IN THIS ISSUE

- Holiday Cheer
- Advocacy
- Deb's Desk
- MOCII
- **KMOS Telethon**
- **IL Skills**
- You're Invited
- **MOCIL CDS**



THE WILS WAY 4th QUARTER 2021

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

The "Wils" family characters spread holiday cheer at drive-through parties in Benton, Pettis, and Johnson counties in December

WILS debuted life-sized versions of the "Wils" family of characters Wilbur, Wilma, Wilkes, William, and Willow at the consumer holiday parties. With their bright colors and festive accessories, they welcomed over 250 guests over three days in Warsaw, Sedalia, and Warrensburg.

The real star of the show was the parade of smiling faces driving through the parking lots. Each consumer was able to receive a meal gift card and the choice of using tickets to shop WILS holiday store or recieve a Walmart aift card. Guests were also given an activity packet and PPE. We hope these tokens of appreciation brought as much JOY as WILS consumers bring us all year!





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.



Dear Advocate,

Your voice is needed!
Governor Parson will be releasing his fiscal year 2023 budget in the next two months. We must let the Governor know how important the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) are to Missourians with disabilities.

Last year, Governor Parson recommended a total of a 7.5% decrease in funding for this vital program. This is unacceptable!

We are asking advocates like you to reach out to Governor Parson to ask him to include additional funding for CDS providers in his FY23 budget.

Contact Governor Parson: Mail: Office of Governor Michael L. Parson P.O. Box 720 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Facebook: @GovMikeParson Twitter: @GovParsonMO

Deb's Desk

A note from WILS Executive Director

Dear Friends of WILS,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the drive-thru holiday parties. I know it is not the same and I know many of you miss Bingo and, of course, my hilarious jokes! Well, at least the Bingo. Our staff is committed to finding additional creative ways to connect with our consumers. I really do look forward to gathering together in person soon.

We are excited that 2022 is here and that you are continuing your journey of living independently with us. For our CDS consumers, we will again be visiting you in your homes for the first time in almost two years. We will also be busy advocating for all of our consumers in Jefferson City when the legislative process begins in January. It is always a challenging fight to secure funds.

If you write up a list of New Year's resolutions, please consider adding some self-advocacy resolutions to your list. People with disabilities need to unite and speak up. I truly believe that 2022 is going to be a time of forward movement and positive changes. Please use your voice, your pen, or your keyboard - you matter and your advocacy can make a difference!

I personally want to thank you all for choosing WILS! As always, reach out if we can assist you in any way as you live your best life independently!



Warmly, Deb Hobson, Executive Director



WILS admin staff did a great job connecting with other centers, learning, & sharing info at the MOCIL annual meeting.



KMOS telethon! WILS board and staff members put in 20 volunteer hours with KMOS PBS to assist with their pledge drive on November 29 during the airings of The Missouri Bicentennial and the UCM 150th documentary. During the live breaks, WILS was recognized and thanked for their efforts. It was great to interact with the KMOS PBS community and serve as pledge takers for people calling in to make a pledge of support.

Level- Up with WILS

The heart and soul of Independent Living is being in control of your own life. WILS functions as an independent living skills resource center to help you gain that control by providing independent living skills training and combining it with daily living skills.

This past quarter, three of WILS consumers decided to challenge themselves to their personal best. They self-advocated to level-up their Independent Living Skills.

Victor worked on reading with WILS IL Coordinator in the Warrensburg office. Together, they read through the first book. It was a struggle at first, but by the second time through, he was already improving. Victor has autism, but it's not holding him back from reaching his IL goals! Tip: Practice phonics with Chris. https:// www.youtube.com/c/ ListenandLearnEnglish

Lilly worked on laundry

skills with WILS IL Coordingtor in the Warrensburg office. Together, they walked through the steps of washing and drying laundry. Using a laundry folding board, they were able to practice folding shirts so Lilly could feel confident completing this life skill on her own. Tip: Use these 10 steps to tackle your own dirty laundry https://youtu.be/ F0dmzlSYMeY

Alayna worked on communication skills with WILS IL Coordinator in the Warrensburg office. Together, they worked on appropriate small talk, question and answer prompts. Now, Alayna's ready to put her improved communication skills to work as she confidently and professionally interacts with her clients. Tip: Put these ideas into action to become a chat champion. https://youtu. be/JWybsoGx5UY

Call 855-945-7929 to learn how you can start to levelup your own IL skills!



WILS CDS Consumers, we sent out an updated task list, but we know mail can get lost in the shuffle. We're here for you! Click to get the full instruction sheet. http://ow.ly/CvZM50GZBpj

YOU'RE INVITED!

Service Animals Info

- 1-2pm Jan 18 in Warrensburg
- 1-2pm Jan 19 in Warsaw
- 11am-12pm Jan 24 in Sedalia

Take Time for You

- 11am-12pm Feb 7 in Sedalia
- 1-2pm Feb 8 in Warrensburg
- 1-2pm Feb 9 in Warsaw Let's Unplug
- 11am-12pm March 7 in Sedalia
- 1-2pm March 8 in Warrensburg
- 1-2pm March 9 in Warsaw

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.

612 N. Ridgeview Drive Warrensburg, MO 64093 Phone: 660.422.7883 Fax: 660.422.7895 TTY: 660.422.7894

1800 W. Main Street Sedalia, MO 65301 Phone: 660.829.1980

Fax: 660.829.2353 Toll Free: 855-945-7929

O

1330 Commercial Street Suite 100B Warsaw, MO 65355

Phone: 660.438.0016 Fax: 660.438.3076

> follow @thewilsway or visit w-ils.org

We believe that personal choice is a key to fulfilling the level of independence that people with disabilities prefer. With the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) program, participants are given the freedom to hire their own caregivers, family or non-family, based on their needs. Since participants in the program are the employers of their caregivers, they have more control over their care. cds.mocil.org STILL GOING STRONG M&CIL SUMMIT M&CIL CDS helped me maintain independence in my own home. **M&CIL**

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Solutions for Independent Living Since 1997

