

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!

WILS will be holding a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament Fundraiser on April 29, 2017.

Proceeds of the fundraiser will support WILS Ramp Program. The program builds ramps for individuals with disabilities who do not have safe entry to their home but cannot afford the construction of a ramp. Income guidelines do apply for program acceptance.

Details for the Texas Hold'em Tournament will be posted on WILS website, www.w-ils.org, as they become available.



Riders4 WILS Fundraiser 2016

WILS inaugural Riders4WILS Poker Run Fundraiser, which was held October 15, 2016 was a major success. F&C Bank generously supported the event by donating \$2,500.00 to become the event sponsor. With our great sponsors and the 49 individuals who participated in the event WILS surpassed their anticipated goal and raised \$5,100.00. The funds raised are being used to support WILS Transportation Program by allowing us to transport individuals who cannot afford to pay for the services.

Winner of the High Poker Hand \$150.00 prize was Benjiunen Denney who graciously donated the winnings back to the event.

Winner of the Low Poker Hand \$50.00 prize was Josh Huffmaster
Winner of the 50/50 Raffle, in the amount of \$85.00 was Gene Burgess who also graciously donated his winnings back to the event.

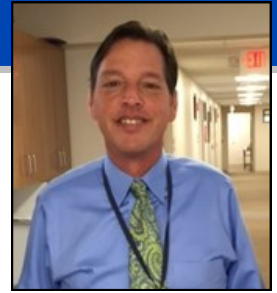
We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event such a great success and we look forward to doing it again on October 7, 2017.



Follow Riders4WILS:

Website: www.riders4wils.org Twitter & Instagram: Riders4WILS

From the desk of Steve Estopare, Executive Director.



As a Center for Independent Living, one of our five core services is advocacy. Many, if not most individuals correlate Jefferson City and our Legislators with advocacy. Not so fast my friends. Yes, Jefferson City and Legislators are essential to our advocacy efforts; however, each and every day we advocate for our consumers and this act often goes unnoticed.

Here are some of our advocacy efforts that are overlooked:

- Attending meetings concerning sidewalk/ADA updates
- Calling on suppliers to give us the best deal on Assistive Technology
- Meeting with key stakeholders in the community to bring the WILS initiative to the forefront
- Educating the general public about the Independent Living philosophy
- Calling doctors, pharmacists, and lawyers on behalf of our consumers

So, most everything we do has an advocacy component attached. But we need your help with these advocacy efforts; we need you at community meetings with us; we need you at Jefferson City with us; and most importantly, we need you to understand that your voices need to be heard.

As a Center for Independent Living, WILS with our hard-working staff and over 500 consumers can change the stigma and barriers that exist in our community. We have to do this Advocacy effort together – we are **STRONGER** together!

Please call your worker at WILS and ask how you can get involved in our advocacy efforts; better yet, call me at 660-422-7883 and we can discuss advocacy opportunities.

Have a GREAT day,

Steve Estopare

Meet the Staff

Hi everyone, my name is Dawn and I am the Transportation Coordinator for WILS. You may not have been aware that WILS has a transportation program to help our consumers live independently, but we do. In fact, our transportation program was the first service WILS offered when the organization was formed back in 1997. We serve six counties including Johnson, Pettis, Saline, Henry, Lafayette and Benton county. So if you are receiving this newsletter, you are in our service area!

WILS' accessible transportation program offers personable transportation in which WILS transports on a one on one basis with door to door service, we transport at the convenience of the rider. WILS Transportation services are a fee based service; fees are based on household annual income. Scheduling is done on a first come, first served basis so advanced booking is essential.

In 2016, we provided 1,036 total trips, traveling 48,968 miles!!! Of our trips last year, 66% were for medical appointments, 17% for social trips, 1% for nutritional and 7% for essential shopping, 3% for education, and 5% for advocacy and 1% other trips. 100% of WILS riders were people with disabilities; while 33% were also identified as elderly, in addition to having a disability.

With the purchase of a new 15 passenger van we are now able to service more consumers in 2017. Give us a call and let us assist you in living more independently. Please feel free to contact me at 660-422-7883 so we can get you started using our transportation services.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO



**WEST-CENTRAL
INDEPENDENT LIVING
SOLUTIONS**



Working to empower people with disabilities to achieve
and maintain their independence.

Wednesday, January 25, 2017
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

West-Central Independent Living Solutions
610 N Ridgeview Drive
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Hors d'oeuvres will be served
Please RSVP by January 15, 2017 to:
(660) 422-7883 or kwyatt@w-ils.org

West-Central Independent Living Solutions

Warrensburg

610 N. Ridgeview Drive
(660) 422-7883
(800) 236-5175

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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