

# Setting Sails



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

Fall 2018

## SAILS Hosted 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) hosted a grand 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 kicked off 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 was a dynamic keynote speaker for this year's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration! SAILS had 50 exhibitors that provided valuable information and services for the guests attending the 28th Anniversary of the ADA celebration. Twelve community awards in various categories were provided to some surprised folks and there were drawings for prizes throughout the morning. All attendees were treated to a FREE lunch!

SAILS would like to thank all the volunteers who came to help out from organizing the set up to help serving the guests their lunches. SAILS would like to extend warm thanks to the sponsors this year too: CPS Energy (Venue sponsor), Aetna (Major T-shirt sponsor), Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority (T-shirt sponsor), Mobility Works (T-shirt sponsor), and logo sponsors: PCSI, Project Mend, Goodwill Industries, Deaf Interpreters Services, Inc., 101 Mobility, Connect Hearing, Premier Prosthetics, Amerigroup, AccessAbility1, Wellcare, Rodney Harris, Clark Limousine Service, UnitedHealthCare, Cubie Co., Frost Bank, and Documation. Thanks to the ADA Planning Committee and SAILS Staff too!



SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES  
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE

## 2018 CASINO NIGHT Oktoberfest

FRIDAY OCTOBER 26TH, 2018  
6:30PM - 10:00PM

FORMAL OR OKTOBERFEST ATTIRE  
THE ROSENBERG SKYROOM  
INCARNATE WORD UNIVERSITY  
HILDEBRAND AND BROADWAY, SAN ANTONIO

OUR 37TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
2018 CASINO NIGHT OKTOBERFEST  
WITH BIERGARTEN FOODS AND DRINKS  
FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, TICKETS,  
CONTACT OUR C.E.O. KITTY BRIETZKE, J.D.  
210.264.3501 KBRIETZKE@SAILSADVOCATES.ORG

## Two Consumers Are Extremely Happy: Their Hearing Losses Restored

by Kemberley Calk, IL Specialist

Blanche Balli has significant hearing loss that prevents her from fully participating in family and social functions. She requested hearing aids to help her be more independent and now that she has received them she is very excited about being more competitive in bingo games at the Senior Center and the fully enjoying the sweet little voices of her grandbabies. She is extremely grateful to SAILS and the HHSC Outsourcing Contract for providing her with hearing aids.



Blanche Balli is extremely grateful with her hearing aids

Juan Garza lives independently and deals with several disabilities. A reading impairment not caused by vision makes his auditory skills necessary to function in his world. The significant hearing loss was not only leaving him behind in family and social gatherings, but he was unable to communicate effectively with health care providers, state and government agencies, etc. Now that he has his hearing aids he can communicate with his family, friends, and be his own advocate again. Mr. Garza is very happy and expressed his thanks to SAILS.



Juan Garza hears well now

## Ms. Maria Saenz Is Able To Hear Everything Now!

by Megan Zambo, IL Specialist

Consumer Ms. Maria Saenz is able to hear everything now! She can hear the TV at a very low volume. When asked by a friend if she could hear that she replied happily "Believe it or not I can!" Ms. Saenz feels much more comfortable driving now, she can hear honking of horns or sirens. She can also hear people talking from the back seat. Her confidence with having conversations has risen with no longer needing to ask to repeat what they said. Ms. Saenz compliments SAILS on how helpful they were with the application and over all getting the hearing aids, She also appreciated the communication with her IL Specialist throughout the whole process.

## Ms. Nathiben Gajera's Communications: No Longer A Struggle

by Megan Zambo, IL Specialist

Ms. Nathiben Gajera was struggling to communicate with doctors, family and friends. She suffered from hearing loss in both of her ears making it difficult to have daily conversations. Ms. Gajera received her hearing aids and was "Hearing much better, like a normal person" she said.



Ms. Gajera

She can hear the TV and the phone ring with no problems. She can communicate with loved ones and doctors without anyone needing to repeat themselves making life easier for her. Ms. Gajera is now able to watch over her grandchild now. She no longer leaves water running in the kitchen or bathroom because she doesn't hear it. She can safely walk around her neighborhood because she can hear cars coming. She is able to enjoy church service and the church activities. Ms. Gajera is much happier now and can live a more independent life!

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## Eduardo Hears Well Again!

by Kemberley Calk, IL Specialist

Eduardo Molina is a deacon at his church and he counsels and helps people on a regular basis. But when his hearing started to get worse it was hard for him to do the work he loved so much. He came to SAILS to request hearing aids and after a successful end to his case he is now grateful to SAILS that he can carry on with his passion for helping others.



Eduardo Molina performs his work well as a deacon at his church, with new hearing aids

## Viola Hears Door Bell, Dog Barking, TV and People Talking!

by Marjorie Anders, IL Specialist

On August 13, 2018, eighty-six years young, Viola Wagner eagerly held her front door open to welcome IL specialist, Marjorie Anders. "Now I hear, my dogs bark outside, alerting me that somebody is on our property," she chuckled, to see her happy face is no surprise, as one senses satisfaction with her hearing aids, which Mrs. Wagner describes as "so tiny and pretty too."

At initial contact, she wanted "to hear everything," such as TV, people talking, telephone ringing, and dogs barking, with a big smile and twinkle in her eyes, she jokingly announced in a raised voice for her visiting family members to overhear, "Now I can hear when they talk about me!" Mrs. Wagner appreciates and credits SAILS and HHSC for being able to communicate again with accuracy and clarity.

## Welcome New SAILS Staff Members

**Nelda Martinez,  
IL Outreach Specialist**



Ms. Martinez joins S.A.I.L.S. as a new IL Outreach Specialist and will work under S.A.I.L.S. Basic IL contract and provide core independent living services to consumers who have disabilities. She has previous experience providing speech therapy. She also has her Bachelor's degree. Welcome Nelda!

**Carneal Williams,  
IL Outreach Specialist**



Ms. Williams (CJ) joins S.A.I.L.S. as a new IL Outreach Specialist and will be working under our HHSC Outsourcing Contract assisting consumers with disabilities who need durable medical equipment and other services. She has her Bachelor's degree. She also has experience working to help seniors and persons with disabilities.

**Laura Johnson,  
CWIC**



Ms. Johnson joins S.A.I.L.S. as our new Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) and will assist beneficiaries with analysis, counseling and planning upon her certification. She has a Master's degree and has previously worked in the Karnes City and Runge ISD.

# SAILS Is For Consumers

## 28th ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



ADA Pep Rally!



Attendees enjoy meeting mascots from different organizations



Aetna's Richard Cabada and Ernest Gil & ADA T-shirt Sponsors Greet Everyone



Gordon Hartman Keynote Speaker (I)



Board Member Rodney Harris presents award for Advocacy  
Page 4



Deborah Scharven from Disability Access Office receives  
Public Servant Award

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## 28th ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Captain America arrives to Meet the ADA Guests



ADA guests visiting exhibits



Deaf Interpreter Services Exhibit



Saint Benedict's Home Health



The Ladies from Prosumers



SAILS staff at Awards & Prize table

## August 2018

- 3- SAILS Support Group
- 14- SAILS Staff Meeting/Guest Speaker  
Anna Mallet
- 27-28 TEXCIL Meeting in Austin

## September 2018

- 3- Labor Day Holiday
- 7- SAILS Support Group/Presenter  
Darlene Canales
- 7- SAILS Open House & CEO 15th Anniversary
- 11- SAILS Staff Meeting/Presenter Jami Rush
- 12- SAILS Staff In-Service Training
- 22- Morgan's Wonderland Free to Soar Gala
- 25- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 27- Toast of the Town-Project Mend

## October 2018

- 5- SAILS Support Group/Presenter Wellmed
- 9- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 19- Center for Healthcare Fair
- 20- AccessAbility fest at Market Square
- 23- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 26- SAILS Casino Night Oktoberfest/UIW  
Rosenberg Skyroom

## SAILS Peer Support Group Meeting

by Janice Berechi Onyejiako,  
IR Volunteer Coordinator

The Peer Support group met on Friday September 7, 2018 at SAILS. They had a wonderful Presenter Ms. Darlene Canales.

She spoke on how to set up a budget. Ms. Canales had a variety of hands on activities for the Support Group to participate in, which helped to break the ice. Many of the participants spoke on their own financial challenges and the inability to save for a rainy day. She gave pointers on how to begin this tasks even if they are on a tight budget. Tips were shared not only on plotting down your expenditures, but being organized when shopping with list in hand.

She spoke to the consumers on approaching their creditors and asking for a lower interest rate, work sheets were given to help them track their spending habits.



SAILS Peer Support Group guests learn the basics of budgeting

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**Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:**

<http://sailstx.org>

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

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## Mr. House Can Hear Door Knock, Car Horn and Dog Barking now!

by Megan Zambo, IL Specialist

Mr. House has been living with hearing loss for as long as he can remember, he lost it as a young child due to a high fever. Several years back he started to lose his sight and is now also blind. Mr. House said he is getting used to the new technology, it much smaller than his (broken) 15-year- old hearing aids.

He had a big smile on his face when he said he can hear knocks on the door, cars honking their horns and dogs barking in the neighborhood. Mr. House can live much safer now being able to hear alarms, such as the fire alarm, now too.

Mr. House and his wife are excited for the holidays. They will be able to go visit family for the big annual family holiday gathering. He laughed as he talked about how excited he is to be able to talk with his siblings and grandkids. Last year his old hearing aids didn't work and wasn't able to enjoy the time with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. House are very happy with the improvements having the hearing aids has on Mr. house's life!



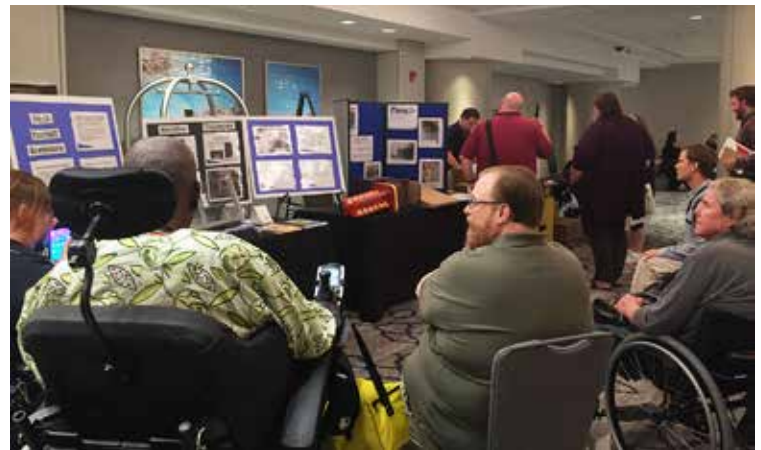
Mr. House is very happy that he can hear every things clear now

## SAILS Staff Enjoyed the 2018 NCIL Conference in Washington, D.C.

by Kitty Brietzke, J.D.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) staff attended the 2018 annual NCIL Conference in Washington, D.C. July 22-25th. The theme this year was Resistance Through Action! Staff enjoyed the many workshops and especially, the large demonstration about "Assistive Technology that consumers can control."

The march to our Nation's Capitol grounds was organized on July 24th and went on as planned despite the rain with hundreds of marchers. Many advocates from the Centers for Independent Living went to conduct their Hill visits after the march.



NICL 2018 features a large demonstration about "Assistive Technology" that consumers can control



Despite the rain, the march to our Nation's Capitol grounds went on as planned

San Antonio Independent Living Services  
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San Antonio, TX 78210



## OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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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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