

Setting Sails



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

Fall 2011

Message from SAILS' Executive Director: Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

Free Music Festival to Celebrate SAILS 30th Anniversary



Dr. Kitty L. Brietzke,
Executive Director of SAILS

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) is hosting a fantastic FREE Music Festival at Morgan's Wonderland located at 5223 David Edwards Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78233. The event will begin at 1:00p.m., Sunday, October 2, 2011 and end at 8:00p.m. What a perfect place for SAILS to celebrate 30 years of free services to

the community!

A great line-up of musicians will perform beginning with San Antonio's own Rick Cavender around 2:00p.m. featuring some down-to-earth classic country music. Next up, is the very artistic and "bluesy" Ruben V who seems to be appearing at various venues throughout San Antonio. For a grand finale, SAILS presents Henry Brun and the Modern Latino Band! Folks-this is going to be a true San Antonio community Music Festival! Come out and enjoy the entertainment and all the fun!

What more can one ask? A FREE Music Festival and the park is open for FREE amusement rides also. Volunteers of Morgan's Wonderland will be available to assist guests with the park rides. The only cost to guests is food and drinks. Our many vendors will be selling Texas-style treats and Mexican delights! Other vendors will be presenting their crafts and various wares for you to purchase and take home!

Finally, SAILS wishes to extend a very special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, WellMed. Thanks so much again, WellMed! We absolutely could not provide a FREE Music Festival without WellMed and the following sponsors: AAA-Auger, Alamo Mobility, Alamo Music Center, Allstate Insurance, AmeriGroup, Any Baby Can, Bjorn's, CAMP, Cano Company, Documation, Frost Bank, Hartman Family Foundation, HEB, KTSA 550, NuStar Energy, Pride Health Care, Rapid Assist Technology, Rick Cavender Band, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, Senior Benefit Services, SpeedPro Northwest, Sysco, Trinity University KRTU, Valero, VIA, YMCA.

Sponsors of SAILS 30th Anniversary Music Festival

Presenting Sponsor:



Cano Company



David Massey



ALAMO MUSIC CENTER



SAILS 30th Anniversary Music Festival

Sunday October 2nd, 2011 1:00pm - 8:00pm Morgan's Wonderland

Transition In Progress

By Bruce Orey

Seventeen young men and women who are transitioning from high school to the workforce listened and participated in a presentation by SAILS Social Security Work Incentive Coordinator. They are students in a newly-formed, non-profit organization called Job Adventures. Job Adventures objective is to assist students in selecting an appropriate employment goal. SAILS presentation focused on how students can begin work and retain their Social Security benefits.

This is an excellent example of SAILS and the Work Incentive Program reaching out to the community and providing information to help individuals with disabilities reach their full potential. It is also a wonderful collaboration between SAILS and community organizations that strive to serve persons with disabilities.



Students with disabilities learning from SAILS staff on the subject of how to get employment, work and retain social security benefits

**Special Thanks to WellMed,
Presenting Sponsor of
SAILS 30th Anniversary
Music Festival**

Toni Wilson: A Long Road Traveled

By Albert Pulido

Toni Wilson received both Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in July of 2007. Her depression, knee surgeries and personal problems were the culprits. She decided to return to work in October 2010 but she was afraid that she could not handle the stress of working and the possibility of losing Social Security benefits. Ms. Wilson asked for help from the Social Security benefits counselor at SAILS and returned to work. She had four different employers in eight months until she found the work she enjoys and wants to continue at Bjorn's.



Toni Wilson

Ms. Wilson has maintained contact with SAILS staff and understands her Trial Work Period, how much she can earn and still keep her benefits. She is fully aware that if she continues working at the current rate of pay, she will lose her checks from Social Security but Medicare will continue for at least seven years and nine months.

Ms. Wilson is feeling better and wants to continue working full time. She is very happy for SAILS assistance by helping her understand Social Security rules and regulations. Ms. Wilson is a good example of NOT giving up just because some jobs are unacceptable and to keep trying until you succeed.

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Answer The Phone... Wrestling Fan #1 Is Calling

by Lori Crownover



Rodney Esparza

Rodney Esparza has been a wrestling fan for a long time. Rodney's room is like a wrestling museum. He has all types of wrestling memorabilia including posters, individual figures and even miniature wrestling rings. Rodney loves to watch the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) on TV.

Rodney, who has Downs Syndrome, requested a unique adaptive phone through STAP which has picture inserts connected to the telephone's speed dial system. Rodney and his mother put photos of family members inside little inserts in the phone and when Rodney pushes the photo, the telephone is programmed to call the person. The phone also has large buttons for easy dialing and an answering machine, so that Rodney does not miss any calls.

Rodney's mother reports that he has been able to reach out more to family members in the San Antonio area, and, also, calls a relative in California regularly. Rodney has become more independent and is very happy with his new phone!

The STAP program provides many different types of phones at no cost to any Texas resident who has a disability. There are no income or age requirements. SAILS is an outreach site for the STAP program and provides assistance with the application process and telephone set-up.

Ryan Faltsiek: How SAILS Has Helped Me

by Gloria Aguirre



Ryan Faltsiek

Ryan Faltsiek grew up as an only child who enjoyed gifts and all of the attention of his parents! But, Ryan's dad passed away when he was 6 years old. Then life became difficult and hard for Ryan and his mother. High School was very difficult since Ryan has a hearing impairment and was bullied because of his disability. Ryan says, "there will be people who are your friends but others who will not like you at all. You just to be yourself and focus on your true goals."

SAILS is a true friend who has assisted me in being able to learn to live independently. Overall SAILS is a great place for people with disabilities as staff understand you and your disability. SAILS staff will do everything possible to assist you in achieving your goals.

**SAILS 30th Anniversary
Music Festival
Sunday October 2nd, 2011
1:00pm - 8:00pm
Morgan's Wonderland**

Follow Up On Our 21st Celebration for the ADA

By Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

On Friday, July 29, 2011 San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted the 21st Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration. The celebration began at about 8:30a.m. with several hundred excited supporters who gathered at San Antonio's Mercado for the Unity Pride Stroll and then marched and strolled to 401 Villita for the day's events. Many excited "strollers" carried their organization banners along the march towards Villita Assembly where nearly 50 vendors awaited their arrival. After the strollers poured into the Villita hall numerous organizations such as SAILS friends from AmeriGroup Corporation, Alamo Service Connection (ASC), Deaf Interpreter Services, Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, Morgan's Wonderland, Haven for Hope, Dreams Fulfilled Through Music, Pride, Alamo Mobility, Alamo Music and San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind provided free information and resources for everyone.

The keynote speaker for this year's 21st ADA celebration was Jason Pipoly who shared his inspirational story with everyone. Our special thanks is extended to Jason! SAILS also honored the selected Disability Organization of the Year, Methodist Mission Home and Public Servant of the Year, Senator Leticia Van de Putte. Many other individuals and organizations were recognized for their contributions to the community. In addition, HEB volunteers provided free lunch and beverages for everyone to enjoy! Thanks HEB! SAILS extends deep appreciation to all our volunteers and staff who helped make this year's ADA celebration a great success!

Finally, this event was the largest ADA celebration in Texas. Each year we strive to encourage the entire community to join us in 'keeping the ADA alive!' I hope to see everyone again next year.



Marchers from El Mercado



Ms. Marilyn Weber of Deaf Interpreters Services and the crowd

Event Photographer: Frank J. San Miguel

Events And Community Outreach



SAILS Staff and Volunteers leading the ADA celebration march



Jason Pipoly: keynote speaker of the event



Eugene "Longhorn" Williams accepts Media Award from Dr. Kitty Brietzke, Executive Director of SAILS



Ms. Jennifer Sample, Executive Director of Methodist Mission Home accepts Organization Award from Ms. Gloria Banik, Program and Development Director of SAILS



Senator Van de Putte accepts Public Servant Award



Members of Dreams Fulfilled Through Music perform at the ADA celebration event

JULY--UV Safety Month and Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

- 1 Support Groups- -Lighthouse for the Blind Facility
- 2 RAV4 at Bjorns
- 4 Independence day--SAILS closed
- 8 RAV4 at Retama Park
- 9 RAV4 at Retama Park
- 11 Staff presentation at San Antonio Lighthouse
San Antonio Disability Access Office meeting
Lions Field--3 pm to 4:30 pm
Staff presentation at Hillcrest Workforce Center
- 12 Staff presentation at Habitat for Humanity
- 13 -17 National Council on Independent Living in
Washington, D.C.
- 20 RAV4 at La Taza Coffee House
Service Dogs and the ADA Workshop--1 pm
- 21 Maximus Workshop in Bandera at Silver Sage
- 25 ADA meeting at SAILS -- 10 am.
- 29 ADA CELEBRATION -- El Mercado and
La Villita

AUGUST--Cataract Awareness, Children's Eye Health & Safety, National Immunization Awareness, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness, Psoriasis Awareness and National Invention Month

- 1 Staff served on San Antonio State Hospital panel
- 3 Staff presentation at Job Finders
- 5 Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting at Lighthouse 1 pm
- 6 Health Fair, Inman Christian Center - 9 am
RAV4 at Calinte
- 8 Music Festival meeting - Egg & I - Thousand Oaks & 281 - 8:30 am
- 9 Maximus presentation in Bandera at Silver Sage - 9 am
- 10 Maximus presentations in Bandera at Helping Hands - 9 am and 1 pm
Board Meeting - 6 pm
- 12 School Fair - Heart of Praise Worship Center - 8 am
- 13 Back to School Fair - Neighborhood Place - 9 am
- 18-20 11th Annual Bexar County Consumer & Family Support Conference,
Crowne Plaza
- 19 Health Fair- Crowne Plaza - 8 am
Supported Employment, Old San Juan, 4429 Walzem - 12:30 pm
- 24 CWIC meeting (Medicare Buy-In Program) Austin - 8:30 am
- 25 AccessAbility Fest meeting, TPR - 11:30 am
- 25-27 Abilities Expo, Houston - 11:00 am
- 26 State Self Advocacy Conference, Omni Colonnade
- 29 SAILS Planning Committee Meeting at The Egg & I, 8:30am

SAILS Calender of Events (continued)

SEPTEMBER--Childhood Cancer, Fruit and Veggies-More Matters, Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness, National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness, National Infant Mortality Awareness, National Sickle Cell, National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery, National Cholesterol Education, National Yoga Awareness, National Pediculosis Prevention/Lice Prevention, Ovarian Cancer Awareness, Reye's Syndrome Awareness, Whole Grains , Prostrate Cancer Awareness, Sports & Home Eye Safety and National Preparedness Month

- 2 Support Groups meeting at Lighthouse Facility - 1 pm
- 5 LABOR DAY - SAILS closed
- 9 4th Annual Charles B. Shannon Golf Tournament (COMTO) at Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort
- 12 Freedom is not Free Golf Classic, The Club at Sonterra
- 12-14 Outcomes for Independent Living Centers, Portland, Oregon
- 17 Free to Soar, Morgan's Wonderland
- 22 AccessAbility meeting, Texas Public Radio - 11:30 am
- 24-25 Anglers on Wheels, Port Aransas
- 27 17th Annual Any Baby Can Style Show and Luncheon, Pearl Stable
- 29 Veteran's Stand Down, Travis Park - 9 am

October 2nd: SAILS 30th Anniversary/Music Festival at Morgan's Wonderland

Victor Williams: A Barber In Training

by Mary Blake



Victor Williams

Victor Williams is enrolled in the Alamo City Barber College training for future employment. Mr. Williams always wanted to be a barber but he thought his dream was prevented by his disabilities. He stated, "the SAILS case management services inspired me to look into the future confidently insisting I could be a barber if I put my mind to it."

Mr. Williams also said that the monthly bus pass that Gateway to Abilities Program provides insures the transportation for training and the vouchers supply the items he need to dress and look professional. Mr. Williams stated that the workshops are very informative, even the workshop on service dogs for persons with Diabetes.

Mr. Williams closing remarks, " GAP is a great program that we should all appreciate. The staff at SAILS go well beyond the call of duty. Viva SAILS and GAP!

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



OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS)

1028 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210
V/TDD (210) 281-1878 , Fax (210) 281-1759
(800) 474-0295 www.sailstx.org

SAILS Staff

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D. Executive Director

Gloria T. Banik	Director of Programs & Resource Development
Mallika Rangarajan	Executive Administrative & HR Manager
Charles Villarreal	Accountant

Gloria Aguirre	IL/Outreach Specialist	Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Shawn Hancock	I&R/ Volunteer Coordinator	Bruce Orey	CWIC
Albert Pulido	CWIC	Lori Crownover	IL/STAP Specialist
		Irma Medrano	Receptionist

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