



Adults Independent and Motivated
Making Independence Possible

February 27, 2022

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Past AIM Newsletters can be found on our website.

To reprint or share any part of this newsletter, please indicate that it first appeared in the AIM Newsletter.

Amplify Austin

Every year people across Central Texas participate in a massive fundraising effort called Amplify Austin that raises over \$12 million for local charities. AIM is again participating in this effort and needs your assistance to reach our goal of raising over \$20,000 to help the adults with disabilities living in our community to thrive. **If everyone who receives this newsletter donates \$10 and motivates 2 or 3 of their friends to do the same, we will reach our goal.**

This event proves the power in numbers—demonstrating that if enough people say yes to donating even \$10—we can transform the lives of adults with disabilities like autism and Down syndrome who are part of our community. We encourage you to visit AIM’s Amplify Austin page to see the video of Kim Eudy explaining what AIM means for her family. Use the links to visit the “fundraiser” pages and learn more about what AIM means to several AIM families.

Consider how transformative AIM is. People who lived EVERY DAY of their lives under someone else’s roof now live 365 days per year under their OWN roof. Although the “someone else” was their parents who love them, it is profoundly satisfying, indeed exhilarating, to leave the protective daily supervision of Mom and Dad and to move into a place of our own.

AIM makes it possible for that transition to happen in a responsible way. Please spread the word to as many people as you can—your donation of any amount helps make independence possible.

<https://www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/adults-independent-and-motivated>

Eudy Video: <https://vimeo.com/674644936>



Amplify Austin

AIM Core Principles

1. Safety
2. Employment or Meaningful Regular Activity Away from Home
3. Lifelong Learning
4. Healthy Living
5. Social Activities
6. Family Engagement and Family Commitment
7. Increasing Independence
8. Continuity

AIM Turns 8!

One step at a time. AIM has found that is the best way to build a community that can go the distance. In the summer of 2013, one mom had over 50 phone conversations to gauge interest in starting a community in Austin similar to The Mission Project in Kansas City, and from those conversations found 6 people ready to visit Kansas and see their program in action. We liked what we saw and began working to make it happen—attracting new people and losing others along the way. On February 19, 2014 AIM was officially incorporated and subsequently received our 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation. Eleven months later, 2 young ladies with Down syndrome moved into an apartment, thereby becoming the 1st AIMers. Today we have 8 with others participating in AIM Socials to see if AIM might be a good fit for them. Pictured below are the current AIMers from 8 years ago in 2014.

We are proud of our steady progress in the face of the pandemic, including having one new AIMER join our community in the midst of it. We are proud of our ongoing relationship with The Mission Project. We were initially drawn to their unique, innovative approach to creating community without building housing, choosing instead for their participants to live in an already existing apartment complex open to anyone. They now have 32 participants and are continuing to show us what is possible (and to share their blueprints for achieving it).

AIM and The Mission Project are the only 2 communities in the country taking this progressive approach, allowing adults with disabilities to live amazingly typical lives integrated into the wider community, while getting the additional supports they need due to their disabilities.

AIM Socials

AIM has socials for people who are taking the next step in exploring whether AIM is the right fit.

Recent socials have included the Lakeway Trail of Lights, AIM Family Christmas Party, Dinner at Panera, Pizza in the Park and active fun at Hill Country Indoor!

Board Members:

- Ashley Sanchez, President
- Ronda Phillips, Vice President
- Julie Buchanan, Secretary
- Kim Eudy, Treasurer
- Bobby Jones
- Darla Jones
- Barb Lucido
- Hector Sanchez
- Suzanne Shepherd



Blake & Gracie



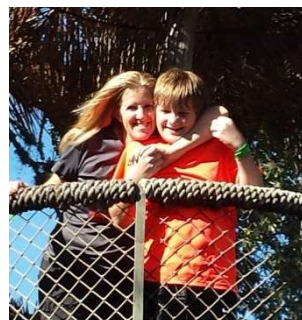
Rebecca



Alicia



Zach



Barb & Chris



Cristina



Clark

Donor Spotlight

In December, Allison and Darin Lippoldt from San Diego, California donated \$5,500 to AIM. This amazingly generous donation was AIM's largest single donation in 2021, and our largest donation from outside of Texas. Allison is familiar with AIM because she is a childhood friend of Ashley Sanchez, the mother of AIMer Cristina. When asked what inspired their donation, Allison replied, "The fact that AIMers are able to live independently is huge, not only for themselves, but their families."

We couldn't agree more. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Allison and Darin, for recognizing what an achievement it is for AIMers to have such independence and for helping support it.

AIM by the Numbers - 2021

\$33,000	Money raised by 5th Annual Tutus and Ties Fun Run
\$20,000	Money raised by Amplify Austin
9,506	Miles driven in Sparky, AIM's minivan
1,133	Disinfecting wipes used in Sparky
\$1,000	Total received from AmazonSmile to date
916	Hours Volunteered with AIM
800	People who receive AIM emails
370	People who follow AIM on Facebook
203	Hours worked by AIMers each week on average
46	Meetings of Monday Night Group
37	Hill Country Indoor Nights
8	AIMers living as part of the AIM community
8	Part-time employees
7	# of years since the 1st AIMers moved into their apartments
5	Socials (other than HCI)
5	Outreach events
4	Prospective AIMers exploring whether AIM might be right for them
3	Weekly HCI Volunteers
1	Ongoing Pandemic
1	New AIMer (Welcome, Zach!)



The Passing of the Torch

For the past several years, Erika Musick Griffin has facilitated Monday Group. This weekly meeting allows AIMers to learn, problem solve, bond, support each other, and have fun. Erika's experience originally as a special education teacher and now as Transition Specialist in Lake Travis ISD have given her the expertise to understand and respond to AIMers' needs. Erika has enriched AIMers' lives with her steady influence and keen insights, and we will miss her greatly. Erika's schedule is no longer permitting her to facilitate Monday Group, but she helped us find a worthy successor before she stepped down. Kelsey Theis is a school counselor at Lake Travis High School, and we are delighted to have her leading Monday Group now.

Goodbye and THANK YOU, Erika, and welcome, Kelsey!



AIM is on Facebook, Instagram & now Twitter

AIM is a vibrant community with a lot going on—so much, in fact, that we haven't always found the time to share updates on social media. We are trying to change that with the help of Morgan Adams, sister of AIMer Blake. If you haven't checked us out in awhile, give us another look. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AIMATX>

Follow us on Instagram @aim_adultsindependent or https://www.instagram.com/aim_adultsindependent/

Follow us on Twitter @AIMaustintx or <https://twitter.com/AIMaustintx>

Remember us on Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4998131>

2021 Donors

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped AIMers thrive by making a donation to AIM in 2021. We appreciate you all!

\$5,000+ Donors

Darin & Allison Lippoldt

\$4,000+ Donors

Independent Financial

\$3,000+ Donors

Ashley & Hector Sanchez
Carl & Suzanne Shepherd

\$2,000+ Donors

Facebook Fundraisers
Priority Roofing

2021 Donors cont'd

\$1,000+ Donors

Berry family
Denny & Julie Buchanan
Phil & Chris Dial
Eudy Law, PLLC - Ron K Eudy
Give Gab
Barb Lucido
The Murphy Family
My College Road Consulting
Ronda & John Phillips
Tori, Tres, & Hal Ray
Texas Materials Group, Inc.
TruWest Credit Union
Lisa & Richard Warner

\$500+ Donors

Avanti Hills, LLC
Baylor Scott & White Health
Cable Partners, Inc.
Dave & Tricia Coburn
LD Construction & Remodeling
Easy Pools
Ron & Kim Eudy
H&R Block - Bud Welborn
JA Halbrook
HEB
IBC Bank
Cindy & John Jett
Darla & Bobby Jones
Lexus of Lakeway
Lone Star Eye
McCall McPherson
The Moore Family
Orsted
Barbara Richmond
The Shahan Team
Silver Sands Vacation Rentals
Ruth Ann Spivey
Venturi Private Wealth
VeraBank
Suzy Woodward

\$250+ Donors

A Summer Smile, PLLC
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous
Courtne Besetzny
Talina & Dean Buchanan
Daren W Evans, DDS
Joyce Davidson
Marcy & Dan Davidson
Edward Jones - Scott Tracy
Jamie Epple
Cyndy & Don Erler
Five Stone Tax Advisors
Fleet Clean - Austin
Hye Meadow Winery LLC
Justice Pest Services
Kowalik Family
Lakecountry Insurance Agency
Let Kelly
McCoy Farmers Insurance
Agency
Patty & Jeff Otto
Clint Parsley & Alex Albright
Josephine Pearson
Thomas Rutledge
Salus Chiropractic
Jennifer Shepherd
Kevin Shepherd
Connor Shepherd
Jeff & Jody Sims
Brooke, Mary Lou & Scott Wilcox

Up to \$250 Donors

Tracey Adams
Susan Anderson
Carol Annunziato
Anonymous
Shannon Bailey
Bill & Fran Bankston
Laura Barnes
Vanessa Bloom
Joan & Amalia
Don & Ay-Chyi Boudreaux
Ann V Brodnax
Angela Linhart Browder

2021 Donors cont'd

Up to \$250 Donors Continued

Brady Buchanan
Donnis Buchanan
Debby & John Burns
Rachel Bustamante
Children Neurology Consultants
Coach Pat
The Cole Family
Alana Coleman
Mary Collins
Pamela Cooper
Matthew Crawford
Brooks & Laurie Davis
Helen & Don Dawkins
Samuel & Susan DeGonge
Dell
Kathleen Demirbey
Mary Cathrine Dorney
Julie & Mason Dunlap
Barbara Earley
Kimberly Erler
Don & Linda Eudy
Parker Eudy
Jennifer Ferris
Alex Field
Ellie Fluck
Mama Frat
Joseph G. Galagaza
Amanda Gates
Dicky & Mary Gay Grigg
Don & Sue Guest
Mony Gutierrez
Anne-Marie & Max Ham
Keith & Becki Helmstetler
Marcia Hendry
Patsy Herrington
Troy & Brenda Hester
Chris & Jess Ibey
Sarah Ingram
Barbara Jaeger
James Perzan
Jeff Coleman, State Farm Agent
Joe & Kenzie Liddiard Jeskie
Jeanne & Steven Kekesi
Luan Kirk
Klam Family
Janet Kodra

Up to \$250 Donors Continued

Lakeway Vision
Heidi Lamb
Jeff LaMour
Frances Licht
Bill Lifland & Donnis Buchanan
Denise Lucido
The Lukers
Nancy & John Mackey
Robert Maddox
Bob & Sherry Mason
Melissa & David McCaskill
Mary Sue McCauley
Robin McCormick
Norma McCloud
Leslie Midgley
Patricia Mikhail
Kelley Miller
Misc
Steve Montignani
C Moody
Jan Moynahan
Sean & Ashley Murphy
Sam & Judy Myers
Cassandra Nollmann
John Nyfeler
Mike & Mary Partridge
Lissa Patrizi
PayPal Giving Fund
Kendra Pecci
Kim Pohl
Mirna Ponce
Prussel Family
Anna Reue
Ronney Reynolds
Donny Richmond
Jesse Riggins IV
Tracy Roberts
Laura Robertson
Anna Robinson
Rodriguez Family
Amy & Kevin Rongo
Lori Roop
Lee & Darlene Rousselot
John & Amy Salazar

Up to \$250 Donors Continued

Sophie Sanchez
Mandy Sanchez
Joanna & Wayne Sanders
Andrea Schulle
Rebecca Shahan
Amanda Shults
Anonymous
Jennifer Shyne
Toni & Bryan Sircely
Charlotte Stachour
Randy & Linda Stark
Barb Stoltenborg & Family
Tracy
Robin Taylor
Cynthis Torres
Upp family
Bruce & Val Ure
Maria Vargas
Yolanda Vieira
Marcus Wecksten
Lisa Welborn
Terri White
Suzanne Wilson
Connor Duffey & Jillian Wood
Brenda Zambrana

Tributary Donations

IMO Wileene Shepherd
IMO Hector David Sanchez
IHO Gracie Eudy
IHO Chris Lucido

