San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted a grand 28th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration at 401 Villita Hall on Saturday, July 28, 2018 from 8:30a.m until 1:00p.m. A lively pep rally kicked off the celebration with chants of “ADA All the Way!” The theme for this wonderful commemorative 28th Anniversary of the ADA is “Empowerment and Inclusion!”

Gordon Hartman, founder of Morgan’s Wonderland was a dynamic keynote speaker for this year’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration! SAILS had 50 exhibitors that provided valuable information and services for the guests attending the 28th Anniversary of the ADA celebration. Twelve community awards in various categories were provided to some surprised folks and there were drawings for prizes throughout the morning. All attendees were treated to a FREE lunch!

SAILS would like to thank all the volunteers who came to help out from organizing the set up to help serving the guests their lunches. SAILS would like to extend warm thanks to the sponsors this year too: CPS Energy (Venue sponsor), Aetna (Major T-shirt sponsor), Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority (T-shirt sponsor), Mobility Works (T-shirt sponsor), and logo sponsors: PCSI, Project Mend, Goodwill Industries, Deaf Interpreters Services, Inc., 101 Mobility, Connect Hearing, Premier Prosthetics, Amerigroup, AccessAbility1, Wellcare, Rodney Harris, Clark Limousine Service, UnitedHealthCare, Cubie Co., Frost Bank, and Documation. Thanks to the ADA Planning Committee and SAILS Staff too!
Two Consumers Are Extremely Happy: Their Hearing Losses Restored

by Kemberley Calk, IL Specialist

Blanche Balli has significant hearing loss that prevents her from fully participating in family and social functions. She requested hearing aids to help her be more independent and now that she has received them she is very excited about being more competitive in bingo games at the Senior Center and the fully enjoying the sweet little voices of her grandbabies. She is extremely grateful to SAILS and the HHSC Outsourcing Contract for providing her with hearing aids.

Ms. Maria Saenz Is Able To Hear Everything Now!

by Megan Zambo, IL Specialist

Consumer Ms. Maria Saenz is able to hear everything now! She can hear the TV at a very low volume. When asked by a friend if she could hear that she replied happily “Believe it or not I can!” Ms. Saenz feels much more comfortable driving now, she can hear honking of horns or sirens. She can also hear people talking from the back seat. Her confidence with having conversations has risen with no longer needing to ask to repeat what they said. Ms. Saenz compliments SAILS on how helpful they were with the application and over all getting the hearing aids. She also appreciated the communication with her IL Specialist throughout the whole process.

Ms. Nathiben Gajera's Communications: No Longer A Struggle

by Megan Zambo, IL Specialist

Ms. Nathiben Gajera was struggling to communicate with doctors, family and friends. She suffered from hearing loss in both of her ears making it difficult to have daily conversations. Ms. Gajera received her hearing aids and was “Hearing much better, like a normal person” she said.

She can hear the TV and the phone ring with no problems. She can communicate with loved ones and doctors without anyone needing to repeat themselves making life easier for her. Ms. Gajera is now able to watch over her grandchild now. She no longer leaves water running in the kitchen or bathroom because she doesn’t hear it. She can safely walk around her neighborhood because she can hear cars coming. She is able to enjoy church service and the church activities. Ms. Gajera is much happier now and can live a more independent life!
**Eduardo Hears Well Again!**

by Kemberley Calk, IL Specialist

Eduardo Molina is a deacon at his church and he counsels and helps people on a regular basis. But when his hearing started to get worse it was hard for him to do the work he loved so much. He came to SAILS to request hearing aids and after a successful end to his case he is now grateful to SAILS that he can carry on with his passion for helping others.

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**Welcome New SAILS Staff Members**

**Nelda Martinez,**

IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Martinez joins S.A.I.L.S. as a new IL Outreach Specialist and will work under S.A.I.L.S. Basic IL contract and provide core independent living services to consumers who have disabilities. She has previous experience providing speech therapy. She also has her Bachelor’s degree. Welcome Nelda!

---

**Carneal Williams,**

IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Williams (CJ) joins S.A.I.L.S. as a new IL Outreach Specialist and will be working under our HHSC Outsourcing Contract assisting consumers with disabilities who need durable medical equipment and other services. She has her Bachelor’s degree. She also has experience working to help seniors and persons with disabilities.

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**Laura Johnson,**

CWIC

Ms. Johnson joins S.A.I.L.S. as our new Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) and will assist beneficiaries with analysis, counseling and planning upon her certification. She has a Master’s degree and has previously worked in the Karnes City and Runge ISD.

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**Viola Hears Door Bell, Dog Barking, TV and People Talking!**

by Marjorie Anders, IL Specialist

On August 13, 2018, eighty-six years young, Viola Wagner eagerly held her front door open to welcome IL specialist, Marjorie Anders. “Now I hear, my dogs bark outside, alerting me that somebody is on our property,” she chuckled, to see her happy face is no surprise, as one senses satisfaction with her hearing aids, which Mrs. Wagner describes as “so tiny and pretty too.”

At initial contact, she wanted “to hear everything,” such as TV, people talking, telephone ringing, and dogs barking, with a big smile and twinkle in her eyes, she jokingly announced in a raised voice for her visiting family members to overhear, “Now I can hear when they talk about me!” Mrs. Wagner appreciates and credits SAILS and HHSC for being able to communicate again with accuracy and clarity.
28th ADA Anniversary Celebration
Photos by Frank San Miguel

ADA Pep Rally!

Attendees enjoy meeting mascots from different organizations

Aetna’s Richard Cabada and Ernest Gil & ADA T-shirt Sponsors Greet Everyone

Gordon Hartman Keynote Speaker (l)

Board Member Rodney Harris presents award for Advocacy

Deborah Scharven from Disability Access Office receives Public Servant Award
28th ADA Anniversary Celebration
Photos by Frank San Miguel

Captain America arrives to Meet the ADA Guests

ADA guests visiting exhibits

Deaf Interpreter Services Exhibit

Saint Benedict’s Home Health

The Ladies from Prosumers

SAILS staff at Awards & Prize table
August 2018

3- SAILS Support Group
14- SAILS Staff Meeting/Guest Speaker
     Anna Mallet
27-28 TEXCIL Meeting in Austin

September 2018

3- Labor Day Holiday
7- SAILS Support Group/Presenter
     Darlene Canales
7- SAILS Open House & CEO 15th Anniversary
11- SAILS Staff Meeting/Presenter Jami Rush
12- SAILS Staff In-Service Training
22- Morgan’s Wonderland Free to Soar Gala
25- SAILS Staff Meeting
27- Toast of the Town-Project Mend

October 2018

5- SAILS Support Group/Presenter Wellmed
9- SAILS Staff Meeting
19- Center for Healthcare Fair
20- AccessAbility fest at Market Square
23- SAILS Staff Meeting
26- SAILS Casino Night Oktoberfest/UIW
     Rosenberg Skyroom

SAILS Peer Support Group Meeting

by Janice Berechi Onyejiako,
IR Volunteer Coordinator

The Peer Support group met on Friday September 7, 2018 at SAILS. They had a wonderful Presenter Ms. Darlene Canales.

She spoke on how to set up a budget. Ms. Canales had a variety of hands on activities for the Support Group to participate in, which helped to break the ice. Many of the participants spoke on their own financial challenges and the inability to save for a rainy day. She gave pointers on how to begin this tasks even if they are on a tight budget. Tips were shared not only on plotting down your expenditures, but being organized when shopping with list in hand.

She spoke to the consumers on approaching their creditors and asking for a lower interest rate, worksheets were given to help them track their spending habits.

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Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:
http://sailstx.org
Click link tab "Contact", and then "Request For Services"
SAILS Staff Enjoyed the 2018 NCIL Conference in Washington, D.C.

by Kitty Brietzke, J.D.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) staff attended the 2018 annual NCIL Conference in Washington, D.C. July 22-25th. The theme this year was Resistance Through Action! Staff enjoyed the many workshops and especially, the large demonstration about “Assistive Technology that consumers can control.”

The march to our Nation's Capitol grounds was organized on July 24th and went on as planned despite the rain with hundreds of marchers. Many advocates from the Centers for Independent Living went to conduct their Hill visits after the march.

Mr. House Can Hear Door Knock, Car Horn and Dog Barking now!

by Megan Zambo, IL Specialist

Mr. House has been living with hearing loss for as long as he can remember, he lost it as a young child due to a high fever. Several years back he started to loss his sight and is now also blind. Mr. House said he is getting used to the new technology, it much smaller than his (broken) 15-year- old hearing aids.

He had a big smile on his face when he said he can hear knocks on the door, cars hooting their horns and dogs barking in the neighborhood. Mr. House can live much safer now being able to hear alarms, such as the fire alarm, now too.

Mr. House and his wife are excited for the holidays. They will be able to go visit family for the big annual family holiday gathering. He laughed as he talked about how excited he is to be able to talk with his siblings and grandkids. Last year his old hearing aids didn’t work and wasn’t able to enjoy the time with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. House are very happy with the improvements having the hearing aids has on Mr. House’s life!
OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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