



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Money Follows the Person Success Story

West-Central Independent Living Solutions - Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need.

In January, 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded a Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Grant to Missouri. The MFP Demonstration Grant covers expenses such as Rent Deposits, Utility Deposits, Cleaning Supplies, Toiletries, Furniture, Household Items, Groceries (one time only), Vehicle Modification and Durable Medical Equipment. The overall goal of MFP is *"to support people who have disabilities and those who are aging to move from a nursing facility or habilitation center to a quality community setting that meets their needs and wants."* The Grant supports state efforts to move people currently residing in institutions back into their communities and to emphasize home and community-based services (HCBS) rather than institutional placement.

The grant was awarded for the time period of January 1, 2007, and has been renewed through September 30, 2016, with an additional four years to spend any awards.

The following story is Betty's story.

Betty is a 74 year old resident of Clinton. Betty suffers from an array of health issues and uses a walker and a wheelchair for mobility. Betty used to live in a big beautiful home with her husband until he passed from cancer. When asked, Betty talked about her beautiful belongings which filled her home. Betty has spent the last year in and out of the hospital and nursing home, having to let go of the beautiful treasures and memories she once was able to possess. While in the nursing home she did not have the freedom or the space she once enjoyed while living in her own home.

When Betty found that West-Central Independent Living Solutions had the Money Follows the Person Program available, she was ecstatic. The WILS MFP Coordinator met with Betty on several occasions to discuss what Betty would need to live on her own. During these meetings, Betty was able to decide what colors she desired and what type of furniture she wanted. Unlike at the nursing home, Betty also got to decide what types of food she would like in the categories allotted in the program.

On January 27, 2014, WILS employees went to Betty's new home with all the basic items one would need to set up a home. Betty was unable to afford the co-payment for her hospital bed, so WILS was

able to gift this item to her. January 28, 2014 rolled around and WILS employees picked up Betty's belongings from the nursing home and brought them to her new apartment. When Betty arrived, she got to unlock the door and walk in. Betty was able to tell WILS employees where she would like all her belongings so that she could make her new apartment *her home*.

Betty told WILS employees that she was grateful for all the opportunities MFP has given her and that she can't wait to have card playing night with her new neighbors and friends. Betty is happy to have the freedom she wanted in her life again!

Money Follows the Person helped give Betty her life back and her independence without having to spend a single penny! Who wouldn't want that??? There are always options in life, you make the choice!

If you or know anyone that may be interested in the Money Follows the Person Program or any other Independent living solutions, please contact West-Central Independent Living Solutions at 1-866-806-5191 or visit our website at www.w-ils.org.

Where there's a WILS, there's a WAY!

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