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THE WILS WAY

2nd QUARTER 2020

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

WILS shares and cares for your success

Door dashers brought PPE gifts to WILS consumers

You've heard of porch pirates, but have you heard about stoop samaritans? Probably not. We definitely made it up, but we promise it's good.

WILS staff was able to deliver care packages to nearly 600 WILS consumers. They contained awesome items like re-usable cloth masks, hand sanitizer, hand washing supplies, and more; basically, the gold standard of goodness dropped off at their doors. Why? Because we care and because consumer health and well-being are our priorities. We want every single WILS consumer to feel equipped and able to safely go out or interact with others needed.

Here's what WILS consumers had to say:

"I had no more masks. I am so thankful." – Jennifer

"I am very happy and appreciative." – Jason

"I never get presents!" – Christina

"I almost cried; it was so perfect for me." – Hannah

"Thanks Deb and staff. Tyler smiled when he got his hygiene kit. YOU ARE AWESOME!!! Stay safe and stay healthy!" – Debbie

This experience would not have been possible without our amazing community partners. A big shout out of thanks to Rightfully Sewn, Heart to Heart International,

and J. Rieger's in Kansas City.

If you're interested in becoming a WILS consumer, give us a call. We'd love to be able to welcome you into our family. Remember, where there's a WILS, there's a way.



Jennifer H. making deliveries



WILS COVID Care on the Move

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when food insecurity was higher than ever, WILS worked to supply or deliver food packages to individuals with a disability living in our six-county service area.

WILS partnered with meal delivery organizations and local food pantries to take food where it was needed and utilized WILS Transportation to take consumers to pick-up groceries and supplies. WILS also reached out to Vocational Rehabilitation, churches, and community partners to offer WILS transportation services to anyone in need. #StrongerTogether

WILS partnership with Jeremiah 29:11 project (a local GOOD 360 distributor) has provided highly needed personal hygiene items, personal assistive aids, household cleaning supplies, and even toilet paper for individuals' day-to-day needs.

WILS has continued to operate to ensure individuals with disabilities and older adults' basic needs are being met. We turned to the phones to do the majority of our outreach, calling all 630 active consumers (CDS, IL & Vet Assist) on a weekly basis to check on their well-being and connecting those in need with available resources.

Deb's Desk

A note from WILS Executive Director

Greetings from YOUR WILS Team.

In spite of the challenges of the world around us, I am pleased to report that we continue to move forward in our support for people with disabilities. The staff members are hard at work each day; so please, as you are able, share a word of thanks and appreciation.

These last few weeks, we successfully delivered nearly 600 hygiene essential bags to consumers in all 6 counties. We hope you found the items helpful. Please wear those masks! We all enjoyed getting out a bit and making those deliveries. It is not a replacement for human interaction at WILS Events, but we remain hopeful for the future and getting to see all of you face to face again.

There is certainly no shortage of advice out there on staying safe and healthy. I hope you are all soaking it up and making it a part of your daily routine. As I write this letter, the words consistent and courage keep rolling through my brain. It is easy to get lax

as we are all weary of the pandemic restrictions, but we must remain consistent in our hand washing and sanitizing, our social distancing, and of course wearing those beautiful WILS masks. Above all, we must be courageous. It does take true courage to persevere in life and see the small victories each day. If we at WILS can provide any assistance to empower your independence and perseverance, please, always reach out to us.

Most Sincerely,
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.



How to safely use your mask:
1.) Wash hands 2.) Apply mask
3.) Wash hands 4.) Remove mask
5.) Wash mask 6.) Repeat



WILS earned a 2020 Bronze Seal by adding information to our non-profit profile on GuideStar. Now our community members, as well as 10+ million GuideStar users, can find out more about our mission and programs. Plus, we've provided fresh information to 200+ charitable websites and applications that use GuideStar data, such as AmazonSmile, Facebook, and Network for Good. Check out our profile at <http://ow.ly/iTnV50zo1Cn>

Medicaid Expansion - it's up to you.

Medicaid is a government program that provides medical insurance to groups of people with income below certain levels and individuals with disabilities. Medicaid is a federal program, but it is run differently in each state.

The Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, provided for the expansion of Medicaid to cover all individuals earning incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

As of 2019, a total of 36 states and Washington, D.C. had expanded or voted to expand Medicaid, while 14 states had not. Missouri is one of those 14 states that did not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. This means that non-disabled adults without children are not eligible for

Medicaid no matter how low their income may be. This also means that parents with dependent children are only eligible with incomes that do not exceed 22 percent of the poverty level.

In 2018, the federal government covered 94% of the costs of state Medicaid expansion. Then they agreed to pay for 90% for 2020 and beyond. Because Missouri rejected the federal funding for Medicaid expansion, Missouri has been missing out on billions of federal dollars that would otherwise be available to provide healthcare to people in our state. Hopefully, that will change in the vote on the August ballot.

There are currently 113,000 in the coverage gap who

are without care. They do not meet Medicaid criteria, but do not make enough to be able to afford their own insurance.

If Missouri were to expand Medicaid, an estimated 230,000 people would be newly eligible for coverage and Missouri would only have to pay for 10% of the cost.

We need Medicaid Expansion in Missouri. Educate yourselves and get out and vote August 4, 2020! Contact WILS if you need assistance in registering to vote or need an absentee ballot.

To learn more about the ballot text for Missouri Amendment 2, Medicaid Expansion Initiative, visit ballotpedia.org.



Travis & Dennis, WILS IT staffers.

Remote work would not have been possible without the dedication and problem solving skills of WILS IT team. The dynamic duo worked hard to solve and troubleshoot every issue that popped up as WILS staff began to work from home. They may not be on the front lines, but they are the driving force behind our ability to serve WILS consumers, no matter what unforeseen circumstances come our way. Thank you for all you do to keep us running smoothly, Travis & Dennis!

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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WILS CONSUMERS ARE HIRING

Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Program is a Medicaid-based program that helps people with significant disabilities obtain assistance with personal care and daily activities to live independently and maintain their independence by allowing them to hire a Personal Care Attendant of their choosing.

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NOW PAYING UP TO \$12/HR



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