

# Setting Sails



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

Winter 2015

## SAILS 34th Anniversary Event: Starlight Casino Night



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

On Friday, October 16, 2015 San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) celebrated 34 years of providing services to persons with disabilities by hosting the Starlight Casino Night at the beautiful Rosenberg Skyroom located at the University of Incarnate Word. Guests donned their best apparel to come "play their hand" at the Blackjack tables and pull the "one-armed bandits." Mr. Geoffrey Elkins from Grande Communications was a great emcee for the evening. Richard Gutin was a wonderful DJ who provided a real Vegas-style musical ambience. Of course, it was all for a great cause to raise much needed funds for SAILS!

SAILS recognizes and extends special thanks to our kind and generous sponsors:

Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, Valero Energy Foundation, Ageless Living Home Health, AmeriGroup Real Solutions, Deaf Interpreter Services, Inc., Documation, Professional Contract Services, Inc., Maxim Integrated, Group O, Acemart Restaurant Supply, Superior Healthplan, Andy Reusewald, Brietzke Family, Al Cano/Viejo of San Antonio, Hotel Valencia Riverwalk/Citrus, Hector Saenz, LeFleur Transportation, Project Mend, Sam Ash/Todd Walker, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority and Dr. Raymond Hernandez. SAILS would like to extend special gratitude to Lupe Tortilla Restaurant, Scuzzi's Italian Grill and Fresh Horizon's for providing a wonderful array of food for the evening.

Finally, SAILS extends special thanks to Janice and Wayne Meyr/Dunsford Limited Partnership for donating a two-night stay at Cabana East Villas at North Padre Island.

## SAILS is Awarded Funding from The Baptist Health Foundation

by Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke

On December 3, 2015 Ms. Frann Wright, Executive Administrative Assistant of SAILS and myself were both very honored to attend the ceremony and reception at the First Baptist Church to accept a \$6,000 award of funds from the Baptist Health Foundation towards our Accessible Computer lab. SAILS Board of Directors, staff and consumers are extremely thankful for this kind and generous gift.



Ms. Frann Wright (l) and Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke (r) of S.A.I.L.S. attend the ceremony and reception at the First Baptist Church to accept a \$6,000 award of funds from the Baptist Health Foundation for Accessible Computer Lab

## A Career Minded Individual

by Gloria Aguirre, IL Specialist

I recently read a quote that stated "if you love what you do on your job then it comes from your heart." One should not just be working for a paycheck but nourish oneself and learn every day. When I sat and thought about this I realized it was so true because I learn something new all the time from the consumers who I help. For example, such is the case with a thirty-five year old individual by the name of Seth Walton. Seth was born to a very loving family in Houston, Texas and a year later they relocated to Beaumont, Texas. His mother Patricia has played an important role in Seth's life. She has always been very persuasive in teaching him independence.

Seth recently moved on his own to San Antonio, Texas. Seth's disability is "Pervasive Developmental Disorder"(PDD), a mild form of autism. However, if you meet Seth you soon forget about his disABILITY as Seth is very motivated and career-oriented. His previous work experience was working in a law firm and he would like to once again seek the same type of work where he could do research and file work. Recently, Seth has been working in the SAILS Computer Lab to assist him in learning to further enhance his professional computer skills. Seth quotes: "SAILS has helped me understand that even though you have a disABILITY you can achieve any goal you want out of life"!



Seth Walton is at SAILS computer lab

## Consumer No Longer Resides in Nursing Home

by Michelene Brown  
IL Specialist



Michelene Brown,  
IL Specialist

Jacqueline Applewhite came to San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) over a year ago. She resided in a nursing home because of symptoms related to Parkinson's disease. She dreamed of living in her own home again. She still battles her Parkinson's disease but receives assistance from a

nurse's aide.

After a long and tiring journey she has finally found a one bedroom apartment where she can live as independently as possible with the assistance she needs. She is extremely happy that she can live comfortably and within her means and not in a nursing home.

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# SAILS Is For Consumers



## Special Thanks to Sponsors of 2015 S.A.I.L.S. Starlight Casino Night Event



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# SAILS Is For Consumers

## SAILS 34th Anniversary Event: Starlight Casino Night

Photos by Frank San Miguel



"Thank You" to all sponsors of the Starlight Casino Night



Guests arriving at Casino Night



Dr. Brietzke mingles with friends



S.A.I.L.S. Board Chair Patty Byrd



Guests checking silent auction



Casino guests register

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## SAILS 34th Anniversary Event: Starlight Casino Night

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Guests at Roulette



M.C. Geoffrey Elkins, Dr. Brietzke and D.J. Richard Gutin



Lupe Tortilla staff serves food at event



Jim Hughes with mother-in-law dance



Guests at a game table



M.C. Geoffrey Elkins

## Calendar of Events

### November 2015

- 3- Staff Meeting
- 4- United Way Women's Leadership Council
- 8- Accessibility Festival at Mercado
- 10- Groundbreaking of Inspiration Island
- 11- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 13- SAILS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- 16- Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services monitor
- 19- VTAC Meeting & Support Group
- 20- TEXCIL Meeting at SAILS
- 25- Close at 12noon for Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26-27 Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

### December 2015

- 3- Baptist Health Foundation Award to SAILS
- 4- SAILS Support Group Holiday Party
- 7- Pearl Harbor Day
- 8- Staff Meeting
- 9- SAILS Award from AACOG
- 11- SAILS Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 17- Close at 12noon
- 21- Offices Closed for Holidays
- 25- Happy Holidays!

### January 2016

- 4- SAILS Offices Re-open
- 5- Staff Meeting
- 9- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting & Retreat
- 15- SAILS In-Service Training
- 19- Staff Meeting
- 20- VITA Starts at SAILS
- 21- Support Group Meeting
- 22- Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration Meeting

## SAILS Support Group Enjoys a Holiday Party

by Michelene Brown

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) consumers meet at last once a month to attend various presentations and enjoy peer support at the Support Group meetings. On Friday, December 4, 2015 they were treated to the annual Holiday Party at SAILS. The entire luncheon was sponsored by Ms. Linda Knolton again this year. Ms. Knolton is a great supporter of SAILS and joined the attendees in the celebration.



Support Group members enjoy holiday party, December 2015



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

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 Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke

On Friday, November 13, 2015 SAILS hosted the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at The Barn Door Restaurant. Eighty volunteers attended and each received a certificate of recognition and pen for their volunteer service hours. Of course, everyone enjoyed the delicious food too!

Mr. Michael Figueroa was thoroughly surprised to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award. SAILS staff did a great job keeping the secret. Mr. Figueroa volunteers braille mentoring at SAILS. Congratulations to Michael Figueroa.



Mr. Michael Figueroa, recipient of 2015 SAILS Volunteer of the Year Award

## SAILS Staff Enjoys Access Ability Fest

by Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke

On Sunday, November 8, 2015 SAILS staff attended the Annual Accessibility Fest at San Antonio's downtown Mercado. 100 Exhibitors from many nonprofits and organizations shared their information, resources and ideas that assist persons with all types of disabilities. SAILS staff Gloria Aguirre, Michelene Brown and myself thoroughly enjoyed working our booth.

The exhibitor across from us was with Action Trackstander which featured an action trackchair that enables a person who uses a wheelchair to stand. It was really amazing to watch the demonstration. SAILS staff always have fun and look forward to attending and supporting this large accessible community-wide event.



A mobility demonstration at Access Ability Fest

## Voluntary Income Tax Assistance Program at SAILS

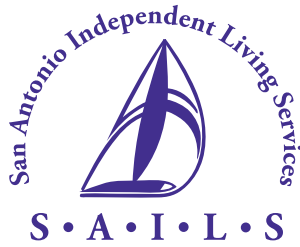
by Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke

San Antonio Independent Living Services(SAILS) will be offering free income tax preparation services through the City of San Antonio at our offices at 1028 So. Alamo, Street beginning on January 20, 2016. SAILS is considered a VITA site where mobile unit staff trained in tax preparation will conduct tax preparation. Please call 210-281-1878 and ask for the receptionist, Cindy Contreras to schedule these

Form <b>1040</b>	Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99)	<b>2015</b>	OMB No. 1545-0047
U.S. Individual Income Tax Return			
For the year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2015, or other tax year beginning ., 2015, ending			
Your first name and initial		Last name	
If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial		Last name	
Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.			
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below (see instructions).			
Foreign country name		Foreign province/state/country	Foreign

services. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and need an ASL interpreter please let Ms. Contreras know so an interpreter can be scheduled. SAILS looks forward to another great year of tax service!

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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(800) 474-0295 [www.sailstx.org](http://www.sailstx.org)

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Irma Medrano	CWIC
Gloria Aguirre	IL/Outreach Specialist
Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator

#### SAILS Board of Directors

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Hector Saenz	Board member

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