



Adults Independent and Motivated
Making Independence Possible

October 26, 2022

Thank You for Making This The Best Tutus & Ties Fun Run to Date

Camaraderie. Happiness. Energy. Fun. And much needed funds. The 6th Annual Tutus and Ties Fun Run was a huge success, raising over \$50,000 earlier this month to help AIMers live their best lives.

The crowd was large, and everyone seemed to be in great spirits and having a wonderful time. The morning began with a crisp hint of fall but gradually became bright, warm, and sunny. The activity stations included Flickin’ Chicken, badminton, hippity-hop races, basketball free throws, and more.

This incredible outcome was a collective effort, and we are so grateful to everyone who took part. Julie Buchanan was, once again, our Event Chair and her guidance and incredible organizational skills have led to the most successful event to date. Ronda Phillips has added the fun each of the 6 years by coming up with the unique activity stations and also producing the videos that we share to kick off the event. Kim Eudy managed the silent auction—uploading the pictures and writing the descriptions of all 90+ items as well as accounting for the entire event. Ashley Sanchez coordinated communications and event volunteers to ensure a successful event. In addition, 100% of AIMer families were involved and took on many of the various tasks that go into such a big event.

Our hard work would be for naught if we weren’t joined by numerous people who attended the fun run, bid during the auction, volunteered the day of the event, and contributed by donating silent auction items or sponsoring. Seeing the large, enthusiastic crowd supporting the people we call AIMers—the adults in our community who have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities such as autism and Down syndrome—was a joyful experience for everyone and a moving experience for those who have been part of AIM since Day 1.

AIMers’ disabilities have presented them with numerous challenges throughout their lives. The Fun Run made it abundantly clear how much their families, friends old and new, and supporters throughout greater Austin are willing to help them defy the odds by living surprisingly typical adult lives.

Thank you, ALL!

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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

Meeting to Learn More About AIM Plus Annual Membership Meeting

Do you have questions about whether the AIM community might be the right fit for your son or daughter? Then come learn more at our Intro to AIM Presentation. The details:

Date: Sunday, Nov. 12th 12:30-1:15 pm

Place: Meeting room at the Keller Williams Lakeway Office

Address: 1921 Lohmans Crossing Rd #100, Lakeway, TX 78734.

Program: We will provide an overview of the AIM community and then open it up for questions with current AIM families.

Prior to the Learn About AIM program, the annual Membership Meeting will be from 12:00-12:30. Members are current AIM parents who will conduct membership business, including holding board elections and reviewing AIM progress and accomplishments in 2022. Those attending the AIM overview are welcome to arrive at noon for the Membership Meeting if they would like to do so.

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, the Party Barge on Lake Travis, and fitness at HCI

Year End Giving



For those who make donations at the end of the year, we would be honored if you would consider donating to AIM.

Online donations can be made at www.aimtx.org/support or by mailing a check to: 11719 Bee Cave Rd #103, Austin TX 78738

Benefit AIM When Shopping on Amazon

This holiday season—and for that matter year-round-- you can help AIMers every time you shop on Amazon through the Amazon Smile program. Simply designate AIM as your preferred charity, and when you shop, Amazon gives. Please also help spread the word to businesses because they, too, can benefit the charity of their choice by making purchases via Amazon Smile.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4998131>

To date AIM has received over \$1,600 through this program.



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

St. Augustine Occupational Therapy Benefits AIM

Occupational, physical, and speech therapy were a consistent part of many AIMer’s lives as they were growing up, and those therapies helped them achieve the high level of independence that they enjoy today. Nevertheless, because of their disabilities some tasks remain a challenge for them, even in adulthood.

This fall, students from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences Occupational Therapy program have been working with AIMers on some of those skills that they still find challenging.

USAHS Professor Cat Daniel had this to say about their collaboration with AIM:



“The partnership with AIM has allowed us to teach a strength-based approach to OT students. Across settings in occupational therapy, we are looking for areas of deficits and concern that impact an individual's performance. Although this is important, a strength-based approach allows us to develop self-confidence in clients, advocate for themselves, and achieve self-awareness. When we are invited into a client's authentic life, all behaviors and characteristics are neutral and/or positive features. For example, our clients may say they have difficulty finishing tasks and concentrating at work. We would repeat to them, "it sounds like you have many interests that attract your attention during your job hours." Then work with

our clients on incorporating their interests in a plan that finds a "just right challenge" to increase job performance at any age across the lifespan. Often our deficits can become our strengths. Did you know that little coordination can foster patience and extreme persistence? AIM embodies a strength-based approach, and the partnership with USAHS allows our students to learn from AIMers. We want our students to see individuals who have gained ground with a deficit but also whose deficit can become a Super-Strength because when we embrace that, there is no stopping us or anyone we serve. The goal to AIM high is a shared vision that is often difficult for entry-level students to understand their role in shaping positive identities for a satisfying and independent life that should start on day 1. AIM has allowed us to see what is possible when a 1-year-old is referred to us through ECI, a child is having difficulty following instructions in 2nd grade, or an 18+ student is unable to complete tasks during vocational training. Let us turn these deficits into super-strengths together.”

AIMers—and their parents—very much appreciate their help!



We Extend Our Heartfelt Thanks To Our 2022 Tutus & Ties Sponsors

We invite you to patronize the businesses that sponsored the Fun Run and donated silent auction items, and express your appreciation to them for helping make independence possible for our AIMers.

2022 Signature Sponsor (\$2,500)



2022 Platinum Sponsors (\$1,000+)



Anonymous
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Family of Jack Shepherd
Lairmore Family
Murphy Family

Team Blake
Team Cristina
Team Rebecca
Team Zach



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 The Shahan Team

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 Five Stone Tax Advisors
 Fokes Ranch
 Gaines Land Sales

Justice Pest Services
 Lake Travis Zipline Adventures
 Lakeway Marina
 Jeff LaMour
 Moody Center
 Troy & Brenda Hester
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 LegalShield Associate
 Porch Light Hospitality
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 Texas Materials Group Inc
 The Riedmuellers
 Ure Consulting Group
 William Chris Wine Company
 Wilson Appliance

2022 Friends of AIM (\$50+)

Bill & KC Jones Barnes - John & Ann Brodnax – Lisa Brown - Dean & Talina Buchanan – Davidson Family - Eddy Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry PLLC - Eppele Family – Fitness 4 Focus – Brook Huerta – Barbara Jaeger - David K Jones –Jeanne Kekesi - Lakeway Vision - Let Kelly Cleaning & Organizing – Denise Lucido - Riener Family - Tracy Roberts - Dolores Solano – Upp Family - Vehlewald Family

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