

# Setting Sails



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

2026 Spring-Summer

## SAILS is hosting the 36th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary Celebration



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

The excitement has already started as Saturday, July 18th is right around the corner and San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) is hosting the 36th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration at Morgan's Event Center located at 5223 David Edwards, San Antonio, Texas 78233.

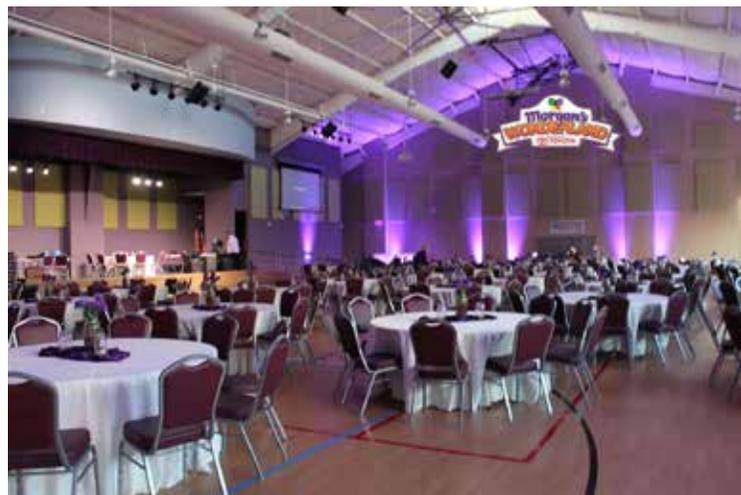
The event begins at 8:00am and ends at 1:00pm. This year will be very memorable as we celebrate the most important piece of legislation ever written and implemented for people with disabilities. This year we will also proudly honor our disabled veterans.

SAILS will provide over 30 exhibitors, awards and drawings for gift cards, gift baskets and prizes! One lucky winner will also win \$500 cash! SAILS 36th Annual Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration is a FREE event but guests must be registered and have a ticket to be admitted. Please be sure to register at our website at [sailstx.org](http://sailstx.org). Guests will pick up their tickets the morning of the event at our registration tables (Will Call).

Please call 210-281-1878 for any questions about the ADA celebration or for volunteer opportunities.

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)  
36th Anniversary Celebration  
Saturday, July 18, 2026  
8:30 am - 1:00 pm**



Event Center  
Morgan's Wonderland  
5223 David Edwards  
San Antonio, TX 78233

**Contact Dr. Kitty Brietzke  
210-281-1878 ext 118  
[kbrietzke@sailstx.org](mailto:kbrietzke@sailstx.org)  
for details  
and sponsor information**

## A New Ramp for Mr. Rudy Deholloz

O'Tamia Shepherd, IL Outreach Coordinator, Waco

Mr. Rudy Deholloz is a 67-year-old male resident of McLennan County.

Mr. Deholloz requested a ramp for the home and a vehicle modification from SAILS in Waco. He struggled with mobility issues. He was unable to go outside his own house independently.

His caretakers couldn't transport his power chair and had trouble with his manual wheelchair. After receiving assistance from his IL Specialist he has received his new ramp and vehicle lift. He now can go outside his home and attend family gatherings. He can navigate just about anywhere without the struggles of the past.

His sister stated, "he was even able to go to a family reunion. Life has been so much easier with his chair, he loves it!"



A new ramp for Mr. Rudy Deholloz

## New Stairlift for Mr. Jim Wong's Home: Going Upstairs Downstairs With Ease Now

Virginia Ramirez, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. James Wong's son called SAILS, to tell us that his father needed help with a stairlift because, due to his age, emphysema and a recent stroke. He had also suffered paralysis on his right side and was experiencing hearing and memory difficulties.

These conditions prevented him from being independent and able to go up to the second floor of his house where his bedroom and bathroom are located. A stairlift was installed for Mr. Wong this past November 2025. Mr. Wong can now go up and down the stairs without any assistance. He feels so much more independent. His son stated that the stairlift has also helped his mother who can now use it too. Although he still struggles a little to manage the buttons, he is learning.

He is very happy that he can do all this on his own without anyone's help.



Going upstairs and downstairs: not a problem now for Mr. James Wong

## Grab Bars Around The Home Assure Safety For Ms. Aviles

O'Tamia Shepherd, IL Outreach Coordinator, Waco

Ms. Aviles is a 24-year-old woman who lives in Coryell County, Texas.

She has struggled with being visually impaired and had difficulties getting around inside and outside of her home and at risk for falling. Her disability made her independence difficult. She relied frequently on her grandparents. Ms. Aviles was assisted by SAILS-Waco in obtaining her requested handrails inside and outside her home and grab bars for the bathroom. Now she can travel independently and navigate around her house feeling much safer.

Ms. Aviles stated, "I can get around by myself and I feel more confident and independent!"



Grab bars around the house assure safety for Mrs. Aviles to move and walk around in her home

## Mr. Guerra Is Happy With The New Ramp For His Home

Virginia Ramirez, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Guerra says he is very happy with his ramp; he can leave his house without any problem.

It is very accessible now that he has a power chair. He can leave his house on his own whenever he waits for a VIA transport service to pick him up or when his son comes to pick him up. The ramp has also given him an unforgettable turn in his life; it has been a good change. He says it is such a good feeling.

Thanks to SAILS it was worth the wait!



Mr. Guerra is happy with the new ramp for his home

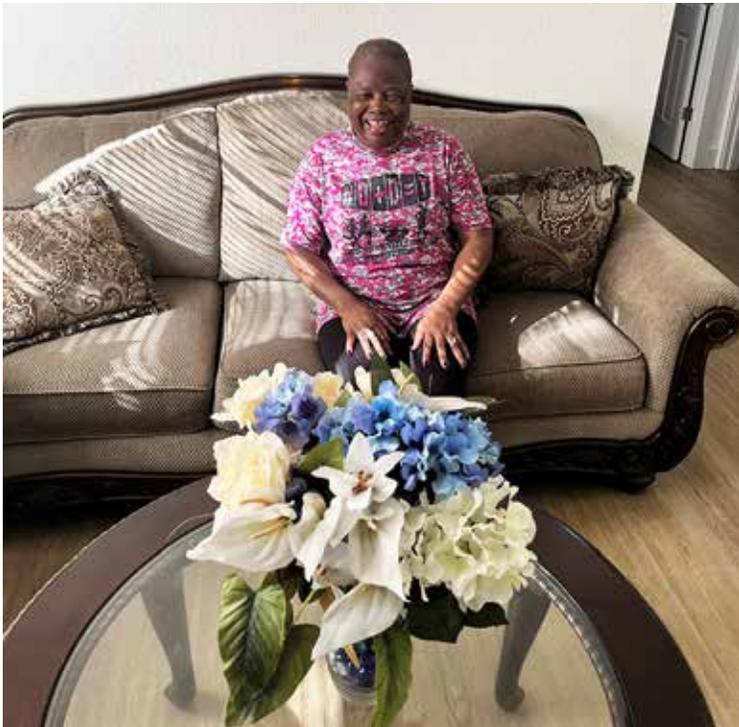
## Ms. McDonald: "I Can Hear Everything Now" With Her New Hearing Aids

O'Tamia Shepherd, IL Outreach Coordinator, Waco

Ms. McDonald was assisted by SAILS-Waco in obtaining her requested hearing aids.

Ms. McDonald is a 69-year-old woman who lives in McLennan County, Texas. She has struggled with hearing loss and her communication has been distorted for years. She wasn't able to afford hearing aids previously and longed to be able to hear. Ms. McDonald gratefully received her hearing aids with assistance from her IL Specialist through SAILS contract funded by Texas Health and Human Services.

She stated " I can hear everything now and I don't have to ask people to repeat themselves. Thank you SAILS!"



Ms. McDonald: "I can hear everything now"

## New Scooter and New Home Ramp For Mr. Gary Whitlow

Jennifer Stephens, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Whitlow was born without hands or feet. He contacted SAILS requesting a new scooter and a ramp for the front of his home. He loves his new scooter and has been able to go to Shipley's to get donuts on it. He also likes the ramp in front of his home as it makes it easier to get in and out of his home.

He is very thankful to SAILS for their assistance.



New scooter and new home ramp for Mr. Gary Whitlow

**Secure Online Donations to SAILS**  
<https://sailstx.org>  
Click link tab "Donate"

# SAILS Is For Consumers



## Mr. Thomas Mack Is Happy With His New Prosthetic Eye

Jennifer Stephens, IL Outreach Specialist

Mr. Thomas Mack is a resident Killeen, TX, in Bell County and was assisted by SAILS in Waco.

He is a 62-year-old male that lost his right eye due to an accident. Mr. Mack has struggled with his appearance since the accident and wears sunglasses all the time in public to hide his eye. Since receiving his new prosthetic eye Mr. Mack feels more confident in public and not having to wear his sunglasses indoors.

He is also more comfortable taking his grandkids to the playground. He is thankful for the assistance of SAILS.



Mr. Thomas Mack is happy with his new prosthetic eye.

## Mary Lattimore Was Relocated To A Safe And Better Townhome

Kyron Bowman, IL Outreach Specialist

Mary Lattimore called SAILS from a referral she had received. She was very concerned about being evicted and ending up homeless.

She even had to go to court with no avail and no help from anyone until she called SAILS. She was assigned to me as her IL Outreach Specialist. I was able to advocate for her and assist her with relocating to a new place within a month from her eviction notice.

Mrs. Lattimore was able to move into a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom and ½ townhome, paying \$200 less rent a month than her previous place. She appreciates that she only 22 neighbors in a secluded cul-de-sac, fenced-in steel entrance, exit gates that lock and an 8 ft. privacy fence surrounds the whole property. She loves her 8 ft. fenced-in covered patio that she and her two service animals can enjoy anytime.

Congratulations to Mrs. Lattimore!



Mary Lattimore was relocated to a safe and better townhome

Since 1981, SAILS has worked to make San Antonio and the surrounding counties a better place to live, work and play for people with disabilities

## January:

- 5- SAILS staff return from Holiday break
- 9- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 13 Staff Meeting
- 19- Martin Luther King Holiday
- 20- First ADA Planning Committee Meeting

## February:

- 6- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group- NAMI
- 10- Staff Meeting
- 11- Meeting at Reddix for Transition
- 14- Valentine's Day
- 20- ADA Planning Meeting 10-11
- 27- IN-Service for Staff
- 28- NEISD Resource Fair 9-12

## March:

- 6- SAILS Support Group & Harlandale Fair
- 10- Staff Meeting
- 11- Board of Director's Meeting
- 14- Project Mend Gala
- 17- St. Patrick's Day
- 19- Basic Meeting
- 27- ADA Planning Meeting

## April:

- 3- Good Friday-Holiday
- 7- Staff Meeting
- 10- Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 17- ADA Planning Meeting
- 21- Fiesta Especial!
- 24- Fiesta Parade Holiday

## May:

- 1- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 12- SAILS Staff Meeting
- 14- Basic Meeting
- 22- ADA Planning Meeting
- 25- Memorial Day-Holiday

## June:

- 5- SAILS Gateway to Abilities Support Group
- 9- Staff Meeting
- 10- Board of Director's Meeting
- 19- Juneteenth
- 26- ADA Planning Meeting

## A Big Welcome To Our New Staff



### SAILS Welcomes Laymimtriss Hall Human Resources Executive Admin

SAILS welcomes Ms. Laymimtriss Hall as our new Human Resources Executive Admin. She has recently retired from the United States Army. She has over 15 years' experience in the field of Human Resources operations and directing personnel and implementing regulatory standards while in the military. Additionally, she has extensive experience with Executive level support. She will be a great asset to our SAILS Team!



### SAILS Welcomes Ebony Jerry IL Outreach Specialist

SAILS welcomes Ms. Ebony Jerry as our newest IL Outreach Specialist. She is working with our consumers with disabilities who have requested durable medical equipment and other devices in our Outsourcing program. Ebony brings over 20 years' experience working with persons who have disabilities to our organization. She has helped them obtain hospital equipment and assisted with their employment issues. She recently worked for Mission Road Development and is happy for her new opportunity at SAILS. She will be a great asset to SAILS!

# 2026 Sponsorship of Free T-Shirts

To All Attendees Of 36th ADA Anniversary Celebration Event  
Saturday, July 18th, 2026 - 8:30am - 1:00pm  
Event Center, Morgan's Wonderland

Besides Care Package, Free Lunch, Free Bottled Water,  
Every Attendee of this Annual ADA Celebration Event Also  
Receives a Free Commemorative 36th ADA Anniversary T-Shirt

**Your Logo Will Be On 2026 ADA Commemorative T-Shirt**



## Your Opportunity To Be Sponsor Of 2026 Commemorative 36th ADA Anniversary T-Shirt

Email Your Company Name with Logo Attachment  
to Dr. Kitty Brietzke, kbrietzke@sailstx.org

(Logo file can be in .AI, .EPS, high-resolution .JPG, .PNG, or .TIFF format)

### 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

Click here, pay through Paypal, for your  
Champion Sponsorship, \$2,500

### 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

Click here, pay through Paypal, for your  
Advocate Sponsorship, \$625

### 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

Click here, pay through Paypal, for your  
Leader Sponsorship, \$1,250

### 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

Click here, pay through Paypal, for your  
Logo Sponsorship, \$300

Or go to our website to pay for your T-Shirt Sponsorship: <https://sailstx.org>

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



## OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

### San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)

11306 Sir Winston Street, Bldg F, San Antonio, TX 78216

V/TDD (210) 281-1878 Fax (210) 281-1759 (800) 474-0295 sailstx.org

#### SAILS Staff

##### **Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. CEO/Development Officer**

Charles Villarreal	Chief Financial Officer
Laymimtriss Hall	Human Resources Executive Admin
Abel Zamora	Program Director
Virginia Ramirez	IL/Outreach Specialist
Kyron Bowman	IL/Outreach Specialist
Ebony Jerry	IL/Outreach Specialist
Lorena Hurtado	IL/Volunteer Coordinator
O'Tamia Shepherd	IL/Outreach Coordinator (Waco)
Jennifer Stephens	IL/Outreach Specialist (Waco)

#### SAILS Board of Directors

Miguel Castro	Chair
Shawn MacDiarmid	Vice Chair
Rodney Harris	Secretary
Kevin Le Melle	Member
Dr. Angela Pennington	Member
Alexandra Zamarron	Member

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SAILS' Chief Executive Officer.**

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