



West-Central Independent Living Solutions

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March 6, 2013

Dear Editor,

West-Central Independent Living Solutions, an independent living center that provides comprehensive services to individuals with disabilities in Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties, would like to invite the residents of our service area to join us in observing National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month throughout March. This national observance offers a chance to learn more about the vital contributions that people with disabilities are making in our neighborhoods.

This year, our nation continues to address serious budget issues seeking to provide security – in every sense of the word – for all Americans and ensure that each of us has the opportunity to pursue our dreams and to contribute our own unique talents to the fabric of our communities. The diversity that enriches our nation and the freedoms that all Americans cherish are embodied in the lives of people with disabilities – those whose interests are often overlooked and whose needs are often unmet when budgets are tight. This year's theme, "Look Beyond, and see my potential," is intended to encourage our communities to embrace the richness of America's diversity by considering the talents of all people, including people with developmental disabilities.

It is so important to note that family, friends, and the community all play a role in supporting people with disabilities as they pursue their dreams. At WILS, we believe that all individuals have the right to right to control their lives based on informed choices that maximize their level of personal autonomy.

WILS will be taking part in the KMMO Home Show on March 22nd and 23rd in Marshall and the KOKO Home Show on April 5th and 6th. We encourage those attending these home shows to visit our table to learn more about the contributions people with disabilities can make to our communities and to learn more about the services WILS can provide to empower those with disabilities to live more independent lives.

As the Executive Director of West-Central Independent Living Solutions, I challenge the people living in our service area to get to know someone with a developmental disability. Help us celebrate National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2013.

If you would like any more information or to learn more about WILS and the programs and services we offer, please contact us at: 660-422-7883 or view our website at wils-helps.org.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kay
Executive Director

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