

The WILS Way

News from West-Central
Independent Living Solutions

Main Office

610 N. Ridgeview Drive
Warrensburg, MO 64093.

Questions, suggestions and
story ideas can be directed to
Sue Kraus, Editor.
660-422 7883, ext. 112 or
skraus@w-ils.org

Save the Date

**Outdoors Without
Limits
May 16th**



**Texas Hold'em
Fundraiser
April 22nd**



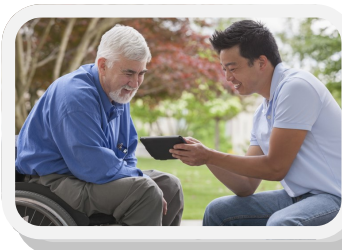
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Consumer Directed Program



West Central Independent Living Solutions, (WILS) is a Center for Independent Living that focuses on empowering people with disabilities to achieve and maintain their independence. WILS has a vision that encourages a community where all individuals can participate fully in activities of daily living regardless of any disability.

Much like our vision, we offer a variety of services that focuses on the ability of an individual rather than their disability. Part of this vision is a program called Consumer Directed Services.

Consumer Directed Services, also known as the CDS program, is a Medicaid funded program that allows individuals with physical disabilities to stay in their home while maintaining their independence. The CDS program gives the individual the ability to direct their own care with the help of a person of their choosing. The Individual would be responsible for hiring someone to assist them, setting that persons wage, and setting the hours they work. Basically, this person is an employer and hires employees to come to the home and help with things like personal care, house-keeping, meals, and transportation.

In order to qualify for this program a person needs to be at least 18 years old, have active Medicaid and meet the level of care that would require someone to assist this person with activities of daily living. The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) will first evaluate an individual over the phone to see if they would qualify for the program. Once that has been determined DHSS will send a social worker to that person's home in order to determine how much help, and what kind of help they need in their home. WILS offers assistance during this process and can address any questions or concerns. Once DHSS has given this person a plan of care, or breakdown of how much help they need, WILS assists this person in maintaining the CDS program.

WILS will assist individuals on the CDS program in many ways; they will be assigned a CDS specialist from WILS who will help them with the CDS program. The CDS specialist will contact this person once a month in order to ensure that the CDS program is going well and if they need any assistance in other areas such as safety and wellbeing. They will come to the home every six months in order to update paperwork, make sure that the plan of care is being followed, and that the individual remains as independent as possible in the home. WILS staff is well equipped to assist individuals in maintaining their independence in all aspects of their lives and strongly believe that, Where there's a WILS there's a Way.

Lindsey Sanders



Where There's A WILS, There's A Way

West-Central Independent Living Solutions

E-Mail: info@w-ils.org

Website: <http://www.w-ils.org>

Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts

Governor Greitens wants to change the point count for eligibility for CDS from 21 to 27.

What this means: This will cause 16,000 consumers just like you to lose services completely. At WILS alone it would cause 119 consumers to lose CDS services. Tell them what the effects of this could be. People's conditions could go downhill, people may become hospitalized, and maybe worse!

Governor Greitens wants to cut the cost cap for CDS at 60% of a nursing home stay.

What this means: This would mean that the most a consumer could get would be 3.5 hours, 7 days per week!

We need your help! Talk to your legislators about your story and how CDS allows you to live in your home and remain independent. Tell them what your daily struggles are and how you would be affected if you lost your services. **They have requested to hear your story!**

Below is the list of legislators by county and their contact information.

Benton	
Jay Houghton	573-751-3649
Ed Emery	573-751-2108

Henry	
Wanda Brown	573-751-3971
Ed Emery	573-751-2108

Lafayette	
Glen Kolkmeier	573-751-1462
Dan Houx	573-751-3850
Denny Hoskins	573-751-4302

Johnson	
Dean Dohrman	573-751-2204
Dan Houx	573-751-3850
Denny Hoskins	573-751-4302
Glen Kolkmeier	573-751-1462

Pettis	
Dave Muntzel	573-751-0169
Dan Houx	573-751-3850
Nathan Beard	573-751-9774
Dean Dohrman	573-751-2204

Saline	
Dave Muntzel	573-751-0169
Dean Dohrman	573-751-2204
Denny Hoskins	573-751-4302

We will do all we can to advocate for you as well, but the legislators have asked specifically to hear your voice!

Thank you!

Allison Easterwood
Associate Executive Director

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110 W MASON ST, ODESSA MO 64076-1261
116 W JEFFERSON ST, CLINTON MO 64735-2061
225 W MAIN ST, PO BOX 1964, WARSAW MO 65355-1964

Voice	Toll Free	Fax
660-422-7883	800-236-5175	660-422-7895
660-829-1980	866-558-5588	660-829-2353
816-565-4470	866-574-8931	816-956-5020
660-383-4745	866-806-5191	660-383-1097
660-223-0001	888-840-6987	660-438-3076

Consumer Spotlight - Rick Flair

Legally Deaf Man Skates His Dream

My name is Richard Thomas and I'm a WILS client. I have been legally deaf since birth. I'm 58 years old and I fell in love with skating at a very early age. My mom loved to skate and introduced me to it. When I was four years old and the pond at our park would freeze over my mom would take my sister and me over to the park at night to skate. A year later my mom took us roller skating and I was hooked. I skated every Saturday and Sunday, morning and night. On TV I saw a beautiful young lady named Peggy Fleming figure skating and I knew that was what I wanted to do. I continued roller skating until 1978 and at age twenty I decided to try ice skating. I found a rink in Overland Park, Kansas called Iceland South. I went about three feet my first time on the ice and fell. I signed up and took group lessons through the ISI- Ice Skating Institute beginner's class. I got Pre Alpha, Alpha, and Beta badges during this time. Iceland South closed its doors so I went to King Louis. In 1982 I earned the chance to skate in the first ice skating competition in Special Olympics in Missouri. I didn't have a coach and choreographed my own routine, ultimately winning my first gold medal.



In 1986 I returned to roller skating since it had been added to the Missouri Special Olympics. I also did speed skate racing. In 1988 I got the chance to do a style called school figures. In 1992 I was asked to skate with a young lady and we skated to a waltz song. From 1986 to 1992 I won 19 gold medals and one silver. After taking off from 1992 to 2012 I returned to skating with a simple reunion of skaters at the roller rink one night. This lead me back to ice skating and competition because of an e-mail I wrote to the USFS asking if there were any programs or competitions for disabled skaters. I figured I could do one or two competitions for fun. They asked if I would go to Scotland for a new event for disable skaters. I got a coach and trained for seven months. I never made it to Scotland, but I did skate in the Pennsylvania Special Olympics in January 2014 in Johnstown, PA. Next in April 2014 in Dallas, TX I participated in Skate Dallas against special Olympic skaters from all over Texas and won two gold medals: one in free skate and one in compulsories. In March 2015 I skated at a competition in Jefferson City, MO and won gold. I also competed in 2016 and won two gold medals. I've been very lucky to have some world class coaches.

I finally got to skate at Ice Castles in July 2015 at the ISI World Championships in Chicago, Illinois. I won three Gold Medals. The ISI has given me the chance to go to Skate Asia as their Special Skater so when money allows I'll go there. I've had three TV interviews, one on channel 9 in Kansas City, one on Channel 13 in Jefferson City, and one on NBC in Tulsa. In November 2015 I started training with three awesome ladies in Dallas. With their help I skated the ISI National Competition Holiday Challenge in McKinney, TX and won three Gold Medals. Working with these three ladies has been so wonderful. They understood my passion and love for skating and went with it. My current goals are passing the ISI Special Skater 8,9,10 tests, and returning to the ISI World Championships. My next TV interview will be on ABC's Good Morning America Sunday Edition, sometime in the future. My next competition is April 28-30 2017 in Knoxville, TN at the 48th annual Robert Unger competition. I love skating. I have been lucky enough to meet and talk with some famous skaters like Dorothy Hamill and Sasha Cohen. I feel skating has brought me so much, from traveling around the country and seeing places I would not have seen otherwise, to meeting people from around the world, interacting with other skaters and coaches at the ISI World Championships. Skating is my life's passion. I can't imagine life without it now because it has given me so much pleasure.

West-Central Independent Living Solutions

Warrensburg

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(660) 422-7883
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Sedalia

1800 W Main
(660) 829-1980
(866) 558-5588

Odessa

110 W. Mason
(816) 565-4470
(866) 574-8931

Clinton

116 Jefferson St
(660) 383-4745
(866) 806-5191

Warsaw

225 West Main St
(660) 223-0001
(888) 840-6987

West-Central Independent Living Solutions is a non-profit Center for Independent Living that works to help people with disabilities by offering services and programs to help them achieve and maintain their independence.

WILS' five core services are information and referral, independent living skills training, advocacy, peer support and transition.

For individuals, WILS offers supportive programs including accessible ramp construction, low cost accessible transportation, Consumer Directed Services, assistive technology, and help to transition from an institution to independent community living. We can also assist eligible participants to obtain adaptive telephone and computer equipment through Missouri's Telecommunications Access Program.

In addition, WILS staff can guide businesses and organizations through the process of performing accessibility surveys and implementing transition plans to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.



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

www.w-ils.org



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