda).

Staff appreciated the opportunity to learn from the experts in the disability field from all across America!

The Road To Freedom bus at 2014 APRIL Conference



# SAILS Is For Consumers



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

**Lynn Cruz**  
Independent Living IR Specialist  
and Volunteer Coordinator



Lynn Cruz

SAILS welcomes Lynn Cruz, Independent Living Information Referral Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator, as the most recent addition to staff.

Lynn is a graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

For the past 13 years Lynn has assisted individuals with disabilities in many areas, including case management, child care, young adult programs and employment. Previously, Lynn had been with the Arc of San Antonio, Community Options and Palo Alto College.

Lynn looks forward to assisting individuals in their independent living skills, and she is excited about working with volunteers and helping support mission of SAILS.

Follow Calendar of Events  
of SAILS Throughout The Year  
And "Like" Us On Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/sailstx.org>

## SAILS Partners with Goodwill And Bjorn's

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.



Goodwill employees and volunteers at "Stuff The Truck", a SAILS fundraiser event in partnership with Goodwill and Bjorn's

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 14, 2014 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!"

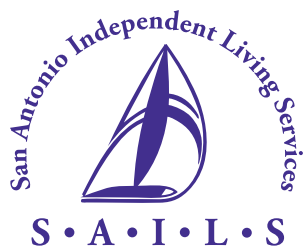
If an organization is approved to participate in Goodwill's Partners for Good Program they can earn much needed dollars for each Goodwill Industries truck that is filled with donated items. It was certainly a success for SAILS and Goodwill Industries too! Thanks Goodwill Industries and thanks Bjorn's for partnering with SAILS for a great cause!

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)**

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

#### **SAILS Staff**

#### **Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. CEO/Development Officer**

	Charles Villarreal	Accountant	
	Judy Rosen	Executive Administrative Assistant	
	Cynthia Contreras	Receptionist	
Micheline Brown	IL/Outreach Specialist	Gloria Aguirre	IL/Outreach Specialist
Albert Pulido	CWIC	Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Irma Medrano	CWIC	Lynn Cruz	IR and Volunteer Coordinator

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