

Setting Sails



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

Fall 2019

A 29th Anniversary Celebration for the ADA



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

On Saturday, July 27, 2019, San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted the 29th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration. This milestone celebration started out with entertainment from the Unicorn Steppers! Their lively performance really pumped the crowd up! Many organizations such as our friends at Aetna, Deaf Interpreter Services, Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, PCSI, Inc., San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, Next Day Access, 101 Mobility, Humana, Mobility Works, Project Mend, Goodwill Industries, AACOG and many more provided free information and resources for attendees.

The keynote speaker for this year's 29th ADA celebration was Deborah Scharven, Accessibility Manager from the City of San Antonio Disability Access Office. She shared some important information about how our city is continuing to improve access for all. Sheriff Javier Salazar received an award for Public Servant of the Year. Community engagement is one of his top priorities. Many community awards were presented to people and organizations who have dedicated their work and passion to help persons with disabilities in various ways. SAILS staff with over 100 volunteers helped make the 29th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration a success. SAILS extends warm appreciation for all our thoughtful and kind supporters! We couldn't host this annual event without each and everyone's help. Please enjoy a few of the photos from the event provided by photographer, Frank J. San Miguel.

A VEGAS-STYLE EVENT
CASINO NIGHT
November 1st, 2019

SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE

2019 CASINO NIGHT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2019 6:30PM - 10:00PM
FORMAL ATTIRE
THE ROSENBERG SKYROOM
INCARNATE WORD UNIVERSITY
HILDEBRAND AND BROADWAY, SAN ANTONIO



OUR 38TH ANNIVERSARY:
SINCE 1981, OUR MISSION IS TO ADVOCATE FOR
THE RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
AND TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
IN ORDER TO INCREASE THEIR SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE

**ATTEND
THIS CASINO NIGHT EVENT
FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES,
TICKETS,
CONTACT SAILS C.E.O.
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Ms. Tammy Shrawder's Life Changed with a New Ramp

by Megan Zambo, IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Tammy Shrawder lives in Guadalupe county, Texas. She had hip replacements and a broken femur making it very painful for her to climb stairs. She also felt very unsafe and fell several times. She contacted SAILS to get assistance in having an accessible ramp. She recently received her new accessible ramp through SAILS program funded by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. She is so very pleased and feels her life has really changed.

Ms. Shrawder says, "I have not fallen once since my new ramp was installed!" She is so happy that she has more independence too. She can easily go in and out of her home. She can bring in her own groceries and carry out her trash. She doesn't need anyone's help. Even better, she can go outside to her favorite spot and use her grill!

"It is just so wonderful" and "a huge success" she says. She praised SAILS and staff. Everyone at SAILS is so happy for Ms. Shrawder for her new independence.



Ms. Tammy Shrawder's life changed with a new ramp

Ms. Dorothy Montgomery Is Hearing Too Much Now

by Megan Zambo, IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Dorothy Montgomery of Bexar county has had many struggles with her hearing in the past. She contacted SAILS for assistance in obtaining hearing aids. She was so pleased when she received them. Before she received her new hearing aids she had so much trouble communicating with everyone around her.

Ms. Montgomery doesn't have any hearing issues now. She can hear her television and hear conversations over the telephone, songs at church and more. In fact, her son tells people "I think she hears too much now!" SAILS is so happy for Ms. Montgomery since she has opened up a whole new world of hearing.



Ms. Dorothy Montgomery "is hearing too much" now with her new hearing aids

Our Mission:

To advocate for the rights and empowerment of the people with disABILITIES and to provide needed services to people with disABILITIES in order to increase their self-determination and independence

SAILS Is For Consumers



Welcome New SAILS Board Member

Mr. Kevin LeMelle



SAILS Board of Directors and staff would like to welcome Mr. Kevin LeMelle as our new board member. Mr. LeMelle is extremely excited and honored to be on the SAILS Board. He holds a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in business. He stated, "he accepts this important role as a new challenge." He has previously been employed at SPURS Sports and Entertainment and hopes his contacts there will be helpful to SAILS. Welcome Mr. Kevin LeMelle!

Mr. Travis Kiker Is Much Happier With His New Custom Wheelchair

by Megan Zambo, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Travis Kiker of Bexar county was having many issues with his old wheelchair that he had been out growing. The chair he had owned was getting very uncomfortable for him and making his scoliosis worse, to the point of possible getting surgery. Mr. Kiker was also developing callus from the old chair, making it painful for him to sit in.

After receiving his custom wheelchair, he couldn't be happier. Both Mr. Kiker and his mother said it was a night and day difference. The new chair has been correcting the scoliosis and is much better on his back. He now can sit in comfort without having to readjust himself constantly. "SAILS has been wonderful" Mr. Kiker said, with his mother adding "we wouldn't have been able to do it without the help." With his new custom chair, he is able to maintain a good posture, Correct his scoliosis and prevent it from getting worse without getting surgery!

Welcome New SAILS Staff

Marie Herrera, CWIC Coordinator



San Antonio Independent Living Services welcomes new employee, Marie Herrera to the team. She is one of our new Community Work Incentive Coordinators. She will be assisting Social Security beneficiaries with written plans for their guidance and information as they return to work. Marie Herrera has a background working with seniors and people with disabilities because she was formerly an IR/Volunteer Coordinator at SAILS. She also has experience in human resource supervision, data entry, payroll and billing. Welcome Marie!

Rick Abeyta, CWIC Coordinator



San Antonio Independent Living Services welcomes new employee, Rick Abeyta to the team. He is one of our new Community Work Incentive Coordinators. He will be assisting Social Security beneficiaries with written plans for their guidance and information as they return to work. Rick has a background as an insurance agent, senior claims representative and a background home health provider care. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and speaks Spanish. Welcome Rick!

SAILS Is For Consumers

29th ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



SAILS 29th ADA Banner



Post VFW 76 Color Guard



Unicorn Steppers Perform



Award Recipient Dr. Schmiedecke from UIW Vision Care Center



Keynote Deborah Scharven accepts award at ADA



ADA Pep Rally!

SAILS Is For Consumers



29th ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Sheriff Javier receives Public Servant Award from SAILS Board



Richard Cabada from Aetna receives community health award



Josefa Flourney, representing AACOG, receives Advocacy award



Sparky stops by the ADA celebration



"Captain America" Ty Beck from Mobility Works award recipient



Sheriff Salazar and "Captain America" visit ADA guests

August 2019

- 2- SAILS Support Group Meeting/Presenter
Lisa Senteno/APS
- 6- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 9- SAILS Administrative Day
- 14- SAILS Board of Director's Fundraising Meeting
- 13- SAILS Administrative Day

September 2019

- 2- Labor Day Holiday
- 6- SAILS Support Group/True Mental
Health Counseling
- 10- SAILS Staff Meeting/Presenter
Next Day Access
- 11- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 13- SAILS Administrative Day
- 16- Training from IT/Secure E-mails
- 27- Administrative Day

October 2019

- 4- SAILS Support Group/Food Bank Presents
- 8- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 14- Columbus Day Holiday
- 25- SAILS Administrative Day
- 25 -28- APRIL Conference in Grand Rapids, MI.

SAILS Staff Attended NISD Resource Fair

On August 23, 2019 the Reddix Center which is located at 4711 Sid Katz in San Antonio hosted Mini-Resource Fair. SAILS staff Shawanna Marshall and Zakistha Davis met with attendees, distributed brochures and explained SAILS services. SAILS staff regularly provide outreach at various schools and fairs to educate people with disabilities about the programs and assistance that we provide.

Support Group Meets At SAILS

SAILS hosted a Support Group meeting on August 2, 2019 with presenter, Lisa Centeno from Adult Protective Services. She provided valuable information about the agency and the responsibilities of their staff. She shared information and examples of different kinds of abuse and relayed the importance of reporting abuse. SAILS Support Group attendees had several questions and some even mentioned their personal stories. SAILS extends a warm thank you to Ms. Centeno.

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Support group meets at SAILS

SAILS Is For Consumers



Ms. Romona Salazar is Grateful, She can Hear and Feels Safer

Megan Zambo, IL Outreach Specialist

SAILS consumer Romona Salazar lives in Val Verde county, Texas. She requested help with obtaining hearing aids.

Ms. Salazar had struggled for quite awhile with her poor hearing which affected her so much that she did not like to go out in public. She needed her daughter to go with her to appointments and help her communicate. She recently received her new hearing aids and can now go to appointments by herself. She happily says, " I can talk to my doctors and other people in my community. I am very grateful for SAILS and this program". She also feels much better and safer since she can hear what is going on all around



Ms. Romona Salazar feels safer now, she can hear well with new hearing aids

Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:

<http://sailstx.org>

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

Consumer is Thankful for Devices That Assist Her with Independence

Marjorie Anders, IL Outreach Specialist

Mary Lou Guerra is a senior who resides in Gonzales county. She recently received assistance in obtaining hearing aids and a shower buddy. She told her IL Specialist, "I got my hearing aids on my birthday!" Ms. Guerra is so happy with her new lightweight and discreet hearing aids. She mentioned that "now I can lower the volume on my television and my neighbors don't hear what I am watching anymore."

Ms. Guerra also is very pleased with her new shower buddy equipment because she feels extra safe now when she is bathing. She is so thankful to San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS), staff and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission which funds the program to assist people like her. SAILS wishes Mary Lou Guerra much enjoyment out of life and new independence with her new hearing aids and shower buddy equipment.



Mary Lou Guerra is thankful for devices that assist her with independence

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OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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