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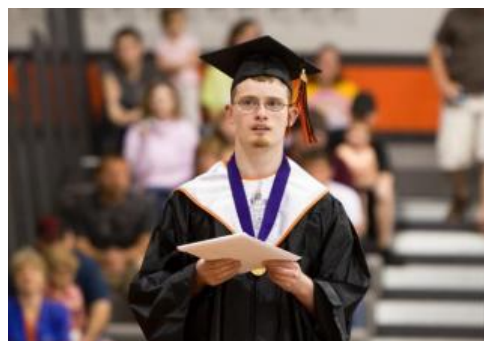
MAIN OFFICE – 612 N. Ridgeview Drive, Warrensburg, MO

WILS partners with KMOS-TV

to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the ADA

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, KMOS-TV broadcasted a series of inspirational documentary films that highlighted and celebrated individuals who have overcome mental and/or physical challenges to achieve their goals.

KMOS-TV partnered with West-Central Independent



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Living Solutions to help provide support for the broadcasting of these programs. "We are excited to partner with an important organization like WILS that works to better the lives of so many in the communities that we jointly serve." –

Scott Alvested, Community Engagement Coordinator for KMOS-TV.

The films were part of the



Perfectly Normal for Me

MOVE TO INCLUDE project. Each film sought to educate, inspire, and encourage cultural change to better serve individuals with disabilities which aligns with WILS vision of full community inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

These films aired in July on KMOS Emerge 6.3. If you missed them air live, visit pbs.org and search the film name to see trailers or full length videos.



Vision Portraits



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.



Deb's Desk

A note from WILS Executive Director

Dear WILS Consumers,

I hope this letter finds you living your best life independently! We have certainly been busy working on new programs and initiatives as well as converting some old ones into new formats. While we miss seeing you in person, I hope you have been able to connect with staff over the phone. If you have needs, be sure to reach out!

Preparation is also under way for the WILS Holiday events! Nobody does it better! It will look different this year with COVID-19, but there will still be lots of food, fun, and prizes. Watch for a flyer in the mail with dates and details. You will not want to miss out.

Thank you to all who have participated in our surveys. The information gathered is vital to our funding for Independent Living Programs. The caller ID should always say WILS or West Central Independent

Living. If in doubt, please call the Warrensburg or Sedalia Office for confirmation.

We are on the verge of launching many new programs as we close out 2020 and start 2021. Watch your mail and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram at "thewilsway". If you do not follow us on any social media, please do so at your earliest convenience. You do not want to miss out on the many opportunities unfolding over the next several months.

With Warmest Regards,
Deb Hobson,
Executive Director



What's New

Did you ever go to summer camp and hear the "accouncements" song ring out across the dining hall during breakfast? Well, if not, consider this your first morning shout-out.

WILS is hard at work transitioning Independent Living Skills training and Peer Support programs to a format that will work remotely. Please have patience as we work out the kinks. Constructive criticism is helpful and kind words of encouragement are appreciated.

Stay tuned for more info about:

Connect Crates: boxes available for pick-up or delivery. Think of them as a free monthly subscription box filled with fun activities and surprises.

KMOS Partnerships: KMOS Create comes to your living room. Join us as we participate in their programming and share with us!

Holiday Celebrations: Parking lot parties will have stations similar to the traditional parties we offer. Think of it as a drive-thru or progressive party. You're gonna love it!

MOBILE TEXT ALERTS

Receive information about remote activities, independent living, advocacy, & peer support. Consumers can opt-in by texting the phrase:



ILPEER
to **74121**



Free, unbiased Medicare insurance counseling is now available at WILS. As a CLAIM community partner, WILS will provide certified CLAIM counselors on site. Counselors will provide free Medicare insurance counseling and assistance to area Medicare beneficiaries. CLAIM was founded in 1993 and has helped Missourians save millions in out-of-pocket expenses by helping beneficiaries understand their Medicare benefits. Visit missouryclaim.org

The future is looking bright

WILS works with youth and their continued education in a variety of ways. This month, we come together to congratulate the recipients of WILS fellowship and scholarship programs.

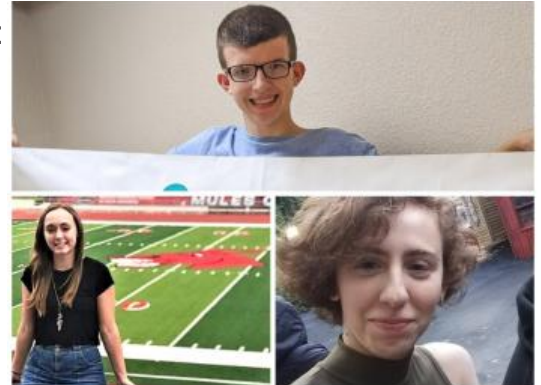
Katherine Kucera of Chesterfield and Alexis Butler of O’Fallon, each received a \$1500 Dave DeFrain Fellowship. It is open to UCM seniors studying in a field of social work or human services. The DeFrain Fellowship was established in 2016 and is named in honor of past WILS Board member and Board president Dave DeFrain, who is also a retired director of the Department for Academic Achievement at UCM.

“You can learn all your life but it is how you use that

knowledge in the betterment of others that makes the difference; at WILS, I can start my journey toward that goal,” says Kucera.

WILS collaborates with UCM’s Department of Social Work to select candidates. Recipients participate in a 480-hour practicum which includes case management, professional development, and other special projects with WILS staff.

Recipient Butler says, “I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to be a fellow for WILS during my last semester at UCMO. I hope to gain the knowledge and skills needed to further my Social Work career and empower people with disabilities to live independently.”



Tate, Alexis, & Katherine

WILS Empowerment Scholarship was awarded to Malta Bend Senior, Tate Malter. He plans to study Ag at SFCC in Sedalia.

Malter says, “I love showing cattle through FFA and 4-H. This helps me make money, but best of all gives me a job. I think this opportunity will help to obtain a career and maybe even come back to our family farm someday”



Board secretary, Sandra D.

WILS Board of Directors is the guiding force behind our mission, our vision, our staff, and our consumers. They are our biggest supporters and a strong source of inspiration. Sandra is the WILS board secretary and has been a member of the board for 3 years. “It is nice when you see someone’s face light up when you’ve told them about a service they weren’t aware was even available to them. It’s not our abilities that show us who we truly are...It is our CHOICES.”

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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Choose care at home with WILS Medicaid based Consumer Directed Services Program. It pays caregivers up to \$12 per hour.



www.w-ils.org



@thewilsway

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