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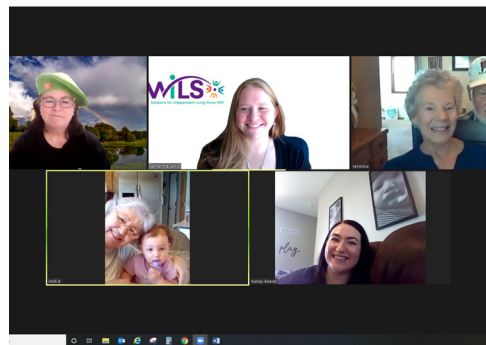
# THE WILS WAY

2nd QUARTER 2021

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

## WILS Peer Support turns digital and takes over office parking lots

Being able to talk to someone because they've been there too is the cornerstone of WILS peer support. Through thick and thin highs and lows, WILS peer support groups love getting together! Social distancing threw us for a loop, but where there's a WILS, there's a way.



### Coffee & Chat - March 29

Each month, this past quarter, WILS offered a virtual peer support group through Zoom. WILS consumers could

participate using the Zoom app or website to join with the video link or they could use the phone number provided to share in the conversation. This new way to "visit" each other while staying home took consumers a little while to get used to, but the effort was worth it to see everyone's smile again!

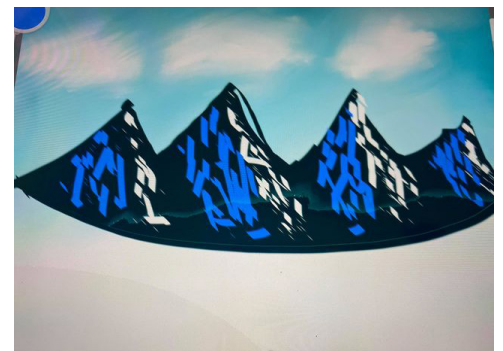
In June, the peer support painting group initiated a parking lot picnic with great success. It was the perfect chance to catch up on life, see new and old faces, and enjoy lunch in the semi-sunshine.

Another new initiative that was launched in June was WILS iPad painting led by WILS IL Coordinator Samantha and IT Systems Coordinator Dennis. They

walked participants through Auto Desk sketchbook, a free app available on Android or Apple devices. WILS was able to loan each artist their own sanitized device and stylus during the class so they could learn the art of digital painting.

After watching a how-to video, the class followed a step-by-step guide to create their own mountain scenes.

If you're interested in attending an iPad painting class, call 855-945-7929.



### iPad Painting - June 14



## Deb's Desk

### A note from WILS Executive Director

Dear Friends of WILS,

I hope you are all enjoying the warmth of summer and have been able to see more of your friends and families. We are excited to be planning some events again for our consumers.

Due to the success of our parking lot holiday parties this past December, we are hosting parking lot celebrations for ADA Day! Please make plans to attend on July 27th. We are all looking forward to seeing your smiling faces again!

These past several months, I have been hard at work advocating for funding for WILS with our government leaders in Jefferson City. We battled and got two cuts restored. Many of you contacted your senators and representatives and we are so grateful for your assistance. It is likely we will need your help again in the fall.

Thank you all so much for choosing WILS! We know consumers have choices and we feel blessed to have you as part of our "family". Please keep yourselves safe and stay healthy.

As always, reach out if we can assist you in any way as you live your best life independently!



Warmly,

Deb Hobson,  
Executive Director

## Celebrate the ADA

### WILS Consumers

You're cool and sweet just like the 31st Anniversary of the ADA and WILS wants to treat you that way!

You are invited to bring one guest for free treats & consumer prize drawings at the WILS office parking lot nearest you. RSVP by July 19 by calling 855-945-7929.

Kona Ice will be traveling to WILS offices to share shaved ice on July 27.

Sedalia 10am-11am  
Warsaw 12pm-1pm  
Warrensburg 2pm-3pm

### WILS Consumers & Supporters

You're cool and sweet too! In July 2021, the Americans with Disabilities Act turns 31! and we invite you to celebrate all month by telling us your story!

Add a photo or video post; then share on social media using #ADA31 or #ThanksToTheADA and tag us @TheWilsWay

## MOBILE TEXT ALERTS



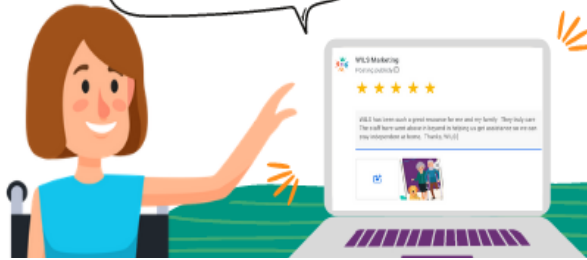
Receive information about remote activities, independent living, advocacy, & peer support. Consumers can opt-in by texting the phrase:

**ILPEER**  
to **74121**



# What is WILS?

We're glad you asked!



**What is WILS?** We know that people often ask this question and turn to a search engine like Google or a social media platform like Facebook to find the answer. We would love for people learning about The WILS Way to be able to read about your WILS experience! As a WILS supporter, could you take a few moments to write a review on Google at <http://ow.ly/KL5b50FcHIO> or Facebook at <http://ow.ly/WRn950FclhA>? We love reading your stories and appreciate your feedback.

## No Wrong Door for Robotic Pets

These cute and cuddly four-legged friends from No Wrong Door have been dog-gone delightfully easy to train. WILS consumers have been enjoying their robotic companionship for a few months and are loving their “fur-ever puppy” dogs.

The thump, thump of their little hearts tugs right on yours. The adorable robotic

pups are really interactive in all the best ways. They will nuzzle, move their heads, happily bark, can be groomed, and take naps. It's all of the reassuring snuggles with none of the troubles of pet or house training.

Research has shown that robotic pets can still offer many of the benefits of their real life counterparts. They

provide companionship, reduce stress, and offer pet therapy without the requirements or responsibilities of traditional pet ownership

If you stop by any of WILS offices, be sure to give a pat to our robotic office pups. They love wagging their tails and saying hello.



Pictured top left to right:

Gordon & his pup Lilly

Richard & his dog Chris

Kim with her dog

Vickie & her pup Jack

Veronica with her dog Scrappy

Roger with his pup Fred

Delynn with her dog

# WEST-CENTRAL INDEPENDENT LIVING SOLUTIONS

## SAY Hello!

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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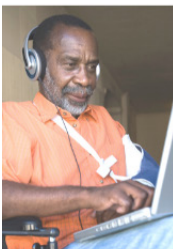
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