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VetAssist with WILS

You fought for our freedom. *Let us help fight for yours.*

*Apply for and use your VA Aid and Attendance funds for care at home. **You earned it.***



MAIN OFFICE – 612 N. Ridgeview Drive, Warrensburg, MO

WILS VetAssist® program works for you by getting the care you need to stay independent at home.

Calling all Veterans and Surviving Spouses, be one of the 98% VetAssist participants satisfied with their services.

The VetAssist program can include assistance with:

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Medication reminders
- Meal preparation
- Personal care
- Light housekeeping
- Laundry & more!

Do you have the “3 Ms”?

1. Military: Are you a veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran who served at least 90 days on active duty, at least one day during wartime with an honorable discharge?
2. Medical: Do you have a

non-service-connected medical condition causing you to need assistance with activities of daily living?

3. Money: Do you have a net worth at or less than \$129,094? A residence and auto are not counted as part of net worth. Ongoing non-reimbursable medical and long-term care expenses may reduce your countable income.

Did you serve during one of the VA Defined War Periods?

- World War II: 12/7/41-12/31/46
 - Korean Conflict: 6/27/50-1/31/55
 - Vietnam Era: 8/5/64-5/7/75
- For veterans who served 2/28/61-8/5/64, must have served “in country” (Vietnam).

- Persian Gulf War: 8/2/90-date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law. Must have served active duty for two years or the full period of which the veteran was called for active duty.

Visit w-ils.org/VetAssist for more information or contact the WILS team today at 855-WILSWAY.



Jackie, WILS IL Benefits Admin.



WILS provides options that can make Independent Living a **choice**. WILS encourages participants to take **control** by setting & accomplishing their own personal goals. Learning to make informed decisions allows participants to **change** from unnecessary dependency to full inclusion in community life.



Everett (97) and Jane (90) have been married for 31 years. Everett received a TAP phone from WILS in 2015. He called us back and was informed that he was eligible for a new TAP phone. He requested and received the updated version of the same phone he was using.

Everett explained that his wife is in a nursing home and has the start of dementia. He visits her three times a week. He asked about a phone for her.

A TAP Specialist met with Everett and his wife at the nursing home. She had Everett's new phone for him to take home and she showed Jane a phone that has the ability to have pictures or names written in squares on it so she is able to push that button and it will speed dial that person. Jane was so excited about this ease of transition to using the phone. She is hard of hearing as well but this phone was amplified enough for her to easily make and receive a phone call independently.

Their love for each other is very strong. They held hands throughout the visit and Everett explained they always have to have their wheelchairs close enough so they can kiss.

Now Everett and Jane will be able to call and have a conversation independently whenever they need to hear each other's voice.

Deb's Desk

A note from WILS Executive Director

Greetings Friends of WILS,

I must admit this has been a difficult letter to write to all of you. Our world has turned upside down over the last several weeks. We have moved from our offices to working from home. We are relying on technology old and new to connect with all of you. We are constantly trying to learn about changes to state regulations that may impact our consumers. We are missing your smiling faces and the smiles of our coworkers.

In spite of it all, we are grateful and hopeful. I hope my letter finds you feeling empowered that you can make it through these challenging days. I want to assure you that the Staff at WILS is fully engaged in providing services to help you live independently. You may hear more from us than you desire. Sorry, I have asked staff to reach out weekly and check on all of you. We want to make sure that you are healthy, have food and supplies, and are feeling as safe as possible in your homes. You matter to us and every effort will be made on your behalf.

As we continue to navigate during these uncertain times, I encourage you to find a bright spot in each

day. Keeping our spirits up is so very important. We live in the greatest country in the world, one with vast resources to get us through tragic times. I encourage all of you to reach out to others over the phone and check on their well-being. I have a favorite quote that goes something like this: Character is how you treat someone who can do nothing for you. I encourage you to be of strong character and as you care for yourself reach out to others who may be in need.

As always, WILS is here for you! Share your challenges and successes with us. Together, we will get through the storm.



Deb Hobson,
Executive Director

WILS in-person outreach and events are suspended until further notice.

Office hours continue to be 8am - 5pm and WILS staff can be reached by phone at 855-WILSWAY.



The results of the 2020 Census help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flows into communities every year for the next decade. A fair and accurate account is important – make the disability community count!

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide.

May – July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

Take charge of change with IL Skills

In a heartbeat, a life can change forever. A traumatic brain injury from a vehicle crash, paralysis from a stroke, or a diagnosis of a disease can all affect your ability to care for yourself.

If you have trouble performing daily tasks the way you used to, WILS Independent Living Skills Training program can assist in developing skills needed to manage day-to-day life activities. WILS staff can assist in learning how to use daily living aids for self-care, such as eating, meal prep., bathing, dressing, writing and basic communication.

Daily living aids include tub benches, reachers, large print or talking devices, adapted utensils, and telephones. Such devices

adapt the environment, rather than the person. In addition, WILS provides IL Skills training for management of home, time, and money or organization and scheduling skills, school and work activities. IL Skills training can be provided on any topic that helps an individual with disabilities live more independently.

IL Skills training often happens one-on-one, individualized to the consumer's needs and goals, but can be in a workshop or small group setting. Training may occur at a WILS center, in the community, or at the individual's home.

Coming to terms with a new reality can be overwhelming but you are still in control of your life. It's entirely possible to overcome the challenges you face and enjoy a fulfilling life. Sometimes, we just need a little assistance making living with a disability more manageable.

Do you have skills, advice, or a "hack" you would like to share? Email your tips & tricks to kwyatt@w-ils.org.



IL team: Dawn, Kathy, & Skyler.



Updates on WILS COVID-19 response and available resources can be found at W-ILS.org under the News and Events tab.

There is a list of community resources available for support and virtual activities.

If you need transportation or other assistance to obtain groceries or other necessary items, please reach out to us.

We're all in this together.

WEST-CENTRAL INDEPENDENT LIVING SOLUTIONS

WILS is a consumer driven, non-residential, 501(c)3 nonprofit resource center that serves people with disabilities in Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, and Saline counties.

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REGISTER! EDUCATE! VOTE! USE YOUR POWER!

REV UP for Independent Living

Make the disability vote count.



www.w-ils.org



@thewilsway

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