

Setting Sails



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

2023 Fall-Winter

Save the Date for SAILS 34th Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration



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

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) will be hosting the **34th annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration** at Morgan's Wonderland Event Center located at 5223 Edwards Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78233 on July 27, 2024.

This year's theme is **"Re-Imagining Inclusion!"**

SAILS is very excited about bringing this wonderful celebration to our San Antonio community again. We expect hundreds of attendees and over 40 exhibitors to display their resources and services. SAILS will kick off the event with a pep rally! Attendees will also receive free event T-shirts while they last. There will be drawings for gift baskets, gift cards and more! Community awards will be presented and more.

Please save the date and come join us for our upcoming **34th annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration!**

For information on how you can participate as an exhibitor or sponsor please call 210-281-1878, extension 118.

**SAVE THE DATE:
SAILS 34th Annual
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Celebration 2024!**

**July 27, 2024, Saturday
8:30am - 1:00pm
Event Center
Morgan's Wonderland**

**Contact Dr. Kitty Brietzke
210-281-1878 ext 118
kbrietzke@sailstx.org
for details
and sponsor information**



**Register for Attendance,
T-Shirt Sponsorship,
Exhibitors, Volunteers:
<https://sailstx.org>**

Ms. Terry Bruce Lives Independently In A Safe Place With Her Dog Now

Kora Morales, IL Volunteer Coordinator

Sometimes one flooding event can throw a household into crisis, but more often, it seems like a series of problems pile up, one on top of another.

That is how Ms. Terry Bruce felt for the past 6 months, living as a person with disabilities in an apartment with mold and a leaky roof.

"It was horrible, literally horrible," she said. The management from the complex was refusing to fix the water leak that was coming from the roof. "It was raining in the apartment."

It was stressful for Ms. Terry Bruce. She even had to stay at hotels and was not able to afford this at all.

Thanks to her persistency and determination to not quit and with our guidance and assistance through SAILS she was able to find a nice affordable apartment. She has no stress anymore and she is feeling happy and content!

We provided her the guidance to accomplish her goal to independently live in a newer and nicer apartment that is safer for her and her dog too!



SAILS provided Ms. Terry Bruce with the guidance to accomplish her goal to independently live at an affordable apartment that is safe for her dog and her

Mr. Darrell Ballew Is Active With His New Action Trackchair Now

O'Tamia Shepherd, IL Outreach Coordinator - Waco

Mr. Darrell Ballew was assisted by SAILS-Waco office in obtaining his requested Action Trackchair.

Mr. Ballew is a 69-year-old male who lives in Aquilla of Hill County, Texas. He has struggled with mobility issues due to paraplegia. His limitations began to affect his farm. He wasn't able to tend to his animals anymore or even see them. Mr. Ballew has now received his Action Trackchair, with assistance from his IL Specialist. He happily told me, " I love being able to travel independently up the incline that was keeping me from being able to see my chickens, goats and even his barn cat!

He says he is also able to go hunting in his backyard like he did before his disability occurred. Enjoy life Mr. Ballew!



Mr. Darrell Ballew is active with his new action trackchair now

A New Ramp: Safety and Accessibility For Ms. Cassandra Amador

Maribel Garcia, IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Cassandra Amador, 81 years young and from Victoria County, received a ramp through the SAILS Complex Technology program to aid her in leaving her home with peace of mind knowing that she could descend safely to her driveway.

When Ms. Amador contacted SAILS earlier this year, it was abundantly clear that her wooden ramp had not withstood the test of time and was never meant to last all fifteen years that it had been in place. She recalled the times when her feet got caught in the holes of the wood and the times when she felt the railing was on the brink of giving out. Although it served its purpose many years ago, she knew it was a safety hazard for her. With the help of her grandson, the older ramp was removed so SAILS could begin to help her with a new ramp.

Ms. Amador was tickled when she received a brand-new aluminum ramp. Instantly, she could feel a difference marked with security, safety, and excitement for the ability to leave and enter her home as she pleased. "I can hold on to the rails as soon and I leave my car, so I can come up to the door," she remarked, "I'm very happy with it, and I like the fact that it's slip proof!"



A new ramp: safety and accessibility for Ms. Cassandra Amador

Ms. Balderas Loves Her New Ramp: Accessibility

Virginia Ramirez, IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Balderas case with SAILS moved along rather smoothly and ended up being completed in a short time. Her daughter was a great help in assisting with gathering the documents and information needed to expedite things more quickly. She even helped with the application process.

Ms. Balderas has extremely poor mobility and also Dementia. It was very difficult for her to leave her house. There was always the fear of falling. She did not feel she had good accessibility to exit her home.

The day that her new ramp was installed I received a call that Ms. Balderas was very happy with the ramp, satisfied with SAILS services and no longer afraid to leave her house. Her daughter said, "she really loves her new ramp!" Accessibility is wonderful.



Ms. Balderas loves her new ramp: accessibility is wonderful

A New Scooter Provides Mobility For Mr. Copeland Now

O'Tamia Shepherd, IL Outreach Coordinator - Waco

Mr. Copeland was assisted by SAILS-Waco office in obtaining a requested scooter.

Mr. Copeland is a 78-year-old man who lives in Belton of Bell County, Texas. He has struggled with severe COPD. His limitations began to affect his mobility and self-care. He could no longer get out of the house without struggling and enjoy his visits to the store.

Mr. Copeland has now received his scooter with assistance from his Independent Living Specialist and achieved his goal of regaining mobility.

He stated "I just get in and ride and need no particular place to go. The scooter has let me become more social with my neighbors and I love being able to get out of the house independently and shop for my own items too!. Now I can even ride the hopper and go places. I do not get denied because my scooter dimensions are perfect. Thanks a bunch, SAILS."



A new scooter provides mobility for Mr. Copeland now

Mr. Miguel Martinez's New Hearing Aids: Tears With Happiness

Virginia Ramirez, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Miguel Martinez waited a little over a year to receive his hearing aids through SAILS Complex Rehabilitation Technology program.

Mr. Martinez's process was very difficult since we had to assist him with the required paperwork and coordinate with insurance throughout the process.

Mr. Miguel now has his hearing aids. He received them on September 27, 2023 from Hearing Life who sent SAILS an email saying that "He was so happy it brought us all to tears and thank you for the opportunity to assist one of your consumers.

Later, that day, Mr. Martinez came to my office to thank us and with tears in his eyes he told me that he was very grateful for the service provided to him and for helping him achieve his goal of hearing!



Mr. Miguel Martinez's new hearing aids: Tears with happiness

Secure Online Donations to SAILS
<https://sailstx.org>
 Click link tab "Donate"

Public Health Workforce Funding Project



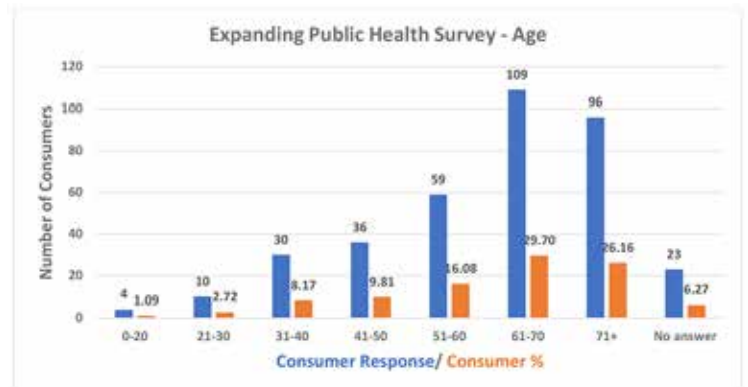
Analissa Tomlin, IL Health Outreach Coordinator

SAILS Expanding Public Health program, funded by The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has been an ongoing process and challenge to connect with the communities SAILS serves.

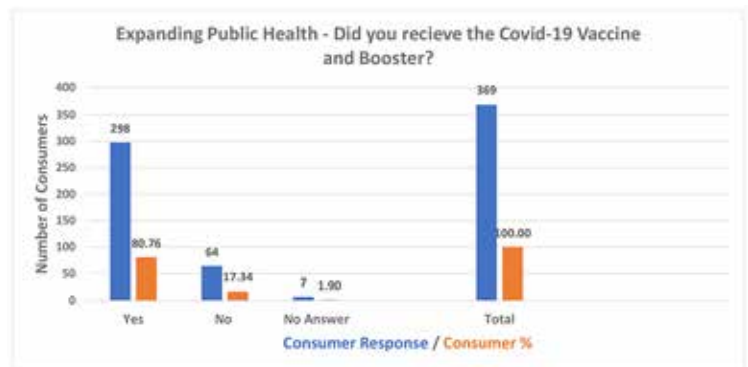
This program has solely focused on how Covid-19 and how the pandemic has affected people with disabilities and seniors as well.

SAILS implemented an anonymous survey to gather data and Information, listen to people's stories who wanted to share, pinpoint accessible clinics and medical services to those still in need of vaccines due to not having correct access prior and most importantly connect on a more personal level with our communities.

Through my research, engagement within multiple counties, data collection and compassion to help service those in need, the following two charts provide just a couple of results from a more in-depth report from several surveys.



A survey of Expanding Public Health based on age



A survey of Expanding Public Health based on if consumers having received COVID-19 vaccination

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

Visit Our Website:
<https://sailstx.org>



Calendar Of Events

Calendar

September 2023

- 1- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 4- Labor Day Holiday
- 7- SAILS CEO's Open House & Silent Auction
- 8- SAILS CEO's Birthday
- 12- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 13- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 20- The BIG Give Day!

October 2023

- 6- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 7- SAILS attends Accessibility Fest
- 9- Columbus Day Holiday
- 10- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 20- Outreach

November 2023

- 3- SAILS SAILS Virtual Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 7- Fish City Grill Fundraiser/281 at Northwoods
- 8- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 14- SAILS Staff Meeting

- 16- Staff Thanksgiving Holiday Luncheon
- 23- Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- 24- Day After Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2023

- 1- SAILS Support Group Luncheon
- 8- SAILS Staff Holiday Luncheon
- 12- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 15- SAILS Holiday Closure Begins

January 2024

- 1- Happy New Year Holiday
- 2- SAILS Last Holiday Closure date
- 3- SAILS Re-opens!
- 5- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 9- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 15- Martin Luther King Holiday
- 25- First ADA Planning Meeting

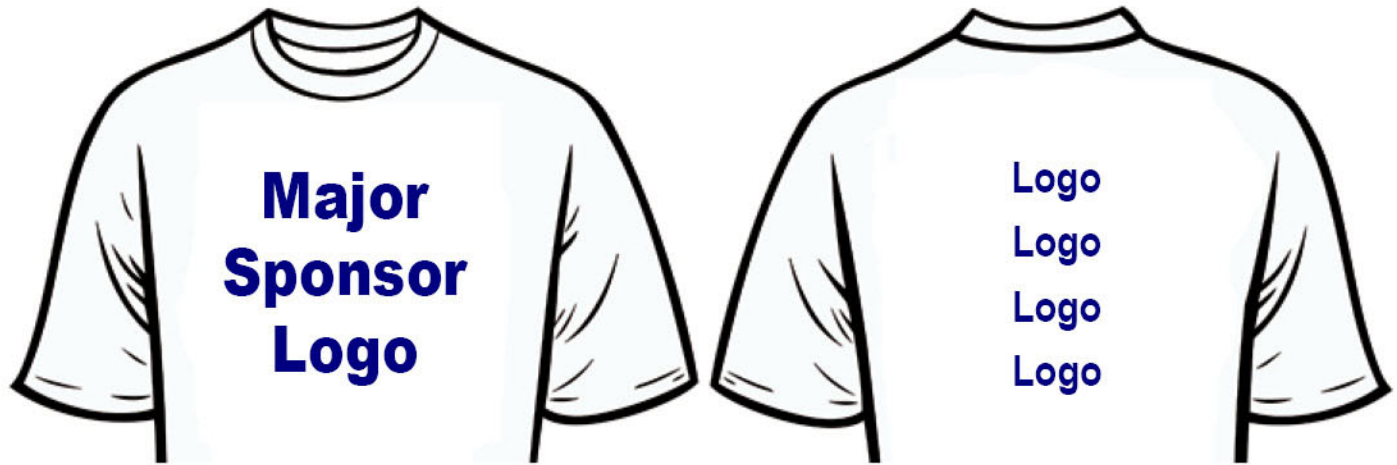
February 2024

- 2- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 13- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 14- Valentine's Day
- 19- President's Day
- 23- ADA Planning Meeting

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**Sponsorship of Free T-Shirts To All Attendees of 2024 ADA Celebration
Besides Care Package, Free Lunch, Free Bottled Water.
Every Attendee of this Annual ADA Celebration Event Also
Recives A Free Commemorative 34th ADA Anniversary T-Shirt
Your Logo Will Be On 2024 ADA Commemorative T-Shirts**



**Your Opportunity To Be Sponsor
Of 2024 Commemorative 34th ADA Anniversary T-Shirt**

Email Your Company Name with Logo Attachment
to Dr. Kitty Brietzke, kbrietzke@sailstx.org
(Logo file can be in .AI, .EPS, high-resolution .JPG, .PNG, or .TIFF format)

**ADA Champion T-Shirt Sponsor
\$2,500 (Large Logo, Front)**

Recognized As ADA Champion T-Shirt Sponsor
One Year Link and Listing on Sponsor Page
of sailstx.org website

Prominent Logo Display on ADA Event
Program, Brochure, Postcard, Poster, Banner,
Mailouts, Complimentary Exhibitor Table

[Click here, pay through Paypal, for your
Champion Sponsorship, \\$2,500](#)

**ADA Leader T-Shirt Sponsor
\$1,250 (Logo Top, Back)**

Recognized As ADA Leader T-Shirt Sponsor
9-month Link and Listing on Sponsor Page
of sailstx.org website

Premium Logo Display on ADA Event
Program, Brochure, Postcard, Poster, Banner,
Mailouts, Complimentary Exhibitor Table

[Click here, pay through Paypal, for your
Leader Sponsorship, \\$1,250](#)

**ADA Advocate T-Shirt Sponsor
\$625 (Logo Top, Back)**

Recognized As ADA Advocate T-Shirt Sponsor
6-month Link and Listing on Sponsor Page
of sailstx.org website

Prime Logo Display on ADA Event
Program, Brochure, Postcard, Poster, Banner,
Mailouts, Complimentary Exhibitor Table

[Click here, pay through Paypal, for your
Advocate Sponsorship, \\$625](#)

**ADA Logo T-Shirt Sponsor
\$300 (Logo, Back)**

Recognized As ADA Logo T-Shirt Sponsor
3-month Link and Listing on Sponsor Page
of sailstx.org website

Logo Display on ADA Event
Program, Brochure, Postcard, Poster, Banner,
Mailouts, Complimentary Exhibitor Table

[Click here, pay through Paypal, for your
Logo Sponsorship, \\$300](#)

San Antonio Independent Living Services
11306 Sir Winston Street, Bldg F
San Antonio, TX 78216



OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)

11306 Sir Winston Street, Bldg F, San Antonio, TX 78216
V/TDD (210) 281-1878 Fax (210) 281-1759 (800) 474-0295 sailstx.org

Waco Satellite Office

5016 Lakeland Circle, Suite B
Waco, Texas 76710
254.224.6756 254.224.6752 254.224.6772
FAX 254.224.6783

SAILS Staff

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. CEO/Development Officer

Charles Villarreal	Chief Financial Officer
Abel Zamora	Program Director
Mariel Garcia	IL/Outreach Specialist
Virginia Ramirez	IL/Outreach Specialist
Analissa Tomlin	IL Health Outreach Coordinator
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
Shawn MacDiarmid	Board Member
Dr. Angela Pennington	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.,
SAILS' Chief Executive Officer.**

Designed and printed by Comtekmedia.