San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) will host the 27th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration at 401 Villita Street on Saturday, July 22, 2017 from 8:30am until 1:00pm. A lively pep rally is planned to kick-off on stage at the celebration with chants of "ADA All the Way!" The theme for this wonderful commemorative 27th Anniversary of the ADA is “Living a Healthy and Independent Life.”

A keynote speaker will share an inspirational story. Councilman Diego Bernal will be honored as Public Servant of the Year and convey his thoughts for the community. SAILS expects over 50 community exhibitors to provide valuable information and services for the guests attending the 27th Anniversary of the ADA celebration. There will be 12 community awards in various categories and drawings for prizes throughout the morning. Everyone will also be treated to a FREE lunch!

The 27th ADA celebration is open to the public event. SAILS invites everyone to attend. For information regarding how to register as an exhibitor or to attend please call 210-281-1878 extension 118.

Exhibitors, please contact:

Dr. Kitty Brietzke
CEO, Development Officer
210.281.1878 ext#118
kbrietzke@sailstx.org
or Rod Rodriguez
210.281.1878 ext#123
Samuel Cuellar’s New Ramp is a Life Saver
By Amir Shipp, IL Outreach Specialist

Samuel Cuellar is a 44-year-old man from San Antonio who has muscle weakness due to a stroke. He relies on his wheelchair to move around from place to place. However, sadly, he was confined to his home for a long time because he needed a ramp to access the outside of his home and community. Mr. Cuellar was originally a consumer of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and his case had been pending services since May 2017. When SAILS received the funds for the DARS Outsourcing contract he was one of our priorities to help. He recently received his new ramp through SAILS and says, “I am very grateful for the ramp. It is a blessing and a life saver.” He is so glad that he can access and leave his home in a safe manner and not worry about falling.

Stefanie Lives More Independently With Her New Standing Power Chair
By Farrah Brooks, IL Outreach Specialist

IL outreach specialist, Farrah Brooks, led me through the process to accomplish my goal to get on my feet again with the assistance of a new standing power chair. My new wheelchair lets me regain some independence with the ability to be on my feet or sit at conversation level. It also greatly expands my options in physical therapy. I'm a mom and a passionate advocate for others living with multiple sclerosis. I am a member of the local MS group, Team Wingman. I also recently testified at the Texas Capitol in support of access to adult stem cell therapy. Thanks to the support of SAILS, I can keep going.
Mr. Abel Hernandez is so happy:
He Can Hear Very Well Now
With His New Hearing Aids
By Kemberley Calk, IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Azeneth De La Rosa was originally referred to SAILS by the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

She was very interested in improving her daily living skills and learn some office skills by volunteering. First, I listened to her needs and then encouraged her to contact Criss Cole Rehabilitation in Austin, Texas where she soon began to get services to improve her daily living skills, receive orientation and mobility training, braille and communication skills training. She was also able to receive some basic computer skills. She went even further to volunteer in the community to improve her office skills which improved her confidence.

Congratulations Azeneth! You are amazing!

Azeneth DeLa Rosa is gaining more independent living skills
By Rod Rodriguez, IL Outreach Specialist

When SAILS Victoria office opened, Mr. Abel Hernandez was my first consumer. His case was turned over to SAILS from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and he had been waiting for hearing aids for a long time.

When I had the pleasure to meet him for the first time it was difficult to communicate with him, his hearing was significantly deteriorated.

Consequently, he has been relying on his daughter for many things. He also has had a hard time communicating with family and friends in social situations and being part of their conversations which made him feel isolated.

He was so happy when he found out he had been approved to receive hearing aids.
Kemberley Calk, and Marjorie Anders, IL Outreach Specialists attended the Victoria, Texas “Healthy Aging Conference” on May 18, 2017. Hundreds of visitors came to learn about all the important resources that can help with independent living.

Kem and Marjorie really enjoyed working the SAILS booth and sharing information about the complex rehabilitation technology products and services that they are able to provide to eligible consumers. Many attendees at the SAILS booth asked questions about how to obtain accessible ramps, hearing aids and prosthetics. Staff enjoyed meeting the guests at the booth, many who were seniors. Kem and Marjorie are looking forward to next year’s conference in Victoria.

SAILS Attends Healthy Aging Conference in Victoria
By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS staff attends Any Baby Can Resource Fair (from left to right: Program Director Abel Zamora, IL Specialists Farrah Brooks, Josefa Zatarain-Flournoy and Amir Shipp)
The cool breezes and unexpected winds didn’t keep SAILS staff from a fun event. Abel Zamora, Farrah Brooks, Josefa Flournoy and Amir Shipp were very busy working a booth at the Cornyval grounds in Helotes for the AnyBabYcan Walk for Autism and Resource fair. This is an annual event that SAILS participates in to meet many people in our community who have disabilities, especially with Autism. Staff provided information about our independent living services, support groups and complex rehabilitation services.

SAILS Is For Consumers

To Volunteer at SAILS Office and Events sailstx.org Click "Volunteer" Tab

SAILS Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm
Main Office
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210.281.1878 V/TDD
210.281.1759 FAX

Victoria Office
5606 N. Navarro, Suite 307
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May 2017

- 2 Staff Meeting
- 4 THE BIG GIVE SA
- 5 Support Group Meeting: City of San Antonio
- 5 City of San Antonio Disability Access Office
- 10 Board of Directors Planning Meeting
- 11 SAILS Board of Director’s Meeting
- 14 Happy Mother’s Day
- 18 Healthy Aging Conference, Victoria, Texas
- 18 SAILS Support Group: S.A. Food Bank
- 19 ADA Planning Meeting
- 21 AIRS Conference
- 23 SAILS Staff Meeting
- 24 Ukraine Guests Visit SAILS
- 29 Memorial Day Holiday-Closed
- 30 Networking Meeting at Inn of Los Patios

June 2017

- 2 SAILS Support Group: Medicare 101/ Savings Program
- 10 Rodney Harris/Fundraiser at BIG’z Burrger Joint & Karaoke
- 13 Staff Meeting
- 14 SAILS Board of Director’s Meeting
- 15 Support Group Meeting
- 16 ADA Planning Meeting
- 18 Happy Father’s Day
- 27 Staff Meeting

July 2017

- 4 Independence Day/Holiday
- 7 Internal ADA Meeting & Support Group Meeting
- 11 Staff Meeting
- 12 Board Planning Meeting
- 17 Internal ADA Planning Meeting
- 22 SAILS 27th ADA Celebration at Villita Hall
- 23 NCiL Conference

2017 Big Give Day and SAILS

May 4, 2017 was THE BIG GIVE SA! SAILS Program Director Abel Zamora won a delicious gift basket donated by the CEO. The basket was filled with steaks, chicken and BBQ gadgets and more!

Welcome New S.A.I.L.S. Staff

Michelle Jackson
IL/Outreach Specialist

Michelle Jackson joined the team at SAILS on May 22, 2017. Everyone at SAILS would like to welcome her to her new job as an IL Outreach Specialist. Michelle is a recent graduate from the University of Texas in San Antonio with a Bachelor’s of Science degree and concentration in Public Health. She has previous experience working as a caseworker and helping people in crisis. We know Michelle will be a great fit for SAILS!
SAILS Support Group Discusses Medicare 101
By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS hosted another fun and informative Support Group meeting. Angela Cole and Michael Helberg were presenters who discussed Medicare 101 and the Medicare Savings Program. The attendees welcomed them and asked many questions about the different plans. Light refreshments were provided courtesy of Linda Knolton.

Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:
http://sailstx.org
Click link tab "Contact", and then "Request For Services"

People With Disabilities From Ukraine Visit SAILS
By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

On May 24, 2017 several guests from Ukraine came to visit San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS). I had the pleasure of meeting them and presenting information about our history, philosophy of independent living and programs and services with, of course, language interpreters available. Our guests from Ukraine each had some form of disability themselves and were excited to be at our center. They came to SAILS to learn how staff help persons with disabilities. One curious guest named Sergy asked, “how exactly do you go about helping someone in a wheelchair?” I explained that my staff focus upon the person with the disability and ask what they need for assistance and ask what can we do to assist them with their goals towards independence. I shared that SAILS is a nonprofit that is a center for independent living and that there are hundreds of state and federal-designated centers throughout the United States. Finally, I was also able to explain the protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for persons with disabilities. They acknowledged that they don’t have this support. After the presentation, an interpreter stated that they were all impressed with the presentation and he related that the guests from Ukraine mentioned, “they really liked our philosophy and that we focused on the person, not the device” (such as the wheelchair).

Guests from Ukraine has questions answered about independent living programs that SAILS has been providing to local communities since 1981.
OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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