

Setting Sails



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

Fall 2021

Achieving Successes During Ongoing COVID 19 Crisis



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

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS), along with so many other nonprofits and other businesses continues to provide services to our consumers with disabilities even though we are all still grappling with the COVID 19 pandemic. SAILS staff have been steadfast in reaching out to people with disabilities and answering calls for assistance. There have been numerous success stories during this past year with SAILS helping people with advocacy, independent living plans, peer support (especially, the Gateway to Support Group) and durable medical equipment through our funds from the Texas Health and Human Services programs.

Through our CARES Act funding, SAILS has been providing emergency rental and mortgage and utilities assistance for people with disabilities who are unable to pay due to COVID. SAILS has had an ongoing partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank and coordinates with their staff to provide food benefits to our consumers. It has been wonderful to be a part of such a great organization that has had to multiply their efforts in ways unimaginable but with a spirit to serve our community.

SAILS continues to achieve successes and want your calls for help for services if you are a person with a disability who needs a plan for independent living, advocacy, peer support or even some useful information and referrals to community resources that may help you in your daily living. Please call us

at our main office 210-281-1878 if you need a ramp, wheelchair, power scooter, prosthetic, vision products or services, hearing aids or other durable medical equipment. SAILS has funding through Texas Health and Human Services that may be used to assist you or a family member who is disabled if eligible.

Join Us For Lunch Or Dinner
Our Next Fundraising Event
November 2nd, 2021
Fish City Grill, Northwoods Shopping Center



Northwoods Shopping Center
18130 San Pedro Avenue #104
San Antonio, TX 78232
Tel: 210-495-6600



Tuesday November 2nd, 2021
11:00am - 9:30pm

Fish City Grill Is Hosting A Fundraiser Event
for San Antonio Independent Living Services (S.A.I.L.S)
We Are Gives Back To The Community
15% Of Our Proceed Will Be Donated To S.A.I.L.S

COME ENJOY FRESH FOOD SPECIALS
ON OUR CHALK BOARD!!!

Dine-in, takeout, curbside pickup available

Outside seating available for food orders and drinks
CDC protocol will be observed
Masks must be worn if not seated
50% inside seating capacity
Tables to accommodate no more than six persons

Come join us at Fish City Grill
for lunch and dinner, and for a good cause!



SINCE 1981, AS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES HAS WORKED TO MAKE SAN ANTONIO AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. OUR MISSION IS TO ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN ORDER TO INCREASE THEIR SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE.

Mr. Daniel Harada Receives Affordable Housing Now

Theresa Hernandez, IL Outreach Specialist

Daniel Harada came to SAILS seeking affordable housing.

He lived in an apartment that was over his budget. Mr. Harada was always proactive in his search for income-based properties. He applied with San Antonio Housing Authority, and Bexar County Housing programs. He eventually received a call from one of the income-based properties he applied with. Today he lives in his own apartment, where he is getting assistance with paying the rent.

Mr. Harada is still looking forward to being called from SAHA, or Bexar County, but says, "this is good for now, at least not all my income is going towards rent".



Mr. Daniel Harada receives affordable housing now

Mr. Alexander Thomas Found A New Direction

Shawanna Marshall, IR/Volunteer Coordinator

Mr. Thomas was referred to SAILS by a friend when he became homeless after moving to the area. "I felt my life was beginning to have fewer successes and I was struggling. I felt down about how things were going in my life and wanted peace of mind. I wanted direction for myself and daughter." IR/ Volunteer Coordinator Shawanna Marshall assisted Mr. Thomas with learning ways he could obtain housing despite his past challenges. "SAILS and my specialist helped me by providing resources, food, and items to help protect my health during the pandemic."

Mr. Thomas states he now has a better outlook of his future with all the positive things in life.



Mr. Alexander Thomas found a new direction

Online Request For Services, SAILS Consumers:

<https://sailstx.org>

Click link tab "Contact"

SAILS Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

11306 Sir Winston Street. Bldg F

San Antonio, Texas 78216

210.281.1878 V/TDD

210.281.1759 FAX

<https://sailstx.org>

Waco Satellite Office

5016 Lakeland Circle, Suite B

Waco, Texas 76710

254.224.6752 main phone number

254.224.6783 Fax

SAILS Consumer's Success Stories



With his new reading device, Mr. Frank Carrillo can live independently

Abel Zamora, Program Director

Mr. Frank Carrillo is a resident of Atascosa County, Texas. A consumer with a significant loss of vision, Mr. Carrillo approached SAILS requesting an adaptive technology reading device under the SAILS Complex Rehabilitation Technology program.

Mr. Carrillo lost his ability to read due to his loss of vision over time. Mr. Carrillo, SAILS, and service providers worked together to obtain final approval for his request. Mr. Carrillo had his ORCAM device approved and expressed gratitude for what the device has given him as he is now able to read his own mail, e-mail and perform daily tasks without requiring others to do them for him. He said, "I want to thank you all for what you have done. Just being able to do these simple things again, reading my mail, reading my e-mail, and doing things, has given me a sense of privacy back.

"Thank you so much SAILS, and all of those involved in his case who are happy to help!"



With his new reading device,
Mr. Frank Carrillo can live independently

Mr. Ricky Garcia Can Hear Well Now With His New Hearing Aids

Priscilla Freasier, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Ricky Garcia informed me before he came to SAILS he was struggling with his hearing aids not working.

He was down to one hearing aid not working that well. He struggled trying to financially afford his hearing aids. He was amazed at how he was able to obtain hearing aids through SAILS Complex Rehabilitation Technology program. He now enjoys being able to hear music while he is getting his dialysis treatment since his hearing aids have Bluetooth capability. Mr. Garcia states "I get to relax hands free and enjoy my music." Mr. Garcia informed me that now he never misses a call because he always has his Bluetooth on, and he can hear every time his phone rings.

He is grateful to SAILS for helping him obtain his hearing aids.



Mr. Ricky Garcia can hear well now
with his new hearing aids

Visit Our Website:
<https://sailstx.org>



SAILS Is For Consumers

Mr. Job Mendez Regained His Independence And Confidence

Shawanna Marshall, IR/Volunteer Coordinator

Mr. Mendez began working with SAILS at the beginning of the pandemic. He states he was afraid because he could not see and it was a different world without his sight. "The biggest challenge I was facing was not knowing what was going on. I was unable to read my correspondence or have documents read to me. I was in fear that I was going to miss deadlines. I tried calling places for help, but it became frustrating because I felt I was being ignored and getting the run around."

Through SAILS, Mr. Mendez states he learned even though times may be difficult, I can depend on somebody. "I am used to people looking out for themselves, but because of the personable engagement I realized that SAILS was not a corporation and the employees were people who valued their work. Mr. Mendez was able to regain housing and other services to maintain his health and safety."

Mrs. Linda Buckelew: Her New Hearing Aids

Savannah Robinson, IL Outreach Specialist
Waco Office

SAILS-Waco was able to assist Mrs. Linda Buckelew with her request for hearing aids. She is a 68-year-old female living with her husband, Jimmy, in Belton of Bell County, Texas. Mrs. Buckelew has been wearing hearing aids for many years, and when her last pair began to falter she struggled to communicate with her husband and peers in her community. Through SAILS-Waco office, Mrs. Buckelew's request was fulfilled, and she expressed to her IL Specialist, "It does make a difference in talking to people; I can hear my husband and my doctors a lot easier!"

With A New Ramp, Mr. Jose Gutierrez Enjoys More Freedom And Outdoors

Catheran Lopez, IL Outreach Specialist

Jose Gutierrez lives in Victoria, TX.

He contacted SAILS for assistance in obtaining a ramp. Mr. Gutierrez had some significant health issues and it became more and more difficult to walk. He was at risk for falling without the help of the ramp. He was able to attain his ramp through SAILS in July 2021. He reported he is so much happier now, stating, "I can go outside now and go for a walk." He enjoys his freedom and his time outdoors.

He reported being very happy with how the ramp turned out and with the work the vendor did.

Mrs. Nancy Curl Received Her Hearing Aids

Savannah Robinson, IL Outreach Specialist
Waco Office

Mrs. Nancy Curl was assisted by SAILS-Waco in obtaining her requested hearing aids.

Mrs. Curl is a 72-year-old, lives in Temple of Bell County, Texas. This consumer has struggled with hearing loss since her 50's and reported having a hard time attending events with her family, as she felt she could not participate. Ms. Curl has now received her hearing aids, with assistance from her IL Specialist, and the state, "[These hearing aids] absolutely opened a whole new world for me! I can hear my preacher now; I can hear the service!"

Secure Online Donations to SAILS

<https://sailstx.org>

Click link tab "Donate"

SAILS Helps Mr. And Mrs. Jenner Advocate For Themselves

Shawanna Marshall, IR/Volunteer Coordinator

Mr. and Mrs. Jenner had been waiting years to transfer into a new apartment with SAHA. SAILS assisted with their self-advocacy needs. Mr. Jenner states SAILS helped him and his wife accomplish their goal by keeping their motivation up.



SAILS helps Mr. and Mrs. Jenner advocate for themselves

A Very Special Thanks To SAILS Donors Towards Our BIG GIVE SA Fundraiser!

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

SAILS has participated in The BIG GIVE SA for five years. It is important to take every opportunity to raise unrestricted funds to diversify our contract dollars we receive for basic independent living services and durable medical equipment.

This year, on September 23rd, we raised over \$4,000 during The BIG GIVE SA 2021 with all the kind and generous support of our donors. The BIG GIVE SA is such an easy and convenient way to fundraise. SAILS loves it! I even asked some friends of SAILS to please donate \$65 since I also turned sixty-five years old in September and they were glad to assist with our fundraising goal.

I want to thank everyone who supported SAILS this year through The BIG GIVE SA 2021! We are looking forward to next year 2022!

SAILS Welcomes New Staff Member

by Dr. Kitty Brietzke, CEO



Robert Pena, IL Outreach Specialist

SAILS welcomes Robert Pena as the newest IL Outreach Specialist. He has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a major in Business Administration. He has previous experience with managing caseloads with Crosspoint and has also been employed at Goodwill Industries where he worked as a trainer and developer. Robert's skills will be a real asset towards helping SAILS consumers with their independent living goals.

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

Calendar of Events: Sept, Oct, November

September 2021

- 3- SAILS Virtual Gateway to Abilities Support Group/Prospera Housing, Presenter Scott Ackerson and Katie Vela joined from SARAH
- 6- Labor Day Holiday
- 7- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 8- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting/CEO's Birthday
- 15- SAILS new Call Log Training

October 2021

- 1- SAILS Virtual Gateway to Abilities Support Group/Financial Empowerment Ctr, Presenter Elisa Uriegas
- 5- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 11- Columbus Day Holiday
- 22- In-Service Training for Staff

November 2021

- 2- Fish City Grill Fundraiser!
- 5- SAILS Virtual Gateway to Abilities Support Group/Health Topic
- 10- SAILS Board of Director's Meeting
- 16- Staff Thanksgiving Holiday Luncheon
- 25- Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- 26- Day After Thanksgiving Holiday

SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group Meetings September, October and November

Shawanna Marshall, IR/Volunteer Coordinator

The SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group aims to address the needs of our consumers.

For the month of September, consumers were invited to learn more about the different types of housing available in the city of San Antonio from Scott Ackerson, Executive Vice-president of Prospera Housing Community Services. Also, Katie Vela, the Executive Director of South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) joined the group to discuss the coordinated entry programs offered at her agency.

During the month of October, consumers received information on how they can improve their credit from Elisa Uriegas, Financial Navigator at the Financial Empowerment Center.

If you like to take part in this group, contact our office today! The topic for November will be "Accessible Health Services for the Deaf and Disabled."

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Mr. Lytle Walks With No Pain With A New Brace

Ciera Fulton, IL Outreach Coordinator, Waco Office

When I spoke with Mr. George Lytle he stated that he had become frustrated as he could not receive any help to obtain this brace. George was emotional as he was tired of explaining his situation and not getting the help he needed. At one point he tried to save money for the brace. He was eager to receive assistance from SAILS but did not feel very confident with us in the beginning. Our CEO took time to assist in meeting George when I conducted a home visit to handle his application and paperwork. We both wanted to reassure him that although there are required documents we need in our contract that we would be working diligently toward his goal. In the end, he was glad that we could assist him through our Complex Rehabilitation Technology program.

George said, "I can walk around with no pain."

His comment for others needing help, "do it with SAILS!" He wanted to add how very thankful he was to his IL Outreach Coordinator, Ciera.



Mr. Lytle walks with no pain with a new brace

With Assistance From SAILS, Ms. Patricia Warner Advocates For Her Apartment Accommodation

Theresa Hernandez, IL Outreach Specialist

Patricia Warner came to SAILS asking for assistance in advocating for accommodations from her apartment management. She had realized she had selected a unit that could not be modified. The manager's office offered her the opportunity to break her lease. Ms. Warner learned to advocate for herself asking for what she needed for her independence.

She made sure, her new apartment was on the lower level for accessibility, and her walker would fit throughout the apartment.

Now she says, "I can use my walker all over the apartment, and go through the doors easily."

Great job Ms. Warner.



With assistance from SAILS, Ms. Patricia Warner advocates for her apartment accommodation.

More Success Stories On Our Website
<https://sailstx.org>

San Antonio Independent Living Services
11306 Sir Winston St., Bldg F
San Antonio, TX 78216



OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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SAILS Board of Directors

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Rodney Harris	Secretary
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Elizabeth (Liz) Jackson	Board Member

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