

Setting Sails



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

Winter 2010

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

San Antonio Independent Living Services Thrives During the Recession

It is not surprising that the recession continues to be on the minds of many American citizens. It is certainly on the minds of many executives and CEOs who manage the nation's nonprofits. The pressure is on for executives to be fiscally responsible, innovative and adapt to the environment.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) maintained a financially strong fiscal year 2009/2010 through continuation of federal and state grants. 2011 promises to be even better. Surplus dollars for direct welfare services were raised through donor contributions. SAILS success stems from sound and strategic leadership and collaborative community partners.

As the Executive Director of SAILS, it is also very important that I keep focused on our mission to help, as many as possible, people with disabilities live more independently. It is just as important to tell the public about their successes. People who give to SAILS want to know just how we are impacting the community.

While some nonprofits have not flourished well in this recession, SAILS thrives. SAILS will continue to passionately seek generous donors who are interested in helping people with disabilities to live more independently and self-sufficiently, turning disabilities into abilities.



SAILS guests arrive and check in at the Marriott Hotel for the GALA



Dr. Kitty Brietzke receives check from WellMed, presenting sponsor

SAILS Extends Special Thanks to WellMed



SAILS Consumer Success Stories

“It’s Just What You Do” SAILS Helped Me To Have A Home



By Jacqueline Marie Applewhite

In January of 2010 I had no home, because of circumstances beyond my control, friends let me down. I stayed one night on the beach in my station wagon listening to the waves pound against the pier, wondering what it would be like living in my car in a parking lot. Being disabled with Parkinson’s is no excuse to give up, I confirmed myself.

The next day I came back to my home town (even I did not have a home) to San Antonio and went to University Hospital Women’s Crisis Center in downtown and told them my story. Everybody has one if they wind up homeless. I did not qualify for many of the federal programs available to the elderly or disabled because I am not 62 yet, so the counselor referred me to SAILS (San Antonio Independent Living Services), I was interviewed by Sandy Flanagan. My brother let me live in his tiny RV while I waited six months for a place to open up. I had to decide between the air conditioning and hot water heater, and in the summer heat, I chose air conditioning and cold showers but Sandy told me to just wait and hang on.

Sandie Flanagan kept my raft afloat, my spirit alive, focused and positive. Thanks to her, I live in a one bedroom apartment and I have great hot water and strong pressure in my shower, I can even actually cook in the oven and on the stove, and the refrigerator is huge.

My passion for writing poetry and short stories may also pay off soon. I have just received an email asking if I would like to have an article in SAILS Newsletter. Can’t wait to see the Newsletter! Thank you SAILS for your teamwork and compassion for my welfare. I know, “It’s just what you do.”

Jacqueline

Life Story of Rod Rodriguez, SAILS 2010 Volunteer of the Year

By Sandie Flanagan

The Volunteer of The Year in 2010 is a perfect example of what San Antonio Independent Living is all about.

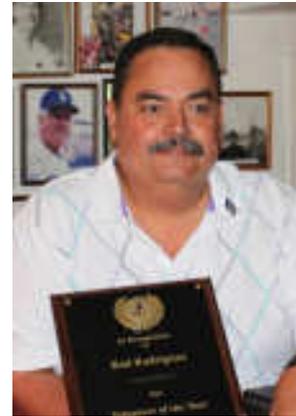
Rod Rodriguez was an active individual who drove a tracker trailer across the lower 48 states for over 20 years. One weekend his life changed forever. In 2004 he was diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrom (GBS) and spinal cancer. After many months in the hospital he didn’t let the pain and the hospital stay stop his drive to live.

Rod started going back to college and he is planning on graduating from Our Lady of the Lake University with a social work degree.

Rod became a volunteer at SAILS so he could learn about services and working with people with disabilities. He comes in every week working on data entry, assembly files and answering the switchboard. Rod never complains. And he is willing to do whatever the staff needs to have completed. Even when the job is not what you would call challenging, he does it anyway.

Rod has been such a positive role model for SAILS consumers that have seen him working around the office as well as SAILS staff; he is an inspiration to all who know him.

“...My goal is to counsel the disabled and to take what I have learned from my own experience and pass it on. I want to show that no matter how hard life is you can make it work for you! Things I don’t like are people that don’t try and complain about how hard life is. They need to place themselves in someone’s shoes that is blind or has never walked...”, Rod has summed it up in his own words.



RoRodriguez

Programs and Activities for Consumers



SAILS Celebrates with Volunteers at the Barn Door

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) held a very special luncheon at the Barn Door to give special thanks to all our volunteers who have given unselfishly their time, talent and monetary assistance. Our volunteers are dedicated to serving our consumers. "We cannot do activities or projects on such a grand scale without them", says Sandie Flanagan, SAILS Volunteer Coordinator.

Over 100 volunteers dined at the Barn Door and received special volunteer pins and certificates. Mr. Rod Rodriguez was totally surprised when he was presented with the award for volunteer of the year. Equally surprised was Mary Kay Archuleta and her nonprofit group for receiving an award for volunteer organization of the year. SAILS extends sincere gratitude to these awardees and to all volunteers who help us serve families with disabilities and make their lives a little brighter each and every day.



Volunteers enjoy a hearty meal at the Barn Door



Rod Rodriguez receives a plaque for Volunteer of the Year



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2010 SAILS Gala

SAILS 2010 GALA is a “Flaming Success!”

by Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS) hosted a fantastic Gala at the Marriott Rivercenter on October 15, 2010 with nearly 500 guests who enjoyed the music and vocals of Flame! SAILS extends a very special thanks to presenting sponsor WellMed Medical Management and to Alamo Music Center for the band equipment and staging.

Flame is a band that was featured last year on Good Morning America. SAILS flew the band members to San Antonio from New York for a night of entertainment and celebration. The GALA also commemorated SAILS 29 years of service to families with disabilities. October is also Disability Employment month. However, the night truly belonged to Flame from the moment that lead singer, Michelle King sang her first song. The guests were truly amazed! After all, many of them did not know what to expect as some of the band members rolled onto the stage in the wheelchairs. Within minutes everyone knew that Flame is no ordinary band!

Cameras and cell phones flashed. Guests were smiling and cheering. Flame’s nostalgic rock and roll music filled the dance floor with guests who suddenly remembered the songs they danced to during days gone by. It was time to relive those moments.

Please enjoy the enclosed pictures of SAILS GALA with Flame. Flame band members would also like to thank San Antonio and SAILS for the opportunity to come and entertain. I have a feeling they will be back.



Presenting Flame the band!



Flame’s lead guitarist



Guests arrive to attend the SAILS Gala with Flame



2010 SAILS Gala



Gordon Hartman speaks at SAILS GALA about Morgan's Wonderland



Guests enjoy dining while awaiting Flame



Flame Band jammin'



Ken Johnson from VPG and family dancing along with Flame



Dr. Brietzke stops by to visit with Flame before their performance



David and Olga Massey from Allstate enjoy the Gala



2010 Accessfest

SAILS Staff at Morgan's Wonderland for the 2010 Accessfest

Staff of San Antonio Independent Living Services joined over 100 community agency vendors for the Accessfest that was hosted by Texas Public Radio and held at Morgan's Wonderland on Halloween Sunday, October 31, 2010. Ghosts and goblins (and their parents) had fun visiting the vendors for treats and learned all about programs and resources that help families with disabilities. This was the first year the Accessfest was held at Morgan's Wonderland and was provided free of charge to the public. SAILS appreciated the opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile event that provided much needed resources to so many families.



SAILS staff attend the Accessfest



2010 Accessfest at Morgan's Wonderland



SAILS information center at Accessfest

A visitor at SAILS Information Center



Peter Watson, SAILS consumer, and family members enjoy attending Accessfest



SAILS
Has Been Helping
People With Disabilities
Live More Independently
Since 1981

Theresa is A Successful Neonatal Nurse

Theresa McDonald was a nurse who was struck with depression in 1981. This event led to her being laid off from her job at a hospital. She was told that she would never be able to work again. She was told that she would never be able to work again. She was told that she would never be able to work again. She was told that she would never be able to work again.

Theresa now has a successful career as a neonatal nurse. She is happy and healthy. She is able to work and live independently. She is able to work and live independently. She is able to work and live independently.

Sam Wilson is on his way to finish his dream of finishing college!

Sam Wilson is on his way to finish his dream of finishing college! He is happy and healthy. He is able to work and live independently. He is able to work and live independently. He is able to work and live independently.

Calendar of Events for Oct, Nov and Dec



OCTOBER - National Breast Cancer Awareness, Dental Hygiene, Domestic Violence Awareness Month and National Celiac Disease Awareness, Disability Employment Awareness, Down Syndrome Awareness and National Physical Therapy, Spina Bifida Awareness, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness, Sarcoidosis Awareness Month

- 1 Support Groups Picnic—Lighthouse-1:00 pm
- 5 Special Education Night—Comal ISD-5:30 pm
- 11 Columbus Day—SAILS closed
- 14 GAP Workshop—
American GI Forum - 1:00 pm
- 15 SAILS GALA—FLAME BAND—
MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER
- 19-21 AIRS Meeting—Menger Hotel
- 23 Deaf Festival—Comanche Park #2
- 28 GAP Workshop—
American GI Forum - 1:00 pm
- 31 AccessAbility Fest—Morgan's Wonderland

NOVEMBER - American Diabetes Month, National Adoption Month, and COPD Awareness Month

- 1 Disability Coalition Meeting—
Victoria - 11:30 am
- 5 Support Group (s) meeting—
Lighthouse - 1:00 pm
- 8-9 TACIL meeting—Dallas
- 10 WISE meeting-Workforce Center-Victoria
- 11 GAP workshop-American GI Forum
- 12 Appreciation Reception for GALA Sponsors-
Kirby Steakhouse - 5:30 pm
- 15-16 REAP meeting—Dallas
- 15 National Philanthropy Day
- 19 WISE meeting—
Hillcrest Workforce Center - 9:30 to 12:00
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon—Barn Door
- 24 SAILS closed (half day)
- 25 Thanksgiving Day (SAILS closed)
- 26 Day after Thanksgiving (SAILS closed)
- 29 Presentation to Boy Scout Troop—6:30 pm

DECEMBER - National Aplastic Anemia and MDS Awareness Week and Handwashing Awareness Week

- 3 Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Support Group Christmas Party—
Lighthouse - 1:00 pm
- 4 Christmas in the Americas
Musical Extravaganza—
Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes - 5:00 pm
- 7 Staff Training—SAILS closed
- 9 GAP Christmas Party—SAILS - 1:00 pm
- 10 SAILS Open House 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
- 11 Christmas Under the Bridge—
Haven for Hope
1st Annual Transition Fair—
Southside ISD High School - 9:00 am
- 12 Door in the Wall Christmas Party—
Villita Assembly Bldg. -1 to 6 pm
- 13 Town Hall Meeting at SAILS - 10 am
- 16-31 SAILS Closed for Christmas Holidays

Survey of Consumers to Evaluate Our Services

A total of 97 consumers participated in a survey to evaluate SAILS services.

- 63 consumers are impressed with services provided
- 17 consumers are pleasantly surprised
- 13 consumers are satisfied
- 4 consumers do not provide any input
- None of the consumers is not satisfied

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
Ricardo V. Rivas, EA Accountant

Gloria Aguirre	IL/Outreach Specialist	Mary E. Blake	IL Skills Coordinator
Sandie Flanagan	I&R/ Volunteer Coordinator	Bruce Orey	CWIC
Albert Pulido	CWIC	Lori Crownover	IL/STAP Specialist

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However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the DOE or the DARS and you should not assume endorsement by local, state, or federal government.

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SAILS Is Now Offering Professional Graphics Design, Publishing Services for Print and Internet Media

SAILS is now offering professional graphics designs, publishing services for print and internet web media for corporate businesses, city, county, state, federal agencies and other non-profit organizations.

Assistance and partnership with selected prominent and well established professional service companies in San Antonio in the areas of media, advertising, promotion, PR, printing and information technology, SAILS will commence the providing of these services initially to the local business communities, as of January 1st, 2011.

Please call on us first, when you plan your next media project, if your organization (business or non-profit) has the need of effective, high quality creative work and publishing in the following areas:

- Newsletters
- Books
- Annual Reports
- Brochures
- Pamphlets
- Flyers, Promotional Prints, Advertisement Placements
- Portfolios, Folders, Stationeries, Business Cards
- Internet Website Design, including Interactive Media, Web Seminars
and Online Database Applications

With these business opportunities SAILS will be able to generate employment for our consumers that we serve in Bexar and 27 surrounding counties who have disabilities, and attain the resources and capabilities to carry out other programs serving additional consumers and their families.

For additional information or a quote for your project, contact:

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.

Executive Director

210.281.1878 ext 18

kbrietzke@sailstx.org

Our Special Thanks To Sponsors of 2010 SAILS Gala

Alamo Mobility	Girling Healthcare
Amerigroup Corporation	Gordon Hartman
AnyBabyCan	Jordan Ford-Ty Beck
AT&T	J&R Tile
Banik Family	NuStar Energy
Beyer Boys	Pride PHC
Boston's the Gourmet Pizza	SAHA
Brietzke Family	San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind
CAMP	SAMMs
Cano Family	Schwab
Deaf Interpreters	Superior Healthcare
Flanagan Family	Vance Family
Frost Bank	VIA
Galan Family	VPG Autos

WellMed Medical Management-Presenting Sponsor

SAILS Starts Training and Work Program in Graphics Design and Publishing Fields for People with Disabilities

Applications are being accepted for consideration, starting January 2nd, 2011, for training classes in:

Adobe Creative Suite CS5 applications: Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Premiere, Flash.

Previous experience in computer use is helpful, but not necessary. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply, to learn new professional vocations and employable skill sets.

Qualified graduates will have the potential of temporary, regular part-time, full-time work or contract assignments.

For additional information, contact:

Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D.
Executive Director
210.281.1878 ext 18
kbrietzke@sailstx.org