

# Setting Sails



A Bi-annual Publication For Friends And Consumers of San Antonio Independent Living Services

2023 Spring-Summer

## A Very Successful 33rd Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration



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

### Working Together for Inclusion

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted the 33rd annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration at Morgan's Wonderland Event Center on July 29, 2023.

SAILS invited Marilyn Weber, CEO of Deaf Interpreter Services, Inc. to be the keynote speaker for the ADA celebration. Marilyn spoke about Deaf culture and the problems with the education system and the Deaf. She also mentioned how the ADA has encouraged many businesses to accommodate persons with disabilities adding there is much more work to be done, especially in employment. SAILS extends a special thanks to Marilyn Weber for being this year's keynote speaker and doing a fantastic job!

SAILS recognized San Antonio's Chief Charles Hood as this year's Public Servant and also recognized Texas Senator Roland Gutierrez as the Public Advocate of the Year. There were numerous vendors who shared their community resources with hundreds of attendees! SAILS would like to extend special gratitude to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation for being a Champion supporter of SAILS 33rd annual ADA celebration and to Superior Healthplan for supporting

our keynote speaker and to all our important sponsors who made this celebration possible.

## Special Thanks To Our Sponsors



Attendance of 2023 ADA celebration is at full capacity of the event venue



## Ms. Christina Edwards Receives Life-Changing Hearing Aids

Marisel Garcia, IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Christina Edwards is a 57 year-old consumer from Comal County.

Prior to her coming to SAILS for assistance she experienced hearing loss. She set a goal of being able to hear and communicate in conversations with background noises.

Ms. Edwards worked with SAILS Complex Rehabilitation program to obtain her hearing aids and she has happily been able to hear much better now!

"These hearing aids have helped me so much," stated Ms. Edwards. "I am hearing so many things that I have missed in the past. I am so thankful to SAILS for helping me get these life-changing hearing aids!"



Ms. Edwards: "I am hearing so many things that I have missed in the past."

## Leg Stimulator Helps Ms. Katrina Hennig Move Around Better

O'Tamia Shepherd, IL Outreach Coordinator - Waco

SAILS-Waco was able to assist Ms. Katrina Hennig with her request for a leg stimulator.

This consumer is a 51-year-old female living with her mother, in Belton of Bell County, Texas. Ms. Hennig has struggled with drop leg due to multiple sclerosis. This caused her to heavily rely on a walker or wheelchair to travel her home and community.

Though helpful, these aids did not allow Ms. Hennig the full range of motion she desired. Through SAILS-Waco's aid, Ms. Hennig's request was fulfilled, and she expressed to her IL Specialist, "Oh, it's wonderful! I'm excited to be able to walk around."

I used to garden and I'm happy that's something I can begin again."



Leg stimulator helps Ms. Katrina Hennig move around better

# SAILS Consumer's Success Stories



## A BIG Welcome to New SAILS Staff!



Jadin Fleming

SAILS would like to welcome Jadin Fleming as a new IL Outreach Specialist in our Basic Independent Living program funded by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Jadin holds a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Psychology. He recently moved from Kansas to San Antonio, Texas. He was employed in Kansas and worked with youth who had mental/emotional issues. Jadin has extensive knowledge of the multi-systemic therapy model. He also collaborated with agencies to locate community resources for his clients.



Korangely Santana Morales

SAILS would like to welcome Kora Santana Morales as our new IR/Volunteer Coordinator.

Kora has a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Her Major is in Human Resource management.

She is bilingual and has experience working with people with disabilities and has provided advocacy at hospitals for patients. Kora says, "I was attracted to this job because of SAILS mission."



Jennifer Stephens

SAILS would like to welcome Jennifer Stephens to our Waco Satellite Office. Jennifer will be working with O'Tamia Shepherd as an IL Outreach Specialist under our Outsourcing contract where consumers with disabilities receive durable medical equipment which is funded by the Texas Health & Human Services Commission. Jennifer graduated from Northwestern State University in Louisiana. She was recently employed at Thrive Wellness in Waco, Texas and also worked as a Coordinator at the Heart of Texas Goodwill Industries. Additionally, she has skills in marketing and fundraising when she worked at Mosaic. She says she has a strong sense of ethics and is a team player!



Kyron Bowman

SAILS would also like to welcome Kyron Bowman as a new IL Outreach Specialist in our Basic Independent Living program.

Kyron holds a Bachelor of Science with a major in Clinical Psychology. Recently, he has been working in the healthcare industry. He was also at Wells Fargo under a contract to work in Human Resources where he analyzed compensation related issues. Additionally, Kyron had several years of employment with Time Warner Cable in San Antonio as Call Center Supervisor/Trainer. He says, "I love working with people."



# SAILS Is For Consumers

## 33rd ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



SAILS ADA Stage Sign



Disability SA Exhibitor Table



Color guard at ADA celebration



Community Mascots at ADA



Board Chair, Miguel Castro with ADA Keynote Marilyn Weber



Board members and Keynote Speaker on stage with Chief Hood



# 2023 ADA Anniversary Celebration

## 33rd ADA Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Frank San Miguel



Dustin Spencer received ADA Volunteer Award



Public Advocacy Award



ADA Celebration attendees enjoying themselves



Deaf Interpreter Services Exhibitor table



ADA Guest and Project Mend Booth



DentRight Dental Exhibitor Table



## Calendar

### March 2023

- 3- Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 8- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 14- Staff Meeting
- 17- St. Patrick's Day
- 24- ADA Planning Meeting
- 26- 2nd Annual Let's Roll 5k/Project Mend

### April 2023

- 1- Low Vision Expo
- 4- Fish City Grill Fundraiser/Culebra
- 11- Staff Meeting
- 21- ADA Planning Meeting
- 28- Battle of Flowers Parade

### May 2023

- 2- Fish City Grill Fundraiser/So. Rim
- 5- Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 9- Staff Meeting
- 16- ADA Internal Meeting
- 24- Older Americans Fair
- 26- SAILS In-Service

### June 2023

- 2- Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 6- Staff Meeting
- 9- Internal ADA Meeting
- 14- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 23- In-Service for Staff
- 24- Hearts of Gold Caregiver Awards

### July 2023

- 4- Independence Day
- 11- Staff Meeting
- 13- ADA Partner's Meeting
- 29- Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration

### August 2023

- 4- Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 15- Staff Meeting
- 24- Doris Griffin Resource Fair
- 25- In-Service for Staff

### \*\*September 7th

CEO's 20th Anniversary Celebration/Open House!

## Dr. Kitty Brietzke Hosts Her 20th Anniversary Celebration/Open House

It was time to really celebrate after 20 years as CEO of SAILS so Dr. Kitty Brietzke decided to host an Open House and fundraiser with food, entertainment and a Silent Auction on Thursday, September 7, 2023 from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

Guests enjoyed live music from Joe Green on his saxophone and had a great time!



Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke

## CCTV Magnifies Independence for Ms. Nellie Perez!

Maribel Garcia, IL Outreach Specialist

Nellie Perez is a 29 year old consumer from Comal county. Ms. Perez received a closed-circuit television (CCTV) magnification device to aid her vision from the SAILS Complex Technology program. Prior to receiving the device, her partner and her daughter would help her read and write, especially with smaller text. However, the CCTV allows her to zoom in and see the words she is reading and writing magnified on a desktop screen.

"I was able to fill out forms now," stated Ms. Perez. "I can actually read and see things better."

She demonstrated that she can zoom in using the camera, and she can change the color settings on the screen. Ms. Perez switched to different color tints, contrasts, and inversions in order to best suit her needs. "When I needed to read or see something bigger, I wasn't able to," she expressed, "but now this is going to help me see the words better and read more."

Ms. Perez is also able to read with her daughter now, using her new CCTV device. "She'll show me things in her book, and I'm finally able to see!" she remarked, as her daughter displayed a page from her book onto the screen.

Overall, Ms. Perez is excited to continue to use her CCTV device, as she is able to read independently.



CCTV magnifies independence for Ms. Nellie Perez!

## A Ramp Leads to Independence for Noah Guzman

Virginia Ramirez, IL Outreach Specialist

Noah Guzman is a 12 year-old boy. His father Chris came to the SAILS office to ask if we could assist him in getting a ramp for Noah. His father explained how difficult it was getting his son in and out of the house. It wasn't safe with the stairs in place.

There are many times Noah has to see his doctor and even be rushed out of his house in emergencies. It was very stressful and unsafe and concerned Noah's father. As an IL Outreach Specialist, I followed along with Noah's father even when illness interrupted the process. Chris really stayed in communication with me at SAILS. Finally, we were able to complete the case and obtain a ramp with approval from Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Noah's father Chris shared, "I am so grateful to SAILS and staff. We love the ramp! It has already made a world of difference and is much safer too!"



A ramp leads to independence for Noah Guzman



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## OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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Virginia Ramirez	IL/Outreach Specialist
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Jadin Fleming	IL/Outreach Specialist
Kyron Bowman	IL/Outreach Specialist
Kora Morales	IR Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator
O'Tamia Shepherd	IL/Outreach Coordinator (Waco)
Jennifer Stephens	IL/Outreach Specialist (Waco)

#### **SAILS Board of Directors**

Miguel Castro	Chair
Rodney Harris	Secretary
Kevin LeMelle	Board Member
Elizabeth (Liz) Jackson	Board Member

This publication was made possible by contracts from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at 21.59%, and HHS-B Outsourcing 49.04%, Administration on Community Living at 21.59%, PHS at 7.39%, and unrestricted 0.39%.

However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the HHS, ACL, or PHS and you should not assume endorsement by local, state, or federal government.

**Setting SAILS is published bi-annually  
by San Antonio Independent Living Services.**

**Editor: Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.,  
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**Designed and printed by Comtekmedia.**