

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WILS is having a birthday!

Warrensburg, MO – September 11, 2013

West-Central Independent Living Solutions is 17 this month! On September 11, 1996, the by-laws were accepted and WILS became a non-residential, community-based center for independent living dedicated to empowering people with disabilities to achieve and maintain their independence. Originally established as Warrensburg Independent Living Services, the name was changed in 2003 to West-Central Independent Living Solutions to better reflect the WILS mandate to provide services throughout a 6 county area. WILS' service area encompasses Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis and Saline Counties.

WILS was established to assist people with disabilities through the four core services of Information and Referral, Advocacy, Peer Support and Independent Living Skills Training. WILS has experienced steady growth throughout their history. From the original office in Warrensburg in 1996, they now have outreach offices in Sedalia, Warsaw and Lexington and are in the process of completing an office in Clinton. Following a trial period of having a part-time office in Marshall, plans are now in progress to acquire premises for a full-time office there, as well. Accomplishing that goal will place a WILS office in each service county, resulting in WILS having more outreach offices than any other CIL in Missouri.

WILS is dedicated to the Independent Living philosophy which is based on the concepts of Choice, Control and Change. Many people with disabilities may not be aware that they have options which can allow them live more independently. Centers for Independent Living (CILS) provide education about available opportunities so they can choose from what they have learned and set goals. Once consumers have chosen the goals they wish to achieve, CIL staff assist them in accomplishing their goals so the consumer is in control; each consumer decides what needs to be done and how to achieve it. Through independent choices and taking control of one's life, change takes place with the support and assistance of CIL staff. To accomplish their mission, WILS works closely and collaborates with Care Connections for Aging, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, county interagency and CHART organizations in all 6 counties and numerous other agencies and organizations throughout their service area.

Despite the growth of the past 17 years and collaboration with other agencies, underserved populations still exist. If you or a loved one has a disability and needs help, don't hesitate to contact WILS for information about available services.

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