



THE WILS WAY

WILS provides options that can make independent living a **choice**. WILS encourages participants to take **control** by setting and 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,

Happy Spring! It is that time of freshness and new life as the trees and plants begin to show their life and color. There are times I wish I could emerge from a slumber fresh and vibrant! It is more difficult to do that as we age and struggle more with mobility issues. However, I am reminded of the words from my mother and father as I was growing up on the farm: Be thankful for what you have. As I take stock, I do have so much to be thankful for. I am particularly blessed that I still love my job and am constantly surrounded by examples of perseverance and resilience.

Please watch and listen for information on activities we will be hosting over the next several months. The rumor is true, we bought a bus. This 22-passenger beauty will allow us to transport groups in comfort and style. We want to be a part of you accessing your community. Start to dream now about the places we can go...

I sincerely want to thank you all for choosing WILS! I am especially proud of our dedicated staff in all areas of our agency. As always, reach out if we can assist you in any way as you live your best life.

Warmly,
Deb Hobson, Executive Director

Spring Events

- Acrylic painting Fridays at WILS in Warrensburg, 10am - 12pm
- Drake Harbor Trail on April 24 in Warsaw, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
- Farmer's Market on May 19 in Sedalia, 2:30pm - 4:30pm
- Money Museum on June 15 in Kansas City, 2pm - 3:30pm

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"This bucket is a start to helping me get started to getting prepared for any emergency that may come about in the future."
- Nancy

It's Not Luck - Be Prepared, Not Scared

Independent Living

Thanks to a grant, WILS was able to purchase 5 gallon buckets and fill each with emergency preparedness items such as first aid kit, whistle, FEMA guide, and food and water rations. Ella said, "I've been thinking about having an emergency kit. Such a wonderful surprise to be given one. It made me feel appreciated, like I matter. Thank you." It is our hope that the kits will encourage WILS participants to think about what they may need in case of an emergency and make plans so they will feel prepared, not scared.

"Very excited to have extra knowledge on emergency preparedness."
- Crystal

WILS on the Bus Go 'Round

Independent Living

WILS has a new bus, which will enable consumers and community members to explore, learn, and discover together in their communities. This bus is designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities, and it is equipped with features such as a lift, wheelchair tie-downs, and other assistive technology. With this new bus, WILS will be able to provide transportation for its programs and services, as well as facilitate community outings and events. This initiative will help to promote inclusivity and increase opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in their communities.



Transportation



Community Care for Johnson & Lafayette

Through WILS community cares bags, we were able to connect with individuals and families, and make a positive impact in the counties we serve. Thanks to grants, the project has been able to reach more people and make a bigger impact. WILS community care bags project is an ongoing effort to provide items that help people live healthier and more comfortable lives. This initiative is a great example of how a community can come together to support and serve one another.

Advocacy



Advocacy in Action with WILS

Consumers united together as advocates to celebrate Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Capitol with live watch parties at WILS offices. Emcee of the event Michael L. Cross said, "Look at this ramp and look at these steps when you write your policies. Do not write them as steps which can only be supported for an able individual, write policies thinking [of] them as [a] ramp which can support everyone able or disabled." If you missed it, watch the video at <http://ow.ly/lxCm50N6tJ5>.

Peer Support



Road Trip to Van Meter in Saline

WILS peer support group traveled to Van Meter State Park for a tour of Missouri's American Indian Cultural Center. During the tour, they learned of the 9 different native Indian tribes, about Annie Van Meter, and played a game while learning about different animals. For some, this was their first outing without a guardian; for others, this is a trip they would never have been able to take on their own. Knowledge and memories are what we brought back with us from this trip.

Travel Troubleshooting

Transportation



To ride with WILS, call dispatch at 660-441-6004

What to do if your OATS ride is late:

Call MTM at 1-866-269-5944 (TTY:711) if:

- You have waited more than 15 minutes after the pick-up time scheduled during the original ride request.
- You have waited more than one hour after calling MTM for a return ride, if a return ride was not scheduled during the original request.
- You cannot reach the driver.

To file a complaint, call 1-866-436-0457 (TTY:711)

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64093
Phone: 660.422.7883
Fax: 660.422.7895
TTY: 660.422.7894

1800 W. Main Street
Sedalia, MO 65301
Phone: 660.829.1980
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1330 Commercial
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Phone: 660.438.0016
Fax: 660.438.3076

Social Media:
@THEWILSWAY



After becoming a paraplegic, Steven and his mother reported how difficult it was to navigate this new world. Through WILS advocacy services, Steven was able to voice his concerns through the proper channels so he could get the suctioning machine, complex shower chair, and trapeze bar he needed to regain independence. As a Missouri Center for Independent Living, WILS is a nonprofit resource center serving people with disabilities in Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, & Saline counties.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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