

# Setting Sails



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

Spring 2019

## SAILS to Host 29th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebration at Villita Hall



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

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) will host the 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration at 401 Villita Hall on Saturday, July 27, 2019 from 8:30a.m. until 1:00p.m.. 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 29th Anniversary of the ADA is "A Community for All."

There will be a keynote speaker for this year's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration. SAILS expects over 50 community exhibitors to provide valuable information and services for the guests attending the 29th Anniversary of the ADA celebration. There will be 12 community awards in various categories and drawings for prizes throughout the morning. Attendees will also be treated to a FREE lunch!

The 29th Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration is open to the public. SAILS invites everyone to attend. For information regarding how to register as an exhibitor, sponsor or to attend please call 210-281-1878 extension 118 or visit [sailstx.org](http://sailstx.org). SAILS is seeking additional sponsors for the 29th Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration. Our early bird sponsors are Aetna, Deaf Interpreter Services, Project Mend, Clear Captions and Goodwill Industries, Inc. Please see page 5 of this publication for further information on how you can help support this great event.

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 29th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday - July 27, 2019

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Community For All**

at Villita Assembly Building Exhibit Halls  
401 Villita St.  
San Antonio, TX 78205

**SAVE THE DATE!**



Exhibitors and Sponsors, please contact:

Dr. Kitty Brietzke  
CEO, Development Officer  
210.281.1878 ext#118  
[kbrietzke@sailstx.org](mailto:kbrietzke@sailstx.org)

## Consumer Enjoys Walking with New Prosthetic

by C.J. Williams, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Jack Stofa waited quite awhile to receive his prosthetic leg. He knew the process would not be quick and was always very hopeful that everything would work out. He knew that SAILS had limited funding for these durable medical items. He worked well with me to provide me all the necessary documents that I needed to gather for approval for his prosthetic leg. I am very pleased with Mr. Stofa's progress and his understanding of the rules that SAILS has to follow from start to finish.

When I went to visit Mr. Stofa to conduct the final meeting he was so very happy with his prosthetic leg and said, "it was worth the wait!" He shared that before he received his prosthetic leg he was unable to get up and walk around for exercise. He couldn't just walk down the street to visit a neighbor. He said he would have to hop with his walker. It was not the best situation at all.

It is a new day now! Mr. Stofa has been walking four to six days a week. He said, "I can get up and walk like everyone else with two legs and two feet." He appreciates everyone at SAILS for their hard work and support. At the end of my visit, he mentioned he is just about ready the dance he promised he would do!



Mr. Jack Stofa enjoys walking around visiting neighbors with his new prosthetic

## Ms. Perez Lives More Independently With Her New Visual Aids From SAILS

by Megan Zambo, IL Outreach Specialist

Ms. Perez was diagnosed with being legally blind. She contacts SAILS to get assistance with visual aids. Ms. Perez wanted to be able to take better care of herself by being able to read documents without having to wait for someone to help her. She also wanted to live more independently by being about see around her.

After getting her visual aids she has been able to live much more independently. "The visual aids have helped a lot" she said "it has been wonderful to get help with getting my items" Ms. Perez went on saying that she would not have been able to afford them on her own and her insurance would not cover it.

When I conducted my final visit at her home, she had her handheld video magnifier sitting by her. She carries it with her, along with the other items, wherever she goes. "I always put it back in the case when I'm done" Ms. Perez said. She doesn't want anything to happen to them.

She can see print with the handheld magnifier and doesn't have to wait for anyone to read it to her. She can watch the TV now with the Monocular. When Ms. Perez goes out to restaurants, she can read the menu and not have to have someone read it to her! Ms. Perez is very happy with her new visual aids and grateful for the help from SAILS!



Ms. Perez enjoys using her new visual aids

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## SAILS is Pleased To Help a Senior Hear Again

by C.J. Williams, IL Outreach Specialist

When Ms. Lavera Jolene Johnson was referred to San Antonio Independent Living Services(SAILS) for hearing aid assistance she was already depressed because she could not hear well enough to communicate with family and friends. She even quit going to her church because she could not participate.

At first Ms. Johnson was disappointed on how long the process of obtaining hearing aids would take. SAILS staff explained that the program was funded by the Texas Health and Human Services and that there were limited funds available for hearing aids. Ms. Johnson was pleased after learning she would receive her hearing aids shortly after the holidays- and she did! She is hearing now and smiling!



Ms. Lavera Jolene Johnson can hear well again now

## Welcome New SAILS Staff Members

**Valentina Arevalo,  
IR /Volunteer Coordinator**



SAILS welcomes new staff member Valentina Arevalo. She was recently hired as our new IR/ Volunteer Coordinator.

She will be managing the volunteer program at SAILS, assisting with the SAILS monthly Support Group and working with consumers with disabilities to help with their independent living plans. Ms. Arevalo has extensive knowledge of community resources and has worked at Alamo Area Council of Governments and Project Quest. SAILS is pleased to have her aboard!

**Zakistha Davis,  
IL Outreach Specialist**



SAILS welcomes new staff member Zakistha Davis. She was hired as our new IL Outreach Specialist and will be assigned under the Basic IL contract. Ms. Davis will be assisting with SAILS Support Group and be working with consumers with disabilities

who need to establish an independent living plan.

She will also be providing information and referrals to consumers who need community resources and conduct outreach as needed. She has great customer service skills. She also has volunteer experience at Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM). SAILS is pleased to have her aboard!

**Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:**

<http://sailstx.org>

Click link tab "Contact",  
and then "Request For Services"

## “Consumer’s Quality of Life Certainly Improved”

by Marjorie Anders, IL Outreach Specialist

Luis Rodriguez , a 65-year-old man from Goliad, cheerfully arrived early at SAILS-Victoria office on this very cold morning, March 6th. With a big smile, he says “everything is fine in paradise,” as he begins his final follow up with me after receiving his new hearing aids.

He said, “I am definitely appreciative of the help from SAILS and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission because these hearing aids improve my quality of life so that I can live as independently as I can. I am so glad that I am able to have good conversations and communicate at council meetings. I can hear very clearly now. My quality of life is certainly improved overall with these hearing aids.”

Mr. Rodriguez expressed that his wife doesn’t want him to turn down the volume on TV and radio since she cannot hear sounds that softly. He shared that he does have to remove his hearing aids when children are too loud. He is also clearly happy that he can hold conversations in a moving vehicle without hearing all the background road noises. Lastly, Mr. Rodriguez said, “I cannot say enough about how wonderful the ladies at the Victoria Hearing Center treat me, making sure I am comfortable and satisfied.



“Quality of life is certainly improved”, Luis Rodriguez with his new hearing aids

## NAMI Representative is Presenter at SAILS Support Group

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS was pleased to have a representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) organization come to speak at SAILS February Support Group meeting.

NAMI San Antonio provides FREE mental health education and services to individuals and families affected by mental illness. SAILS Support Group attendees gained a better understanding of mental illness and were provided information on how to cope and become self- advocates for family members. They felt like they really learned some encouraging advice. Thanks to NAMI! Visit [www.nami-sat.org](http://www.nami-sat.org) or call 210-734-3349 for information or assistance from NAMI.

### 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

You can sign up to volunteer, to help people with disabilities, SAILS consumers, on our website:  
<http://sailstx.org>  
Click link tab "Volunteer"

# Sponsorship of Free T-Shirts To All Attendees of 2019 ADA Celebration Event

Besides Care Package, Free Lunch, Free Bottled Water,  
Every Attendee of this Annual ADA Celebration Event Also  
Receives a Free Commemorative 29th ADA Anniversary T-Shirt

## Last Year ADA Commemorative T-Shirt



## Your Opportunity To Be A Sponsor Of 2019 Commemorative 29th ADA Anniversary T-Shirt

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

### 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

<http://sailstx.org>, pay through Paypal  
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

<http://sailstx.org>, pay through Paypal  
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

<http://sailstx.org>, pay through Paypal  
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

<http://sailstx.org>, pay through Paypal  
Logo Sponsorship, \$300

## February 2019

- 1- SAILS Support Group Meeting
- 12- VIA Accessible Transit Advisory Meeting
- 13- SAILS Board of Director's Fundraising Meeting
- 15- ADA Planning Meeting/Admin Day
- 19- SAILS Staff Meeting

## March 2019

- 1- SAILS Support Group Meeting/VIA Presenter
- 8- Administrative Day
- 12- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 13- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 15- Administrative Day
- 20- ADA Planning Meeting
- 22- Transportation Summit
- 23- Low Vision Expo
- 27- THE BIG GIVE Pep Rally!
- 28- THE BIG GIVE

## April 2019

- 5- SAILS Support Group Meeting/Diabetes Prevention/Education
- 9- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 10- SAILS Board of Director's Fundraising Meeting
- 19- Good Friday-Holiday
- 20- AmyBabyCan 15th Annual Fair & Walk
- 24- ADA Planning Meeting
- 26- Battle of Flowers-Holiday

## VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority is the Presenter at Support Group

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS hosted a Support Group meeting on Friday, March 1, 2019. Mr. Michael Dominguez, an employee from VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority was the guest presenter. Attendees at the Support Group learned a great deal of information about the VIA routes, bus stops and the VIATrans for persons with disabilities. He related that VIATrans is a complementary service for persons who because of their disability cannot ride the VIA buses. He added that close to 90% of VIATrans riders were satisfied with services.

Many guests were surprised that they qualified for a Senior pricing for their monthly bus pass. The attendees had so many questions about VIA's services and Mr. Dominguez was able to provide answers to their questions and concerns. He explained the limitations of fixed-route VIA bus service. He related safety is one of the main concerns VIA has when it comes to transporting people on VIA Trans.



Support Group meets on first Friday every month at SAILS. This month the guest speaker is representative from VIA

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# SAILS Is For Consumers



## Doris Walker Hears Very Well Now With Her New Hearing Aids From SAILS

by Marjorie Anders, IL Outreach Specialist

On February 19th afternoon, Doris Walker, an 83-year-old female consumer in Victoria County, came to SAILS-Victoria office for her follow up on hearing aids, success story and survey.

She gladly signed the publication permission form upon arrival, completed the survey, and interviewed for the success story. Ms. Walker, a very pleased consumer, conveys that she appreciates the assistance with getting hearing aids, and if not for this organization (SAILS) and Health and Human Services); being of limited income, she has no extra funds even to make payments for hearing aids.

Before she would be embarrassed, having to repeat things and asking what people said for her to understand. Family knows she can not hear them, but they would say, "You need to get hearing aids!" After the hearing aids were fitted, the TVs are not loud, she hears people knock at the door without any doorbell there, and she hears the landline phone ring in the other room. "I hear everything," she states with a big smile.



Doris Walker hears very well now with her new hearing aids from SAILS

## SAILS Staff Attend Northwest Vista Career Fair

by Megan Zambo, IL Outreach Specialist

On February 26, 2019 San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) IL Specialists Megan Zambo and Valentina Arevalo attended a Career Fair at Northwest Vista College (NVC).

SAILS set up the exhibit table and shared information about SAILS programs and services for persons with disabilities. There were many agencies that participated with informative displays and the students really loved it! One of the professors who helped organize the Career Fair stopped by the SAILS booth to visit.



Megan Zambo, IL Outreach Specialist, SAILS, provides information to visitors at Northwest Vista Career Fair

**Secure Online Donations to SAILS**

<http://sailstx.org>

**Click link tab "Donate"**

San Antonio Independent Living Services  
1028 S. Alamo Street  
San Antonio, TX 78210



## OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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Josephine Salas	Receptionist (Victoria)

#### SAILS Board of Directors

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Rodney Harris	Secretary
Donna McBee	Board member
Gary Owens	Board Member
Scott Hesch	Board Member
Roman Juarez	Board Member

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SAILS' Chief Executive Officer.**

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