



# Adults Independent and Motivated

*Making Independence Possible*

February 15, 2020

## Participant Corner

We are happy to announce that 2020 is off to a great start for AIM. In January, we welcomed our newest AIMer Chris into our community. Here his mother Barb Lucido introduces our newest AIMer.

Chris Lucido, 20, was born in Illinois and moved to Austin in 2008 when he was 9 years old.

Chris graduated from Vandegrift High School in 2018. While at Vandegrift, Chris was the Manager of the varsity football team for 3 years and the Bat Boy for baseball for 4 years. After high school Chris attended The University of Texas as part of the E4Texas program to get certified as a Personal Care Attendant. He graduated from E4Texas in 2019.



Prior to being accepted into AIM and moving into his apartment, Chris lived with his mom Barb and sister Sarah, who attends Southwestern University. Chris tragically lost his dad Chet in 2012 after a 5-year battle with cancer.

Chris has been working at Home Depot for over 2 /12 years as a Lot Attendant. Happily he was able to transfer from his initial store to one closer to his new apartment when he moved in.

Chris is a huge sports fan with his favorite sports being football and baseball. He is, of course, a UT Longhorn fan after going to UT. He is also a die-hard fan of the Chicago Bears and the Boston Red Sox. Chris is enjoying being a part of AIM's Special Olympics Basketball team the Sparks.

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*Past AIM Newsletters can be found on our website.*

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### Board Members:

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

## Amplify Austin

AIM will take part this year in Amplify Austin on March 5-6, central Texas' 24-hour day of giving. This is AIM's golden opportunity to raise funds online, from our network of friends and supporters as well as from folks who are just getting to know AIM.

### 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

Last year we raised over \$9,000 to support AIM's operations, and this year we are shooting to raise \$15,000 to continue our van service with paid drivers, Monday Group and other vital services that create a true AIM community.

Early giving has already started, or you can give on March 5-6. Go to [www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/adults-independent-and-motivated.com](http://www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/adults-independent-and-motivated.com) and donate to help keep AIM going strong! And please ask your employer to match your contribution. Your \$25 donation can become \$50 with an employer match (\$50 pays for 1 meeting of our weekly Monday Group).

Are you willing to reach out to your circle of friends to ask them to support AIM too? If so, click on the "Fundraise" button on the link and help us connect with new supporters.

Every donation helps AIM continue to grow and thrive!

### AIM Socials

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

The socials in November - January included: HCI Sundays, Game Night & Pizza, Dinner at Panera & Matilda the Musical

### Anniversaries



AIM incorporated on February 19, 2014. Our first participants, Gracie and Cristina, moved in 11 months later and celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January. Alicia was the next to join, and she celebrated her 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December.

Happy Anniversary to AIM and to our founding AIMers!

### Strategic Planning Meeting

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIM parents and board met for our annual Strategic Planning Meeting. This meeting is a chance to focus on AIM's growth and sustainability. Our goal is that AIM can remain AIMers' lifelong home, even as their parents age and might not be able to be as hands-on as they currently are. In addition, we have to grow responsibly so that additional young adults can join and benefit from the sense of belonging and purpose that AIM provides.

### Grant

AIM extends our heartfelt thanks to the Carl C. Anderson Sr and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation for their \$1,500 grant in support of our general operations. We appreciate you helping AIM make independence possible for the young adults with disabilities whom we serve!



## AIM by the Numbers - 2019

- 1 Launch of Transportation Program
- AIM Sparks Special Olympics basketball team
- 1 Full-day Strategic Planning Session for the Board of Directors and AIMer families
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Short Documentary in the 168 Film Festival in LA for AIM documentary made by filmmaker Mark Baird
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year to participate in Amplify Austin 24-hour day of giving
- 1 KVUE News story about AIMer Beau Woolery and his job at ABC Home and Commercial Services
- 2 Parent Committees (Safety and Transportation) to support our community
- 2 Days at Dell Help-A-Thon where talented Dell employees competed against other teams to develop a healthy living app for AIMers
- 3 New AIMers (and AIM's 1<sup>st</sup> males!)
- 3 AIMers Give Back service projects (Backpack drive, Support our Troops, making tutus and silent auction items for fun run
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tutus and Ties Fun Run
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual party barge on Lake Travis
- 6 Part-time AIM employees
- 6 Years since parents started creating AIM
- 9 AIMers
- 12 Outreach and Networking Events
- 12 AIM socials
- 19 Prospective AIMers signed up to participate in socials
- 36 Nights of Fun Fitness at Hill Country Indoor
- 46 Meetings of The Monday Group
- 176 Hours worked on average every week by AIMers
- 220+ AIM cookbooks sold to date
- 500+ People following AIM
- \$700+ Received through shoppers designating AIM as their preferred charity on AmazonSmile
- \$1,500 Grant from Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation
- 1,600 Hours volunteered with AIM
- \$7,750 General Donations
- \$9,200 Raised during Amplify Austin
- 13,070 Miles driven in Sparky to get AIMers to work and AIM activities
- \$22,888 Raised in our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Tutus and Ties Fun Run
- \$32,437 Spent helping AIMers thrive!



## Transportation Scheduling App



Let us introduce you to Lake Travis High School seniors Ryan Ahmed and Emily Padilla. Last year as part of a class project, they set out to develop a transportation scheduling app for AIM. Fast forward to January - when 1 year and over 300 hours later— they unveiled this app to us. Although their class ended last May, they had become invested in the project and decided they wanted to finish the app on their own. The interface they designed is simple and elegant which will make it very user-friendly for our AIMers.

Since none of our AIMers drive, the fact that we can offer them reliable transportation to and from work in Sparky, our minivan, is a vital component of their success. It is, however, a huge task scheduling the numerous drives, especially since AIMers' work schedules can vary week to week. We are incredibly grateful to Ryan and Emily for undertaking this daunting task so that AIM can continue to make independence possible!

## Thank You to Our 2019 Donors!

### **Platinum Donors (\$2,000+)**

Independent Bank  
Sanchez, Ashley & Hector  
Shepherd, Suzanne & Carl

### **Gold Donors (\$1,000+)**

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Parsley, Alex & Clint

# Thank You to Our 2019 Donors (cont'd)!

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## Friends of AIM cont'd (up to \$250)

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Wiley, Tina  
Wink Medical Aesthetics  
Woolery, Beau

## Tributary Donations

IMO Delbert Buchanan  
IHO Marshall & Ryan  
IMO Roger Gillard  
IMO Tom Shelton  
IHO Carl & Suzanne Shepherd

AIMers live without onsite support in their own apartments. We are very proud of their ability to lead such typical adult lives, but we also recognize that the support AIM provides to them is essential for their success.

This success is in turn made possible by the generosity of our donors, to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks for making independence possible.

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