



# Adults Independent and Motivated

*Making Independence Possible*

August 19, 2019

## Growth. Change. Independence. Support.

2019 has been a very busy year for AIM. We have 3 new AIMers, paid employees, and a transportation program. We can't wait for you to read about these big changes for AIM, but please know that what we are most proud of are AIMers themselves. They have risen to the challenge of taking care of themselves despite having significant disabilities.

They go to work because they have bills to pay. If they want to see a movie or get a bite to eat, they text a friend and then walk to the theater or restaurant together, without their parents' being involved. They have a level of autonomy their parents never envisioned being possible, and our AIMers could not be more proud of achieving such typical, independent lives!

It's truly thrilling to be stopping by a store in their neighborhood and look up to see one of our AIMers walking by—going to work, walking a dog, or going out for a bite to eat. The world is their oyster, and they are loving it!

## Tutus and Ties 2019



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Tutus and Ties Fun Run will be on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Lakeway City Park. Please plan to join us—registration is now open at the link below.

Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000. We have a variety of sponsorship levels, and the deadline for platinum and silver sponsors to be included on our event flyer is Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Learn more on our website--

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

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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

This year for the first time we participated in Amplify Austin, the 24-hours of giving that raises millions of dollars for Austin charities. We are thrilled that we raised nearly \$10,000 on our inaugural effort. THANK YOU to all the donors who made that possible!

## Participant Corner – The Year of the Male



Blake. Beau. Clark. It was a long wait, but it has finally happened. The AIM community now includes males! These 3 young men have moved in during the past few months, and they all report that they love their new lives. Blake has been preparing for this transition since 2013, when his mother joined a group of Austin parents for a visit to The Mission Project in Kansas City to see how we could form a similar community here. His mother and stepmother, Ronda Phillips and Julie Buchanan, have been on AIM's board since its inception and have dedicated thousands of hours over the years to building this community, and Blake has been participating in AIM socials throughout those years, awaiting his turn to live alongside his AIM friends. To say the least, Blake was ready!

## 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

Beau and Clark haven't been participating in AIM socials for quite as long, but they too have been laying the foundation for this transition for years. In 2016 Clark's mom signed up for the AIM email list at the regional transition fair held each winter at Round Rock High School. Clark began participating in AIM socials in June 2018, and in anticipation of his move to AIM, he got a job at Mod Pizza so he would be working close to his new home.

Beau's road to AIM was a little different. Whereas most AIMers were born with disabilities, Beau's disabilities stem from a traumatic brain injury he sustained in a car accident when he was a young adult. After years of rehabilitation and therapy, last summer he was ready to take on the next challenge—work, and he started working at ABC Home and Commercial Services.



KVUE News did a story about Beau, which you can see at this link:

<https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/austin-business-gives-man-with-brain-injury-second-chance-at-work/269-19979cc5-2493-4c04-ad84-1a4ea236593a>

## 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: HCI Socials x 17, Chick Fil A Fundraiser, Game Night & Pizza, P Terry's, Springfest, Bowling, and Putt Putt.

## Employees

AIM is a labor of love for AIMer families. The reason that we have been able to make so much happen on a shoestring budget is, in large part, because these families have been willing to put in long hours on an unpaid volunteer capacity.

Happily, however, through steady fundraising over the years, we have now reached the point where we can hire our first part-time employees. We have hired a facilitator for our Monday Group gatherings and a Transportation Coordinator. In addition, we have hired several part-time drivers who drive AIMers to and from work.

## Drivers Wanted



We plan to hire 1 or 2 additional drivers. If you live close to the Bee Cave/Lakeway area and would like to earn a little extra spending money (or if you simply have a few free hours each week that you would like to dedicate to helping some neighbors who don't drive get to work) then please email us at [info@aimtx.org](mailto:info@aimtx.org) to learn more. We pay \$12/hour and offer flexible schedules.

## AIM Committees

AIM families remain hands on. In addition to helping plan and host AIM socials, AIM recently formed 2 parent committees—Transportation and Safety. Both of these committees have been hard at work this spring.

The Transportation Committee started from scratch developing policies and guidelines regarding the use of AIM's minivan and hiring drivers.

The Safety Committee created a 19-page Handbook of Safety Guidelines that includes invaluable information about topics such as safety in the apartment, online, and in the community.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Sophie Sanchez, sister of AIMer Cristina, has been instrumental in helping AIMers get some exercise, hone athletic skills, and just have fun every Sunday at Hill Country Indoor. Sophie coordinates the volunteers who lead games like pickleball, volleyball, and indoor soccer, as well as other activities like archery tag.

AIM thanks Sophie for her dedication to helping AIMers lead their best lives through fitness and fun! And of course, we thank HCI for allowing AIMers to use their beautiful facility each week.

Sophie is recruiting additional HCI Sunday volunteers. If you would like to help, email her at [info@aimtx.org](mailto:info@aimtx.org)



## AIM Cookbooks

AIM has sold over 200 cookbooks. Recipes are designed to help AIMers fix meals using the crockpot, George Foreman grill, and microwave, so that they don't need to use the stove and oven. Cookbooks can be ordered on our website.

We would like to thank Lake Travis High School volunteers who helped assemble AIM cookbooks this spring, as well as Claire Havens, who is helping complete the assembly.

## Fundraising

AIM's minivan, affectionately named Sparky, is transformative. Blake, Beau, and Clark were able to join AIM because we now offer transportation to work.

We want to thank everyone who over the years has donated to AIM, thereby allowing us to purchase Sparky, hire drivers, and change lives!