



Adults Independent and Motivated

Making Independence Possible

August 28 2020

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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.

Board Members:

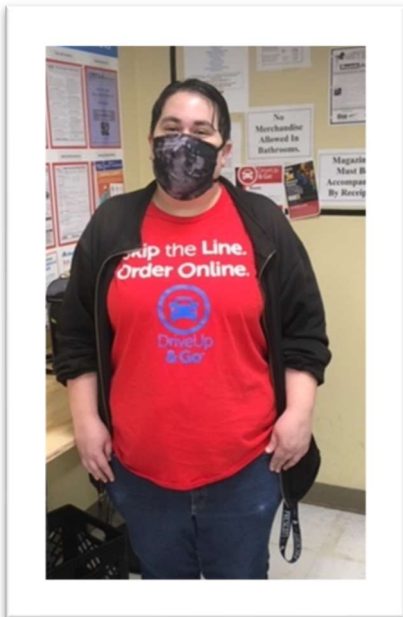
- Ashley Sanchez, President
- Hector Sanchez, Vice President
- Julie Buchanan, Secretary
- Kim Eudy, Treasurer
- Ronda Phillips
- Suzanne Shepherd

Participants Corner

AIMers have been affected by the pandemic in the same ways as everyone else. Some were furloughed or laid off, while those working the front lines in essential jobs at grocery and hardware stores have remained on the job throughout. Some remained in their apartments while others temporarily moved home with their parents or split their time between the two places. Many of those who have been spending more time at home report that it has been an unexpected blessing to get this time together and an excellent reminder how beneficial it is most of the time for the adult children and their parents to have their own homes.



As AIM has responded to this new normal, we have continued offering transportation, a sense of community, and ongoing virtual learning and gatherings. We have monitored local, state, and federal Covid-19 guidelines and developed safety protocols based upon them which we revise as appropriate. We reinforce these guidelines with AIMers and help them to support one another during these trying times. Of course, a standard refrain from AIMers echoes what all of us are thinking—when will this stupid virus go away?!?



Until it does, we know that Gracie, Amy, and Chris will remain faithfully at work at their front-line jobs, and other AIMers will be delighted to be getting back to the jobs they love at local retail shops, restaurants, and other local businesses. We are incredibly proud of our hard-working and resilient AIMers!

4th Annual Tutus & Ties Fun Run

This year's event will be virtual, which means geography is not an impediment to being part of the fun! Please recruit your friends and family from around the country, and the world, to join us for Tutus and Ties 2020!

Register by Sept. 10th to be guaranteed the t-shirt size of your choice.

Of course, the success of this event also depends heavily on sponsors. To have your company name included on the back of fun run t-shirts, **we need to receive your sponsorship commitment by Sept. 11th**.

Please note, AIM does not charge a fee for our services so the success of our fundraising is essential in helping AIMers live their best lives.

Find all the event details on our website:

<https://www.aimtx.org/events.html>



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 Socials

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

The socials in February - July included: Virtual Socials

AIMers Honored by their Employers for Excellence



Amy Lopez You will not encounter a kinder cashier than Amy. Her good attitude is even more remarkable because her day starts so early—her shift starts at 6am. It was unsurprising to those who know her that she was one of Randall's Top Ten cashiers in the district for generating donations to the Souper Bowl of Caring earlier this year. Congratulations for earning this amazing award, Amy!

Chris Lucido Chris earned his first Homer Award. Home Depot honors associates who dedicate themselves to their customers and embody the Home Depot values. Chris's manager presented him with this award and thanked him for his dedication. If you are ever at the Bee Cave/Lakeway Home Depot on a weekday afternoon, say hello and congratulations.



We are so proud of you, Amy and Chris, and we thank you for helping Randall's and Home Depot provide the essential services we are all relying on now more than ever!

AIMer Anniversaries

Congratulations on your 1st anniversary with AIM, Blake, Beau, Chris, and Clark. We are so happy to have you as part of our program, and this 1st year has flown by!

In addition we would like to congratulate Rebecca on her 4th anniversary (Aug.) and Amy on her 2nd anniversary (March).

Happy Anniversary, y'all!



Volunteer Opportunity

We have a demo of our AIMing for Healthy Living app, but we need someone who can finish the development of this project. Although AIMers will primarily access it from their phones, it is in fact a web design that is mobile-friendly rather than a true phone app. This initiative will make it fun for AIMers to document their healthy choices (ex. Eating health foods, getting exercise, etc) and encourage each other in making these choices.



Amplify Austin

In early March AIM was delighted by the outpouring of support for our program. We raised just over \$15,000 because of the generosity of the following donors, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported this effort.

Thank You to Our 2020 Amplify Austin Donors!

Tracey Adams
Maria Allan
Susan Anderson
Anonymous
Bailey Family
Laura Barnes
Laura Battle
Linnea & Tony Bennett
Gayathri Bhagavatheeswaran
Bill & Patsy Bradley
William D Brown
Denny & Julie Buchanan
Donnis Buchanan
Patty Busch
Devi Choudhury
John Clark
Eddie Coats
Joel & Paige Condren
Bart & Jackie (Ramsey) Cox
Carol Daley
Phil Dial
William Dixon
Mary Dorney
Bridget Durbin
Amy & Christian Durbin
Sarah Edlund
Cyndy & Don Erler
Kimberly Erler
Kimberly & Ron Eudy
Sarah Gaytan
Greg Guest
Janice A Hamilton
James G Harrison
Havens Family
Terry & Emily Hayes
Keith & Becki Helmstetler
Sue Holland
Brook Huerta
Alana Hutchens
Independent Bank
Cindy & John Jett
Lisa & Jeff Johnson
Hallye Jordan

Jan Kelly
Kowalik Family
Bill "Bop" Lifland
Tom Locke
Barbara Lucido
John Aram Manukyan
Joseph Maras
Dan & Teresa Martin
Sydney Martinez
Ruth Maxwell
David McCaskill
Mike & Leslie Midgley
C.I. Moody
Steve & Laurie Moore
Mohamed Moosa
Terry & Jan Moynahan
Sean Murphy
Clint & Alex Parsley
Josephine Pearson
Cory Peterson
John & Ronda Phillips
Barbara A Richmond
Jacob Riedel
William Riggs
Albert Robinson
Jorge Rodriguez, Jr
Hector & Ashley Sanchez
Joanna Sanders
Rebecca & Norman Shahan
Suzanne & Carl Shepherd
Connor Shepherd
Kevin Shepherd
Jen & Kevin Shepherd
Wendy Sturdevant
Robin Taylor
Cynthia Torres
Thomas & Lauralee Tucker
Valarie Ure
Yolanda Viera
LeeAnn Weeks
Terri White
Scott, Mary, Lou & Brooke Wilcox
June & Dick Woolery
Anne & Joel Yusim

I Live Here
I Give Here

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Meet AIM's Employees!

We are fortunate to have wonderful employees who provide the vital supports that help AIMers thrive. Of course they have had to adapt to new protocols and additional responsibilities as we have responded to the pandemic, and we very much appreciate their help!

We asked them to tell us a little about themselves and why they like working for AIM.



Kim Anthony. Part-time driver. I have lived in the Lake Travis area for over 25 years. I'm a proud Mom of 2 and grandmother of 3. After my youngest went off to college I started substitute teaching with LTISD. My favorite jobs were in the Life Skills department. One of the teachers there introduced me to AIM last summer. I have enjoyed spending time with the AIMers. With school hopefully about to start my hours will decrease but I hope to still drive occasionally.

Michele Butt. Part-time driver. I am a mother of three lovely ladies and grandmother to one terrific girl. My husband Fred and I moved the family to Austin 12 years ago. We are originally from Michigan. I was first introduced to the AIM program when I worked in the leasing office at the apartment where AIMers live. Several years later while scrolling Facebook I noticed a post regarding drivers needed, and what a delightful surprise to realize this was for the AIM organization. It has been a pleasure to provide a service for these fine adults and consider each of them a friend. My hope is to continue to work with AIM and enjoy all the wonderful conversations for as long as possible.



Timothy Flanders. Part-time driver. I love spending time with my family. I have a Bachelors in Management Information Systems. I have been a professional athlete going on 6 years, and I currently play for the Ottawa RedBlacks in the Canadian Football League. I like the interactions with the AIMers and helping them get to work. (Picture not available)



Kate Fyda. Part-time driver. I was born and raised in northern Illinois before moving to Austin in 2016. I am the mom to 4 busy boys-Blake age 12, Nolan age 10, Kasen age 7, and Maddux age 3. I recently celebrated my 15th wedding anniversary to my husband Matt. We love animals and I volunteer a lot of my time to dog rescue. We currently have 5 dogs, 2 cats, and 3 lizards. We are diehard Chicago sports fans. Go Cubbies!! Nothing makes me happier in life than helping others. I was a special education teacher before becoming a stay at home mom, and love working with individuals with disabilities. When I heard about AIM I knew I wanted to be part of it and I've loved meeting all of the AIMers!

Meet AIM's Employees cont'd!

Erika Musick. Monday Night Group Facilitator. I attended Lake Travis schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade, and this is my 16th year in the district working in Special Education, having taught my first year in Richardson. This summer I was promoted to a new role as District Transition Specialist. In this role, I will be supporting teachers, families and students as they plan for life after 12th grade. I attended A&M, received my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and returned for graduate studies in Educational Psychology. I have a wonderful boyfriend, David, who is also a teacher, and I love going to the lake with my parents and brother who live in the Lake Travis area.

I love being able to support AIMers and observe their ability to live and work independently. I also love being able to use their experiences and successes in my work as a special educator helping students reach their lifelong goals of living independently and having paid employment. Monday Night Group is the highlight of my week!



Allana Riesenberger. Transportation Coordinator and Part-time driver. I am a mother of 4. I enjoy gardening and raising chickens. I volunteer a lot for the LTHS band and at my children's schools. I like being able to work from home, and I also like working with the riders and their families. I like everything about it- the organization and the reason for AIM, and helping people. It's a great opportunity to feel fulfilled.

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