



Adults Independent and Motivated

Making Independence Possible

May 13, 2023

Opportunity to Visit AIM

Visit AIM on Sunday, June 4th at 2:30pm

Have you ever wondered whether AIM might be right for your son or daughter? Are they doing well, but you wonder if they could be doing even better? The parents of AIMers have faced these same questions and are happy to help new families explore the answers.

On Sunday, June 4th at 2:30pm, AIM is offering the opportunity for Prospective AIMers and their families to visit our community. We will meet outside the apartment complex promptly at 2:30 pm and give a brief overview of our program. Then guests will break into small groups and will accompany current AIMers and their parents on a tour of the AIMers' apartments and the apartment complex. We will then all join together for a Question-and-Answer session. We will be finished by 3:30pm.

The event will be held in the Lakeway/Bee Cave vicinity. On June 2nd, we will share the exact address for our event with people who have signed up to attend. This promotes AIMer safety by continuing our practice of not publicly sharing the name of the apartment complex nor its exact location in public forums, including in our newsletters, emails, and social media.

Please sign up at this link by noon on June 2nd if you wish to attend:
<https://forms.gle/DegY8y9rPSpZ7YVe7>

Tutus and Ties Fun Run 2023

Sunday, Oct. 1st at 9:00am AIM will hold our 7th annual Tutus and Ties Fun Run at Lakeway City Park.

Details are under the Events tab of our website - <https://www.aimtx.org/events.html> - along with information about sponsoring the event and donating items for the silent auction.

AIM does not charge a fee for our services, so fundraising events like Amplify Austin and the Tutus and Ties Fun Run are essential.

This year's fun run goal is \$55,000. Please help us reach that by sponsoring, donating something for the auction, and joining us for the fun the morning of October 1st.

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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.



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

Amplify Austin

The 2023 area-wide day of giving known as Amplify Austin was an incredible success for AIM. We raised \$30,000 for our community and won \$4,500 from 3 prizes in the small non-profit category—most dollars raised in early giving, most dollars raised by fundraising champions, and a drawing for fundraising champions with over 10 donors.

Those of us who are part of AIM understand the transformative nature of our work, empowering adults with disabilities to achieve astonishingly typical adult lives, living independently alongside neighbors without disabilities. During Amplify, we tell our stories, mostly on social media, to family and friends and invite them to join with us in supporting these amazing young adults. We are thrilled with how far our message travels—resulting in donations from across the country, and the world.

We are also thrilled with how many people who had never heard of AIM read about us on the Amplify website and were moved to support us.

We extend our profound thanks to the 170+ people who said yes to making independence possible during Amplify Austin!

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 listening to a band at the Galleria, Kalahari Waterpark, Bunco, watching the Champions movie, and fitness at HCI

Welcome 2 New AIMers

AIM is continuing to grow. Mackenzie and Grace have both recently applied to and been accepted into AIM. They met when they both began participating in AIM socials about a year ago, and now they're going to be roommates. Mackenzie enjoys basketball and tennis, and Grace has just returned from Disney where she competed with her "Cheerabilities" squad.



We asked them both what they like about AIM.

Mackenzie told us, "AIM has impacted my life by making new friends, having the ability to live on my own, and understanding how to do things on my own, but with our parents help when needed. One of the things I like most about AIM is going to HCI to learn something new and stay active with my friends."

Grace observed, "I'm excited about getting my own apartment and hanging out with my new friends. I like the HCI activities like Archery and the other fun socials. I like walking to get ice cream!"

We are delighted to have Mackenzie and Grace as part of our community! Welcome!

Board Members:

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

From the Driver's Seat – Observations from AIM Driver Ann Kupper

I have been an AIM driver for a little over a year. It's been a joy to work with the organization. Not even the traffic that consumes 620 on a daily basis can dampen the enjoyment I receive from being with these young adults. The most beneficial part of being a driver has been getting to know some incredible people in our community.



One such adult is able to provide me with the latest scores from his favorite teams. Hoodies and t-shirts keep me from forgetting the teams he follows. I also appreciate his interest in cars and pointing out the interesting ones we pass along the way to work. Another AIMer greets me with a smile. He amazes me with his ability to sing the lyrics to almost every country song we hear on the radio. Often, we are both tapping out the beat on the dashboard of "Sparky," the AIM minivan. I quickly realized that another rider is a fan of telling jokes. After being told a joke, I decided I needed to be prepared with one of my own on our next drive. I thought I had a very clever joke to share. It was met with the words, "That didn't make me laugh." Well, her response sure made me laugh. I am currently searching for just the right joke.

Recently I shared with another AIMer a brief story about my father's health. Knowing my dad had been hospitalized, she later texted me to inquire about his condition. I was touched by her thoughtfulness. This same person showed such excitement when the group was getting ready to head to Kalahari for the day of fun at the waterpark. She gave me a frequent countdown as to the number of days until the trip. Her enthusiasm was fun to witness. There is a young adult who always greets me with a smile and a positive attitude—even when it's early in the morning. He never fails to express his gratitude to me for driving him or for other events in his life. He brightens my day and I know he does the same for others.

I am grateful to be part of an organization that promotes kindness, understanding, and respect. The AIMers I drive give back to me in unseen countless ways. Not only are they independent and motivated, but they are inspiring and marvelous. I greatly appreciate these young adults letting me be a small part of their day. They are the best!



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