

Setting Sails



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

Winter 2016

SAILS Provides Complex Rehabilitation Technology Services to Consumers with Disabilities



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

Since September 1, 2016 San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) has been implementing a new contract that provides complex rehabilitation technology services to eligible consumers who have significant disabilities. SAILS contract is with the Health and Human Services Commission, formally the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) state agency. We received over 200 consumer files in progress from DARS during the transition phase.

Complex Rehabilitation Technology services include providing the consumer with items such as prosthetics, vehicle modifications, environmental control systems, home modifications, hearing aids and individualized rehabilitation technology. These direct services assist with consumers in becoming more independent in their daily living. When they receive the needed help they are able to function better in their homes, with their family and friends and out in the community.

SAILS recently opened a satellite office in Victoria, Texas to expand these direct services to the Gulf Bend area. SAILS Victoria Office is located at 5606 N. Navarro, Suite 307, zip code 77904. The telephone is 361-574-7880. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity because SAILS never provided these services under any other previous contract. Staff are working very hard contacting consumers with updates,

providing case management and coordinating with the technical assistance staff at Health Human Services Commission to ensure success for these consumers. Please contact the Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke, CEO, at 210-281-1878 extension 118 or Abel Zamora, Program Director at extension 124 if you have any questions regarding these services.

SAVE THE DATE!

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 27th Anniversary Celebration

**Saturday - July 22nd, 2017
8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Living a Healthy and Independent Life!

**at Villita Assembly Building Exhibit Halls
401 Villita St.
San Antonio, TX 78205**

Exhibitors: Contact

**Dr. Kitty Brietzke
CEO, Development Officer
210.281.1878 ext#118
kbrietzke@sailstx.org**

A Full Accessibility Ramp Was Installed at Mr. Alamillo's Home

By Abel Zamora, Program Director

Edward Alamillo is the first success story with the DHHS Outsourcing Complex Rehabilitation Technology contract (see article front page). Mr. Alamillo lives with physical disabilities resulting from a serious accident in 2005. Mr. Alamillo previously ran a towing company for over 25 years.

He has experienced significant hearing loss and chronic health problems since his accident. He previously received assistance from the former Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). SAILS now provides services such as durable medical equipment, home modifications, and vehicle modifications so that consumers like Mr. Alamillo can live more independently. Mr. Alamillo recently received hearing aids, bathroom home modifications, and a wheelchair ramp. The hearing aids have given Mr. Alamillo significant hearing in one ear. As he mentioned, "it's been years since I've heard anything out of my right ear." The bathroom modifications allow Mr. Alamillo to bathe without fear of slipping in his tub and the wheelchair ramp allows him to enter and exit out of his home using his wheelchair. Mr. Alamillo stated that he felt "blessed." He expressed thanks to SAILS staff. We wish Mr. Alamillo well and many years of continued independent living!

A full accessibility ramp was installed at Mr. Alamillo's home



Consumer Receives a Valet Seat for her Van so She Can Travel Outside Home

By Abel Zamora, Program Director

Susan Zachary is a shining success story! She has lived with a progressive physical disability for more than 30 years. She is married to her soulmate for 47 years and counting. She recently received a valet seat through services SAILS provides with funding from a DHHS Outsourcing contract. Mrs. Zachary's van was modified with the installation performed by Alamo Mobility. She was so excited that the staff at SAILS was able to help her achieve this success within only a few months of working on her case. She had waited about a year prior to SAILS receiving her case. Everyone at SAILS is so happy for Mrs. Zachary, she can now visit her friends and family and enjoy her new mobility.



Ms. Susan Zachary receives a valet seat for her van so she can travel outside home

SAILS Hosts Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on Friday, November 11, 2016 at the Barn Door Restaurant. More than 60 volunteers were able to attend this year’s event. Dr. Kitty Brietzke, CEO of SAILS and Patty Byrd, Board Chair presented the Volunteer of the Year award to board member Mr. Rodney Harris. In addition to his board roles Mr. Harris has volunteered all year to assist in the Gateway to Abilities Program that provides services to help consumers who are homeless and disabled.

SAILS Volunteer Coordinator, Rod Rodriguez presented the Youth Volunteer award to Heather Massey who volunteered to help SAILS plan the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration, marketing and other administrative duties. Heather attends Reagan High School in San Antonio. Congratulations to both of our very special volunteers!



Volunteers luncheon, 2016



Mr. Rodney Harris, SAILS Board Member, receives Volunteer of the Year Award



Heather Massey receives Youth Volunteer Award

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2016 Starlight Casino Night

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Board Chair Patty Byrd with husband Phil and daughter Patty



Dr. Brietzke welcomes Casino guests



Board Chair Patty Byrd with Dr. Kitty Brietzke



Casino Night guests enjoy playing roulette



The ladies love Casino Night!



Donald Cloman at the Casino Table

SAILS Is For Consumers



2016 Starlight Casino Night

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Casino guests having a great time



Casino guests from PCSI



Casino guests enjoy the cuisine



More Casino fun



Casino Night prizes for drawings



SAILS Casino Night volunteers

November 2016

- 4- Support Group/Emergency Preparedness
- 4- SAILS Starlight Casino Night (7pm-10pm)
- 8- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 9- Board of Directors' Meeting
- 11- SAILS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- 15- Staff Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 16 DARS Outsourcing Teleconference
- 17 Support Group/Disability Support Services ACCD
- 19- VTAC Meeting & Support Group
- 24-25 Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2016

- 2- Support Group Holiday Extravaganza at Luby's
- 6- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 9- SAILS Staff Holiday Luncheon
- 19- Offices Closed thru January 1st

January 2017

- 3- SAILS Offices Re-open
- 6- Support Group/Navigating Transition for Students with Disabilities
- 10- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 11- Board Chair Patty Byrd's Birthday
- 14- Staff Meeting
- 18- The BIG GIVE Kick Off
- 19- Support Group/Selecting a Long-term caregiver
- 20- ADA Planning Meeting 1
- 24- Staff Meeting
- 27- AACOG Housing Training

Welcome Our New Member of Board of Directors

Mr. Gary Owens

SAILS Board of Directors and staff welcome new board member, Gary Owens.

Mr. Owens was approved and voted in as a new board member in November 2016. He is disabled and has recently received a heart transplant. However, he is a Master Electrician employed by Tower Jazz Texas. He has experience overseeing construction projects, contract negotiation and production maintenance. Mr. Owens would like to assist SAILS with governance and raising important much needed funds.

Cynthia Improves Her Self-advocacy, Social Well-being and Quality of Life

By Corrina Hernandez, IL/Outreach Specialist



Cynthia Robalin

Ms. Cynthia Robalin became a consumer at SAILS in September 2016. Her main goal was to improve her social interaction and participate in our Support Groups.

Ms. Cynthia Robalin suffers from cognitive disabilities due to a traumatic brain injury. Despite her disability, she has been very excited and motivated to attend SAILS Support Groups whether rain or shine! She has really become more empowered and speaks her opinions and asks questions at the meetings. Since she has been attending the meetings she has become more of an advocate about her health care, especially her eye surgery. SAILS is so proud of the success that Ms. Robalin is making with improving her self-advocacy, social well-being and quality of life.

SAILS Is For Consumers



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



Amir Shipp
IL/Outreach Specialist



Farrah Brooks
IL/Outreach Specialist



Marjorie Anders
IL/Outreach Specialist
(Victoria Branch)



Kemberley Calk
IL/Outreach Specialist
(Victoria Branch)



Josephine Salas
Receptionist
(Victoria Branch)

Special Thanks To Our Sponsors 2016 STARLIGHT CASINO NIGHT BENEFIT

Silver Star Sponsors



Mr. Jim Hughes

Corporate Sponsors



Dr. Kitty Brietzke

Ms. Thao Vo

Mr. Hector Saenz

Table Sponsors



Ms. Patty Byrd

Mr. Rodney Harris

Cano & Company

Madhatter's
Tea House Cafe



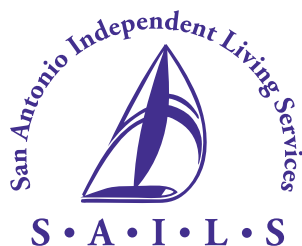
Patricia Lives Independently In Her Own Apartment

By Farrah Brooks, IL/Outreach Specialist

Patricia Fernandez and her son were both living with her granddaughter and 4 other family members in a small 2-bedroom apartment when she came to SAILS. They were informed that they had to leave the apartment within 3 weeks and sadly thought they would have to live out of their truck. Ms. Fernandez desperately needed housing assistance.

Finally, on December 13, 2016 Ms. Fernandez was very emotional when she arrived at SAILS with tears streaming down her face because she and her son were finally able to move into their own apartment that they can afford. She feels she can hold her head up high now that she has a place of her own with her son.

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OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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Farrah Brooks	IL/Outreach Specialist
Amir Shipp	IL/Outreach Specialist
Bill Borellis	CWIC
Irma Medrano	CWIC
Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Rod Rodriguez	IR/Volunteer Coordinator
Cynthia Contreras	Receptionist
Kemberley Calk	IL/Outreach Specialist (Victoria)
Marjorie Anders	IL/Outreach Specialist (Victoria)
Josephine Salas	Receptionist (Victoria)

SAILS Board of Directors

Patricia M. Byrd	Board Chair
Dennis S. Wolf	Vice Chair
Rodney Harris	Secretary
Miguel Castro	Board member
Donna McBee	Board member
Gary Owens	Board Member

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