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

SAILS Hosts Family Friendly
Fiesta Resource Fair!


SAILS consumers and community guests enjoyed free live entertainment from The Harris Power Trio and The River City Kings. Both bands are composed of family members who have been performing for many years. Everyone enjoyed the popular music and had so much fun with Pandorfis the Clown "steppin' out" a dance or two with a group of children. VIA's own mascot, Buster showed up to join in the fun too!

Numerous vendors such as AmeriGroup, 101 Mobility, Deaf Interpreter Services, Dreams Fulfilled Through Music, ADT, Humana, Pride, Primerica, Linda Knolton's Mary Kay, Premier Jewelry, The Scorpions, AACOG, and more were on site to share their information and products with the guests. Ty Beck from Jordan Ford displayed the MV-1 accessible van for consumers to check out!

About 40 volunteers from companies such as Target and NuStar Energy, SAILS staff and board members attended and volunteered. The delicious BBQ chicken and sausage was cooked again this year by Andy Reusewald, Donald Cloman and Freddie Brietzke, Jr. Both the Banik family and the Villarreal family worked in the park's kitchen preparing and serving the BBQ plates.

Finally, let's not forget that special events like this don't happen without our community sponsors and all our friends of SAILS. Special Thanks to HEB, VIA and Carol Villareal and David Escame from AmeriGroup. SAILS extends special thanks to everyone that helped make SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair and Picnic a great success! We will see everyone next year for more Fiesta fun!

SAILS Celebrates
22nd ADA Anniversary
July 27, 2012  8:30am - 2:00pm
El Marcedo
and La Villita Hall
San Antonio Independent Living Services is proud to announce the hiring of Cynthia Contreras as the receptionist. She comes to SAILS with over eight years of experience as a receptionist. She had also worked as a cashier and clerk for various organizations in the San Antonio area.

She was working at the Lighthouse for the Blind as a receptionist when she first heard of SAILS and the Independent Living movement. She was intrigued and wanted to learn more about help available to people with disabilities and how to help them.

When she learned that SAILS had an opening for a full time receptionist, she decided it was best for her to try and get a job with SAILS and do something she had wanted to do, that is to work in a good job where she can work with and help people with disabilities in the community.

Consumer Success Stories

Looking Forward...
by Mary Blake

Once Rosa Linda Alajandro admitted she was an alcoholic, life began to change for her. She completed the Detox Program at Haven for Hope and is now well on the road to success.

Rosa Linda has been a GAP participant for several months. During a recent interview she stated: "the GAP classes and members have provided me with both the information and referrals I need to reach my goals. I want to live independently one day through education and employment." She added: "the classes have helped me to learn more about myself, life skills, coping and time management techniques." Rosa Linda has also learned how to prevent crime against person. The sessions at the American GI Forum have also taught her how to contact the agencies that can meet her needs.

During the course of our interview, Rosa thanked me for the monthly bus pass and voucher. "It may not seem much", she replied, "but I could not attend my AA meetings or have hygiene products without this assistance."

Above all, Rosa Linda expressed her thanks for the case management services which have helped her to maintain sobriety and has given her hope for the future. She now takes responsibility for her decisions, is true to her commitments and follows through with all assignments.

At the end of the interview, Rosa Linda told me she was grateful for the many support systems inherent in GAP. She is looking forward to receiving SSI benefits, completing her GED studies and eventually working in the medical technology profession. In conclusion, GAP has helped to make Rosa Linda's life a genuine success story.

Cynthia Contreras, new Receptionist at SAILS

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We would like to express our appreciation to all sponsors, volunteers, and staff that support this year SAILS Fiesta Resource Fair and Picnic for Consumers.

With financial support from our sponsors and hard work from volunteers, and SAILS staff, the Fiesta Resource Fair and Picnic was a greater success this year, all have thus assisted us significantly to provide more needed services to the communities of people with disabilities.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) would like to congratulate all businesses and public entities that have taken extra efforts to comply with the ADA regulations.
SAILS 2012 Resource Fair, A Greater Success

Children at the Fair enjoy interacting with the "clowns"

John and Marilyn Weber of Deaf Interpreter Services

River City Kings capture the audience with their performance

Team members of Pride PHC Services

Mia in a session with Harris Power Trio Band

Mr. Galan (center), Chair of SAILS Board
Buster, VIA Mascot never fails to amaze the crowd

Volunteers from local Target stores

The "clowns" would never run out of balloons for the kids!

Elaine and Ashley, faithful volunteers at SAILS events

David Massey and his wife of Massey Insurance Agency

Ernesto and Mia enjoy a father and daughter dance
## Calendar of Events April, May & June

### APRIL
- Autism Awareness Month, Cancer Control Month, and National Occupational Therapy Month
- 6 Holiday—SAILS closed
- 9-12 Building Effective Youth Programs in Houston
- 18 Advocacy Workshop at SAILS 2pm
- 20 ADA Planning Meeting at Family Services, 702 San Pedro 10am
- 21-23 SILC and TACIL Annual Meetings, Dallas
- 22 SAILS Resource Fair and Picnic, Comanche Park 11 am
- 26 GAP workshops, American GI Forum 1pm
- 27 Holiday—SAILS closed

### MAY
- ALS Awareness Month, Better Speech and Hearing Month, Mental Health Month, National Alpha-1 Awareness Month, National Arthritis Awareness Month, National Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month, Older Americans Month and Osteoporosis Month
- 4 Support Groups Meeting, Columbia Heights Learning Center, 1502 Fitch, 12:00pm (Disabled, Non-Disabled & Young People)
- 10 4th Annual Community Health & Resource Fair, SA State Hospital 3pm
- 12 Advocacy Meeting hosted by ACB
- 15 Leadership Breakfast, SA Red Cross - 7:45 am
- 19 Alamo Mobility Open House
- 20 Silver Solutions, Norris Conf. Center 1pm
- 20-23 AIRS Training & Education Conf., New Orleans
- 24 GAP workshop at American GI Forum
- 28 Holiday—SAILS closed

### JUNE
- National Scleroderma Awareness Month
- 1 Support Groups
- 2 4th Annual Blake Rapier Wellness 5K Run/Walk, McAllister Park 8am
- 9 ASL Deaf Day at Fiesta, TX
- 10-14 National Council on Independent Living, Washington, DC
- 20 ADA workshop at SAILS 2pm
- 28 GAP workshop-American GI Forum 1 pm

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**SAILS Board Member Gets Dunked For A Good Cause**
by Albert Pulido

Fiesta time in San Antonio means party time, mixing also with good food, fun and games. On Thursday April 26, 2012 members of San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) attended a Fiesta event at the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind picnic and garden area. We were treated to a barbecue plate lunch, music, dancing and a dunking booth manned by Mr. Vince Boyd who is a SAILS board member and Director of Rehab Programs of the Lighthouse. He was a great sport as he was “dunked” repeatedly by the fun loving crowd, all for a small fee that the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind used to benefit their consumers. We were also treated to a visit from the Fiesta’s Rey Feo and his entourage. This was one of the most fun-filled event of Fiesta and one that really helped individuals with special needs.
SAILS’ STAP Program Reaches Out to Eagle Pass Senior Centers  
by Lori Crownover

Though Eagle Pass, Texas is a long drive from San Antonio, SAILS staff made the trip this past month to assist Seniors with the application for the Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP). Seniors at the Loma de La Cruz Center attended a presentation about STAP, the adaptive telephone program. Fifteen applications were completed that day and submitted to the office in Austin, so that the Seniors can obtain phones like the Emergency Response Telephone, amplified phone and large button phone. Another trip to Eagle Pass is being planned for the near future. There are several other Senior Centers there that will benefit from the STAP program.

STAP staff also attended the Senior Fiesta on April 26th held at the Wonderland of the Americas Mall in San Antonio. Hundreds of Seniors attend this event every year to obtain information on services and resources available through local agencies. The event, sponsored by Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), offers entertainment and is also visited by El Rey Feo and his entourage! Seniors at the event were able to obtain information on STAP and complete applications for the special telephones.

SAILS Support Groups Have New Meeting Locations  
by Gloria Aguirre

SAILS support groups, People with disABILITIES, Young People’s Support Group as well as Family Members Support Group have out grown the current meeting location; we are moving to a bigger facility to accommodate all of the attendees!

We are very happy to announce our new meeting location at Columbia Heights Learning Center located at 1502 Fitch St, San Antonio, Texas 78211.

The building is very accessible and spacious. We have been grateful to the San Antonio Light House for being so kind in letting us to use their facility to hold our meetings for the last couple of years; so it is with a sad heart that we leave them. But we will be able to accommodate the growing Support Groups at the new location.

The time of the meetings is also changed. In the past they were held from 1-3pm, and now they will be held from 12-2pm.

We hope to see you there or just stop by to say “Hi!”, first Friday afternoon every month.
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

SAILS Staff

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.      Executive Director
Gloria T. Banik      Director of Programs & Resource Development
Mallika Rangarajan      Executive Administrative & HR Manager
Charles Villarreal      Accountant
Gloria Aguirre      IL/Outreach Specialist
Marie Herrera      I&R/ Volunteer Coordinator
Albert Pulido      CWIC
Mary E. Blake      IL Skills Coordinator
Lori Crownover      IL/STAP Specialist
Irma Medrano      CWIC

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