

Setting Sails



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

Spring 2018

SAILS to Host 28th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebration at Villita Hall



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

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) will host the 28th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration at 401 Villita Hall on Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 8:30a.m until 1:00p.m.. A lively pep rally is planned to kick-off on stage at the celebration with chants of "ADA All the Way!" The theme for this wonderful commemorative 28th Anniversary of the ADA is "Empowerment and Inclusion!"

Gordon Hartman, founder of Morgan's Wonderland will be the keynote speaker for this year's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration. SAILS expects over 50 community exhibitors to provide valuable information and services for the guests attending the 28th Anniversary of the ADA celebration. There will be 12 community awards in various categories and drawings for prizes throughout the morning. Attendees will also be treated to a FREE lunch!

The 28th Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration is open to the public event. SAILS invites everyone to attend. For information regarding how to register as an exhibitor, sponsor or to attend please call 210-281-1878 extension 118 or visit sailstx.org

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 28th Anniversary Celebration

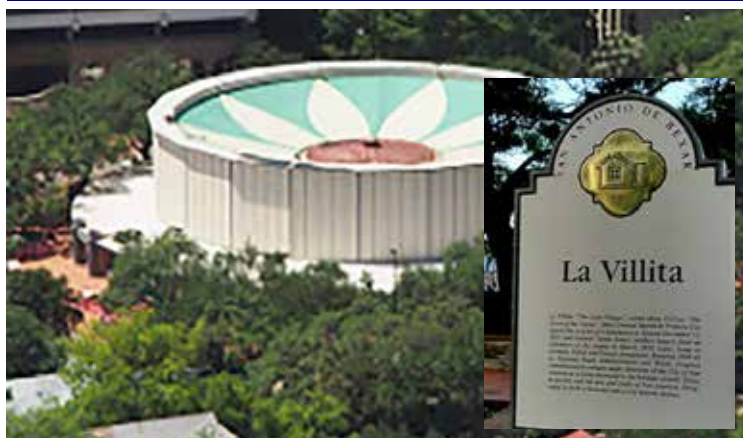
Saturday - July 28, 2018

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Empowerment and Inclusion for People with Disabilities

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

SAVE THE DATE!



Keynote Speaker:
Mr. Gordon Hartman,
Founder/CEO
Morgan's Wonderland
and Hartman Family Foundation

Exhibitors, please contact:

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

Ester Flores: SAILS Consumer Moves from Living in Car to Housing

By Janice Berechi, IR Specialist/Vol. Coordinator



Esther Flores

Ester Flores moved from Corpus Christi to San Antonio hoping for a better life. Her life was talking a downhill spiral emotionally , spinning out of control. Never did she imagine herself becoming homeless and living out of car. She was surviving day to day by working with a Day Labor Company.

Little did she know her pattern of survival was noticed by a kind security guard in a parking lot downtown. One morning he approached her just as she stuffed her comforter into the trunk of her car. He asked her, “are you living here?” She didn’t know what to say, scared and frightened but finally she answered, “yes.” He ended up connecting her to a caseworker at Haven for Hope and she was also referred to San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) for help with an independent living plan for housing assistance and help enrolling into GED classes.

It was a slow process but slowly she got on her feet. Ms. Flores has moved into her own apartment after being connected to City programs and has even secured a job at the Westfall Library on the weekend! She should complete her GED classes by late June 2018, and has set a goal with her IL specialist to go on to College. Her desire is to become a counselor and help other homeless individuals. “ I know I can’t help everyone but if I can give back the help I received at my lowest point and share my journey with others. I know I was taken on this path for a reason”

Maria Rodriguez Happily Uses Her New Prosthetic

By Mary McClairty, IL Outreach Specialist

Maria Inez Rodriguez had her leg amputated below her knee in September 2014. Afterwards, she never received the gait training she needed. Therefore, she was unable to use the prosthetic leg correctly and was left using a wheelchair for mobility needs.

She recently received a new prosthetic from the DARS Outsourcing program that SAILS implements that is funded by the Health and Human Services. Maria is so happy to have her new leg and says, “I am able to go shopping on my own, go out into my community and move freely around my house!” She truly feels that she has much more independence in her life now. SAILS is so happy for Maria too!



Maria Inez Rodriguez happily uses her new prosthetic that was provided through SAILS

To Volunteer at SAILS Office and Events
website: <http://sailstx.org>
Click "Volunteer" Tab

Sherry Raney: From Nursing Home To Her Own Apartment

By Corrina Hernandez, IL Outreach Specialist

Two years ago, Ms. Raney was living in Uvalde, Texas when she became ill and hospitalized for double pneumonia. Ms. Raney was then transferred to a nursing home for recovery and resided there. A year later she was transferred to a nursing home in San Antonio. Ms. Raney was very tired and unhappy with the living conditions in the nursing home and wanted a place to call home.

In January of 2017, Ms. Raney came to SAILS for accessible housing resources. On her first initial visit with me, she was very optimistic and positive about obtaining housing despite her circumstances. I happily assisted Ms. Raney with the public and section 8 housing application. Throughout the year I kept in contact with Ms. Sherry and kept her connected with housing resources. Ms. Raney never gave up and did her part by filling out applications to several apartments I referred her too. In December 2017, Ms. Raney received a letter from housing and moved in to her new apartment by February of 2018. Ms. Raney stated, "She feels more at ease and peaceful in her new home," She hopes to do some cooking, volunteer, and become more involved in the community. Ms. Raney stated she is very thankful for everyone in involved and very grateful for the caregivers who assisted her during the moving process.



Sherry Raney is very excited about living in her own apartment

Welcome New SAILS Staff Members

**Nelda Ulloa,
IL Outreach Specialist**



Nelda Ulloa recently joined the SAILS team as an IL Outreach Specialist. She has experience in case management and locating community resources for consumers. Her past work experience was with the Baptist Child and Family Services Emergency Management where she assisted consumers affected by Hurricane Harvey. SAILS welcomes Nelda!



**Megan Zambo,
IL Outreach Specialist**

Megan Zambo also joined the SAILS team as an IL Outreach team and will be working under the DARS Outsourcing Contract (HHSC). She recently worked at the Emerald Oaks Retirement. She is currently serving in the U.S. Military Army Reserves. Welcome Megan!

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SAILS Is For Consumers

SAILS Provided New Glasses For Adam Rodriguez That Changes His Vision In Life

By Kemberley Calk, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Rodriguez loves his new glasses and is so happy for all that SAILS has done to make his life better and more independent. He is enjoying being able to see clearly and crisply and admire the beauty around him especially with spring on the way.



Adam Rodriguez with new glasses

Guadalupe Rodriguez Can Hear Well Now With Hearing Aids Through SAILS

By Kemberley Calk, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Rodriguez has a profound hearing loss and could not carry on a conversation in person and especially not on the telephone. He is excited that with the new Hearing Aids he can turn down the TV and he doesn't have to bother everyone else in the house. He can have a conversation with friends and family and never miss a word, even on the telephone. He told me he is grateful to SAILS for helping him get his hearing aids and returning him to a more independent lifestyle.



Guadalupe Rodriguez with new hearing aids

Elizabeth Posada Is Mastering Independent Living Skills

By Marjorie Anders, IL Outreach Specialist



Marjorie Anders,
IL Outreach
Specialist

Elizabeth Posada, a 38-year-old blind female, says "They (SAILS) helped me tremendously in a lot of ways, to save time and to have patience.

Before I received orientation and mobility training with Ursula Odom through SAILS contract, I was stressed, angry and frustrated.

Now I go to community church events and bring desserts that I made for the meal."

"Things I learned are cooking skills, making Spanish rice and different dishes, baking cookies and brownies; and even recording recipes on my tape recorder. I learned to identify with bump dots on electrical outlets and plugs, on the iron settings, and with puff paint identifying letters like "R" for red and "B" for blue, I can match shirt tops with pants or shorts. My Pen Friend puts stickers to record colors of nail polish. Ursula taught me to use a money identifier so if I buy something, I can pay and get the right change. I learned to use the signature guide to sign or write where the words belong. All the DARS goals are met for my IL Skills. My mom put Velcro dots to mark my wall thermostat, so I can set the temperature by myself. Thank you!"

Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:

<http://sailstx.org>

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

SAILS Is For Consumers



SAILS Participates in Hondo and Southside School District Resources Fairs

By Alicia Worley, IL Outreach Specialist

SAILS staff provided outreach at both the Hondo and Southside School District Resources fairs. Staff set up an exhibit table and met with the attendees at both schools to provide important information and resources for the students and parents who attended.

The goal is to inform them of the opportunities to have SAILS IL Specialists assist with independent living plans and connect them to community resources that are much needed for their success in transitioning from high school to adult life.



SAILS is at Hondo School District Resources Fair



SAILS participates in Southside School District Resources Fair

SAILS Participates in Johnson Highschool Resources Fairs

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

Youth Transition services are important services that our IL Specialists provide to help youth make necessary changes into adult life and have a plan for their future.

SAILS staff Program Director Abel Zamora and Rosa Guerra, IL Specialist attended the Johnson High School Community Resource Fair to share SAILS information and resources about how we assist high school students who have disabilities who want to establish an independent living plan to attend higher education or vocational classes, get their own apartment or a job.

Parents stopped by the SAILS booth and asked many questions about SAILS programs for their students and were pleased to learn about the resources available.



SAILS is at Johnson High School Resources Fair

February 2018

- 2- Support Group/Presentation by Clear Captions
- 8- Staff In Service Training
- 13- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 15- Support Group/Presentation by TX Workforce Solutions
- 16- ADA Planning Committee Meeting
- 19- President's Day-Holiday
- 28- Holmgreen High School Tour at SAILS

March 2018

- 2- Support Group/Presentation by Terra Genesis & Harlandale Fair
- 3- SAILS Staff Attend Low Vision Fair at TriPoint
- 9- SAILS HR Staff Attend Texas Business Law Update
- 13- Staff Meeting
- 14- SAILS Board Meeting and Planning Meeting
- 15- Support Group/Presentation by WellMed Medical Management
- 16- ADA Planning Committee Meeting Hosted by Grande
- 21- GAP Monitoring
- 27- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 30- Good Friday

April 2018

- 3- SAILS Fundraiser at Fish City Grill
- 6- Support Group/Sarabia Family Counseling Center
- 7- Fundraising Event for SAILS by Mr. Rodney Harris at Las Chiladas
- 17- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 18- ADA Planning Committee Meeting at DIS
- 19- SAILS Support Group/Jefferson Dental Group
- 21- Walk for Autism

SAILS Consumers Benefit By Attending Support Group Meeting

By Janice Berechi, IR Specialist/Vol. Coordinator

The Support Group on Friday 3/2/2018 went very well. In attendance were 16 Individuals. The presenter was Mr. Lopez of Terra- Genesis. He opened with an ice breaker which drew the group in for discussion and problem solving. Everyone got involved in the discussion as Mr. Lopez presented his topic . Mr. Lopez was a great motivational speaker which captivated the support group members. He shared information on community resources and about goal setting. He did not promote Terra Genesis as a home modification company but one that individualized plans for each consumer in personalized for self-empowerment . It was a great presentation and afterwards individuals lingered to talk with him.



A Successful Support Group meeting for consumers of SAILS

SAILS Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Main Office
1028 South Alamo
San Antonio, Texas 78210
210.281.1878 V/TDD
210.281.1759 FAX

Victoria Office
5606 N. Navarro, Suite 307
Victoria, TX 77904
361.574.7880 V/TDD
361.574.7855 FAX

SAILS Is For Consumers



SAILS Support Groups Meetings



Support Group Meeting:
a presentation by members of Texas Work Force Commission



Terra- Genesis company is participating in
SAILS Support Group meeting



Regular Consumers Support Group meeting at SAILS

SAILS Staff Attended the 20th Annual Low Vision Expo

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS staff thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the 20th Annual Low Vision Expo which was held on March 3, 2018 at the Tri-Point Center at 3233 N. St. Mary's Street from 9:00am until 1:00pm.

There were many exhibitors besides SAILS such as the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, Texas Workforce Solutions, Aetna, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Low Vision Resource Center and many, many more. The event was extremely well-attended and a grand success. SAILS staff proudly participate every year!



SAILS Staff attended the 20th Annual Low Vision Expo

You can sign up to volunteer,
to help people with disabilities,
SAILS consumers, on our website:

<http://sailstx.org>

Click link tab "Volunteer"

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 sailstx.org

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SAILS Board of Directors

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Vacant	Vice Chair
Rodney Harris	Secretary
Miguel Castro	Board member
Donna McBee	Board member
Gary Owens	Board Member

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