

# Setting Sails



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

Fall 2010

## Message from SAILS' Executive Director: Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

### A 20<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration for the ADA

On July 26, 1990 President George W. Bush signed into law the most comprehensive piece of legislation ever written for persons with disabilities-The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA acts as civil rights legislation for families with disabilities. We must not forget the original intent of ending unjust segregation and exclusion of persons with disabilities from our "mainstream" society.

Our gratitude goes out to the thousands of people who made up the "disability rights movement" and whose efforts have helped to change the lives of thousands of persons with disabilities today. These historical "disability advocates" sought justice in our American courts and with Congress to ensure that people with disabilities would be included in all aspects of living. Many of these advocates told their own very compelling stories of discrimination to Congress during the ADA legislative process. They succeeded by way of their unwavering commitment to help people with disabilities receive the justice they deserved (Bush).

On Friday, July 30, 2010, San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) held the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration. This milestone celebration started at about 8:00a.m.with several hundred excited supporters who gathered at San Antonio's Mercado for the Unity Pride Stroll over to 401 Villita for the day's events. Employees and volunteers from various organizations carried company banners along the march towards Villita where nearly 50 vendors were waiting for the guests to arrive. Many organizations such as our friends at AmeriGroup Corporation, Alamo Service Connection (ASC), the ARC, Deaf Interpreter Services, Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, Superior Healthcare, Haven for Hope, Pressing On, and San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind provided free information and resources for attendees.

## Upcoming Event: Gala and Flame The Band Oct 15, 2010 - page 5



The keynote speakers for this year's 20<sup>th</sup> ADA celebration were The Gridiron Heroes whose organization provides services to individuals who have sustained catastrophic spinal cord injuries. The CEO of the ARC of San Antonio, Jack Minter was on hand to accept the award for Disability Organization of the Year. SAILS was also honoring the Public Servant of the Year, Judge Nelson Wolff. Gordon Hartman received an award for Inclusiveness and Accessibility. Guests were entertained and delighted in the music provided by Dreams Fulfilled Through Music. However, many other volunteers, vendors and sponsors helped make the ADA a great success. SAILS thanks each and everyone for their time, talent and donations. Please enjoy a few of the photos from the event provided by photographer, Frank J. San Miguel on pages 3-4.

Chris Canales and Eddie Canales of Gridiron Hereos





# SAILS Consumer Success Stories

## Mr. Escalona Is Working Two Jobs

by Albert Pulido



In 2007 Mr. Gilbert Escalona was diagnosed with liver disease and Bipolar disorder. In Nov. 2009, he was approved for the Supplemental Security Income benefits (SSI). At about the same time he returned to work, as a waiter. He started working at Jim's Restaurant in late 2009 on a

part time basis.

On June 10, 2010 he came into SAILS to inquire about the new Social Security work rules. We discussed the changes in The SSI program and how it would affect the amount of wages he could earn. After learning on the new rules about work, he decided to increase his hours of work and started planning on getting off of SSI in the near future.

On August 12, 2010 he called to say that he was working 25-30 hrs per week at Jim's and will start at Chili's Restaurant on Monday the 16th of August, also working 20-30 hrs per week. He is also planning on returning to school in the coming fall.

Mr. Escalona is truly an inspiration to anyone who has a disability and wants to improve his way of living.

## Mr. Rodriguez Volunteers at SAILS

by Sandie Flanagan



In 2004 Rod Rodriguez was stricken with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) and Spinal Cancer. These two illnesses disabled him for 3 years.

Before becoming disabled he drove a tractor trailer for over 20 years and has been to all lower 48 states. Driving a tractor was very rewarding to him because he met people from all over the United States.

Volunteering at SAILS has also been rewarding to him. This experience has also helped him understand what a person with disabilities has to go through and how to make it easier for a person with disabilities to live independently.

Rod would like to thank SAILS staff for allowing him to volunteer. He said, " I have learned so much and will take what I have learned from you all and apply it to help others." His future goal is to graduate from Our Lady of The Lake University with a degree in social work to help the disabled achieve their goals.



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# 2010 ADA Anniversary Celebration



Attendees waiting to start the stroll



Honor Guards leads the ADA stroll!



SAILS banner and volunteers



Youth volunteers by carrying banners



Humana proudly displays along the ADA stroll



Deaf Interpreter Services strolls along



# 2010 ADA Anniversary Celebration



Banners and more along the way at the ADA stroll



SAILS Board Chair, Frann Wright, Executive Director of SAILS, Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D., and Mr. Gordon Hartman



Mr. Jack Minter receives the Disability Organization of the Year Award



Judge Nelson Wolff, Public Servant Award recipient



Deborah Knapp of KENS-5 and Media Award



Dreams Fulfilled Through Music performed in the ADA event



# SAILS Special Event



## SAILS GALA Brings Flame the Band to San Antonio!

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) and WellMed Medical Management of San Antonio, as presenting sponsor, are hosting a GALA with the renown, FLAME band from New York!

SAILS GALA will be held at the Marriott RiverCenter on October 15, 2010 with Eugene "Longhorn" Williams as the emcee for the evening. Registration begins at 6pm. The GALA includes a 5-course meal followed by fabulous entertainment by FLAME. **Seats are very limited!**

FLAME is comprised of eleven musicians, all with some type of severe disability. This phenomenal band was recently featured on ABC's Good Morning America show. They have been touring the United States and Europe and are truly an inspiration to all who attend their performances.

SAILS decided that since October is Disability Awareness month, it is a perfect time to bring in FLAME to help celebrate while helping SAILS raise much needed funds. FLAME wants to show what people with disabilities really can do-live their dreams! Please join the SAILS Board, staff, volunteers and our generous presenting sponsor, WellMed Medical Management, in welcoming FLAME to San Antonio.

Visit [sailstx.org](http://sailstx.org) for your table or ticket purchases by Paypal or contact SAILS at 210-281-1878 as soon as possible so you won't be left out of this event!



SAILS extends special thanks to Presenting Sponsor



Flame The Band at one of their performances July 4th 2010 in D.C.



# Calendar Dates for July, August and Sept

## **JULY** — UV Safety Month and Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

- 2 Support Groups
- 5 Independence Day Observance — SAILS closed
- 8 ADA Meeting—4203 Woodcock—10:30 am  
GAP Workshop  
SAILS Board Meeting—6:00 pm
- 16 ADA Meeting—8401 Data Point, Suite 800—10:30 am
- 18-22 National Council on Independent Living—Washington, DC
- 22 GAP Workshop  
Life Skills Support Group—1:00 pm
- 27 Circle of Giving Meeting—6:00 pm
- 30 ADA Celebration Stroll and Event

## **AUGUST**—Cataract Awareness Month, Children’s Eye Health & Safety Month, National Immunization Awareness Month, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month, Psoriasis Awareness Month and National Invention Month

- 7 Back to School Bash, Place for Life Church—9:00 am
- 11-12 Reeve Foundation Meeting, Houston
- 12 GAP Workshop
- 13 Compass for a Cause Breakfast—8:30 am
- 16 Wounded Heroes Golf Tournament, TPC—6:30 am
- 19 Elf Louise Meeting—10:00 am
- 19-21 Bexar County Consumer & Family Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel
- 21 Tri Point Meeting—3:00 pm
- 26 Life Skills Support Group, SAILS—1:00 pm
- 30 Circle of Giving Meeting, SAILS—6:00 pm

## **SEPTEMBER**—Childhood Cancer Month, Fruit and Veggies-More Matters Month, Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness, National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness, National Infant Mortality Awareness, national Sickle Cell, National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery, National Cholesterol Education, National Yoga Awareness, National Pediculosis Prevention/Lice Prevention, Ovarian Cancer Awareness, Reye’s Syndrome Awareness, Whole Grains Month, Prostrate Cancer Awareness, and Sports & Home Eye Safety Month; National Preparedness Month

- 3 Consumer Advisory Council Meeting, Lighthouse—1:00 pm  
Support Groups, Lighthouse—1:00 pm
- 6 Labor Day—SAILS CLOSED
- 9 GAP Workshop
- 17 COMTO Annual Golf Tournament, Silver Horn Golf Club—11:00 am
- 19 Bubba Reding Western Dance, Villita Assembly Hall—1:00 pm
- 23 GAP Workshop  
Life Skills Support Group
- 28 Boston’s Gourmet Pizza Fundraiser

## **Therapeutic Counseling is now available at SAILS!**



Mr. Quinto Sanchez, a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern (LPC-I), is available Tuesday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at SAILS for Therapeutic Counseling Please contact SAILS office to make your appointment



# SAILS Community Activities



## SAILS Supports 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual American Wounded Heroes Golf Tournament

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) showed support for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual American Wounded Heroes Golf Tournament that was held, Monday, August 16, 2010 at the J.W. Marriott located at 23808 Resort Parkway. Mr. J.D. Damain, along with a Committee of volunteers organized the event to raise much needed dollars for our beloved Wounded Heroes. Many vendors, including SAILS were on hand to provide resources and information to visiting attendees



SAILS supported Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament

## SAILS Partners with DEAFLINK to Better Serve Consumers Through Technology

This innovative new partnership between two entities blends accessible technology and much needed resources to help the deaf and people with other disabilities. It is Deaf Link's mission to use the latest technology to help push the envelope of accessibility in everyday life for millions of Americans whose disability affects how they communicate with the world.

SAILS staff will offer on-site advocacy, information and referrals, peer support and independent living skills assistance at the Deaf Link offices located at 500 N. Loop 1604 E. San Antonio, 78232. "We are excited about partnering with SAILS and believe the donation of the alternative office location will maximize client access to the valuable services SAILS provides," said Kay Chiodo, CEO of Deaf Link.

SAILS will have dedicated hours of Monday and Wednesday 8:30am until 12:30pm. Specialized telecommunications equipment will also be offered there to persons who are deaf or have eligible disabilities. Social security benefits planning will also be provided. The first Friday each month consumers can see Lori Crownover from 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. for adaptive equipment and on the 3rd Friday of each month social security benefits planning is available from 9:00am until 12:00p.m.

SAILS plans to continue to expand partnerships throughout the San Antonio community and connect people with the resources they need much quicker. Welcome aboard, Deaf Link!

**SAILS GALA:** Visit [sailstx.org](http://sailstx.org) for your table or ticket purchases by Paypal or contact SAILS at 210-281-1878 as soon as possible so you won't be left out of this event!



Lori Crownover, Kitty Brietzke, J.D., Gloria Banik of SAILS, Kay Chiodo, George Heake and Scott Bailey of Deaf Link

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)**

1028 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210  
V/TDD (210) 281-1878 , Fax (210) 281-1759  
(800) 474-0295 [www.sailstx.org](http://www.sailstx.org)

#### **SAILS Staff**

#### **Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. Executive Director**

Gloria T. Banik	Director of Programs & Resource Development
Mallika Rangarajan	Executive Administrative & HR Manager
Ricardo V. Rivas, EA	Accountant

Gloria Aguirre	IL/Outreach Specialist	Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Sandie Flanagan	I&R/ Volunteer Coordinator	Bruce Orey	CWIC
Albert Pulido	CWIC	Lori Crownover	IL/STAP Specialist

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