



Adults Independent and Motivated

Making Independence Possible

February 15, 2023

Amplify Austin Kicks Off

AIM has set a goal of raising \$30,000 during this year's citywide annual giving day called Amplify Austin. This event raises over \$10 million dollars for charities throughout Central Texas, and AIM depends on the funds we raise each year.

During the 2022 Amplify campaign, AIM raised the most dollars in early giving for the small-nonprofit category and was awarded a \$2,500 prize from Amplify Austin. The 2023 early giving is now underway, and we would love your support to again win this prize.

Please go to <https://www.amplifyatx.org/organizations/adults-independent-and-motivated> to make a donation today.

AIM is Hiring – Director of Operations

A growing local non-profit organization, Adults Independent and Motivated (AIM), provides independent living support to adults with disabilities such as Down syndrome and Autism. Founded in 2014, AIM is looking for a multifaceted part-time individual to fill a new position as our Director of Operations.

The Director of Operations will assist the Board of Directors in achieving the vision of AIM by assisting in fundraising activities, attending social events, maintaining the website and database, operating as the main point of contact for general operations, networking with other disability groups, generating marketing materials and performing administrative and basic bookkeeping tasks. This person will report directly to the board and attend board and committee meetings. This is a newly created position that will grow and evolve as the organization grows.

Qualifications include:

- Detail oriented
- Strong communication skills, both verbal and written
- Computer skills with basic spreadsheet knowledge
- Able to work remotely and independently
- Self-motivated, energetic and outgoing

Interested Candidates can express their interest and send their resume to info@aimtx.org

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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

AIM Visits The Mission Project

In 2013 several people from Austin went to Kansas City to learn about an innovative community called The Mission Project. Following that trip, those families began to meet and figure out how to replicate that model in central Texas, an effort that gave rise to the community we now call AIM.

As we continue to follow in their footsteps, seven AIM parents and board members recently paid their own way to Kansas City to again visit and learn from The Mission Project. Beginning 10 years before AIM, they continue creating new initiatives to help their Participants thrive, and we appreciate them sharing their innovative approach with us. We are the only successful replication of their model thus far, although we would both love to see similar communities in cities across the country.

What makes TMP and AIM unique is the fact that participants live in a normal apartment complex alongside people without disabilities; they have surprisingly typical adult lives—holding jobs, having a robust social life, and living on their own; and participants’ families are actively engaged with the program. It is a successful blend of allowing participants to take as much responsibility for themselves as they can, giving their parents ongoing meaningful roles in their lives, and providing a framework for the families to work together to provide the supports that, because of the participants’ disabilities, are essential.

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 Bowling at High 5, Dinner at Panera Bread, Volunteering at Westlake United Methodist Church, Lakeway Trail of Lights, Friendsgiving, Pioneer Farms Pumpkin Nights and fitness at HCI

AIMer Skills Inventory

For families considering AIM or donors contributing to our community, it’s natural to wonder how we measure success, and it’s undeniable that the definition of success is unique to every AIMer. For some who have never lived away from home, the responsibility of managing every aspect of daily life may present a very steep learning curve, whereas others may adjust to their new routines very quickly. But if you ask any family member whose young adult has made this transition, one universal commonality is personal growth. While it may take some longer than others, each and every AIMer builds upon his or her strengths and develops new competencies, often at a much more rapid pace than anyone would have expected. In short, every AIM family has remarkable stories to share, and each story represents a key element of what makes AIM special.

Board Members:

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

As we continue to grow, AIM has developed an assessment tool to measure the growth of our participants more precisely. Families will complete our new AIMer Skills Inventory when they apply to AIM and then will update it annually in order to monitor growth over time in a wide variety of areas. We hope this data will be useful in a number of ways, including planning for future AIM families, targeting and improving AIM programming, and sharing the benefits of AIM with communities near and far.



Generosity to AIM

A Donation that “Enspires”

AIM would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Enspire for their generous donation. Enspire provides a powerful engagement platform that helps companies attract and retain employees in a custom-branded mobile app. But they are also a company who takes giving back to their community seriously, and this year they asked their employees to nominate organizations where their gift would have a big impact. Kendra Pecci, aunt of newest AIMer Zach, nominated AIM because she has seen firsthand how AIM has transformed Zach’s life. Kendra has supported AIM ever since she became aware of the organization, and she brought numerous supporters to the 2022 Fun Run. Thank you, Kendra, and thank you Enspire!

Westlake United Methodist Church

AIMer Gracie and her parents Ron and Kim Eudy attend Westlake United Methodist Church. A few months ago, the church generously designated AIM as the recipient of their Communion Rail Offering, and to mark the occasion, they showed the congregation a video from the Eudy family sharing what AIM means to them. In December, a few members of the AIM community joined WUMC on a service project creating holiday baskets for refugees and asylum seekers served by Casa Marianella. The video the Eudy’s created can be seen at this link: https://vimeo.com/674644936?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=166031716. We are incredibly grateful to WUMC for their generous support.

AIM by the Numbers - 2022

\$50,000+	Money raised by 6th Annual Tutus and Ties Fun Run
\$29,000+	Money raised by 2022 Amplify Austin
8,021	Miles driven by volunteers and paid drivers in Sparky
\$1,700	Total received from AmazonSmile to date
1,323	Hours Volunteered with AIM
974	People who receive AIM emails
450	People who follow AIM on Facebook
151	Hours worked by AIMers each week on average
39	Meetings of Monday Night Group
37	HCI Sundays for fitness and fun
19	AIMers and Prospective AIMers
14	Socials (other than HCI)
11	Outreach events
10	Occupational Therapy Students from St. Augustine University helping AIMers
8	Years since the 1st AIMers moved into their apartments

AIM by the Numbers – 2022 cont'd

- 7 AIMer parents visiting the community upon which AIM is modeled, The Mission Project in Kansas City, KS
- 6 Part-time employees
- 3 Weekly HCI Volunteers
- 2nd Place finish for Sparks Special Olympics basketball team at the area tournament
- 1 Short film being made about AIM for Navigate Life video series



2022 Donors

AIM relies entirely on donations for our operations. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU to all of our 2022 Donors!

\$4,000+ Donors

Independent Financial
Westlake United Methodist Church

\$3,000+ Donors

Enspire
Darla & Bobby Jones
Ashley & Hector Sanchez

\$2,000+ Donors

Jon & Mary Dahm
ILHIGH Amplify Austin
Lisa & Richard Warner

1,000+ Donors

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Ron Eudy Law PLLC
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TruWest Credit Union

Thank you!

2022 Donors – cont'd

\$500+ Donors

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Gunfire Games (video game studio)
Sven Gustafson
Colin Guzenda

2022 Donors – cont'd

Up to \$250 Donors cont'd

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Anonymous Donors

15 Donors gave over \$7,000

Tributary Donations

IMO Jan Bankston
IMO Delbert Buchanan
IHO Rebecca & Parents
IMO Rebecca's Grandparents
IHO Gracie Eudy
IMO Robert S Jones
IHO Zach Jones
IMO Bill & Lena Lambert
IHO Chris Lucido
IHO The Manning Family
IHO Scout & Levi Manning
IHO Joe Kelly Obenhaus
IHO Clark Pearson
IHO Josephine Pearson & John Manukyan
IMO Jim Perzan
IHO Ashley & Hector Sanchez
IHO Cristina Sanchez
IHO Sophie & Cristina Sanchez

Thank
You

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