



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 Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying the summer season. As the temperature rises, I encourage you to stay cool while also taking the opportunity to attend the exciting events sponsored by WILS. We are delighted to provide you with enriching experiences that promote independence and personal growth.

I am thrilled to share some wonderful news for participants in our CDS Program. Thanks to a recent increase in funding from the state of Missouri, consumers have the option to pay attendants up to \$14.50 per hour effective 8-5-23. We are working on a second pay raise for January of 2024 with a goal of up to \$15 per hour.

In the coming days, your case manager will be reaching out to provide you with the specific details regarding needed paperwork. We believe it is essential to recognize the hard work and dedication of the CDS Attendants who assist you on your journey towards independence.

At WILS, we consider ourselves fortunate to be a part of your journey towards independence. We are committed to empowering you and providing opportunities that foster personal growth and self-sufficiency. The dedication and determination you display in overcoming challenges inspires us every day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the pay increase or any other matter, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can. Thank you for choosing WILS as your partner on this journey. We look forward to continuing to serve you and witnessing your growth and success.

Summer Events

- Acrylic painting Fridays at WILS in Warrensburg, 10am - 12pm
- WILS ADA Events in July
- Better Together on July 28 in Warrensburg, 11am - 2pm
- Project Connect on Aug 14 in Oak Grove, 9am - 2pm
- Back to School Technology Events in Aug begin at WILS offices
- WILS Outdoors Without Limits on Sept 20 in Warrensburg, 10am - 12pm

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"I'm extremely happy having WILS. It's nice having a program like this who cares about people and wants to help them succeed and be prepared for things. Thank you!" - Letha



Farm to Table - Access Fresh Food in a SNAP Independent Living

As we enter the summer season, it's the perfect time to embrace fresh produce, support local farmers, and learn about the programs available. At the Sedalia and Warrensburg Farmer's Markets, they believe that access to nutritious food should be available to everyone, regardless of income level. That's why they accept SNAP benefits as a form of payment. Every dollar spent with SNAP at the market is matched, up to \$25 per day through the Double Up Food Bucks program, giving you the opportunity to stretch your budget and bring home even more wholesome and delicious food. Learn more at doubleupheartland.org

MO Money Matters Independent Living

WILS participants were able to take a Bucket List Club trip to the Money Museum at the Federal Reserve in Kansas City. On the way, they discovered innovative ways to save money, sign up for unique benefits, and discover unclaimed cash or valuables.

The Missouri Office currently holds more than \$1 billion in unclaimed assets. 1 in 10 Missourians has Unclaimed Property and the average return is \$300. Search for your own unclaimed treasure at: <https://treasurer.mo.gov/UnclaimedProperty>

Trip participants also had the chance to lift a real gold bar, marvel at the historic Harry S. Truman coin collection, and engage with interactive displays that make learning about money both fun and informative.

"We are so, so grateful when one of our sweet community partners brings their sweet friends to shop at the market."



Peer Support



Exploring Nature and Accessibility

In April, WILS participants were able to discover nature and accessibility in a whole new light with the power of cameras and their five senses. They were able to embark on a remarkable journey of learning and exploration at Drake Harbor in Warsaw.

It was a trip of highs and lows as they experienced the joys of accessibility and the frustrations of inaccessibility. Participants unleashed their inner photographer and immersed themselves in the beauty of nature.

Advocacy



Ramp Construction Enhances Mobility: Sherry's Journey to Accessibility

Since 2016, Sherry has relied on the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) care at home program to assist her with daily household tasks. Despite her challenges, Sherry remains determined to enjoy the outdoors and take short walks.

However, a spinal compression often hinders her mobility. On bad days, when Sherry requires her wheelchair, she becomes confined within her home. In her quest for independence, Sherry turned to WILS for support.

Independent Living



The Midwest Special Needs Trust's Charitable Grant was able to provide funding while WILS enlisted the help of local contractor Eddie, known for his dedication to making homes accessible.

"It's so nice that you do this for people; you guys are my hero," Sherry said.

Eddie, the contractor, said "I can't tell you how many times she thanked us for building her the ramp. It always makes me feel good when people are that appreciative."

Gas Mileage Reimbursement Transportation



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

Are you interested in having the freedom to travel on your own terms? If you drive to your own medical appointments or rely on friends and family for a ride, you might be eligible for the MTM Currency program. It offers gas mileage reimbursement through a convenient reloadable debit card provided by U.S. Bank.

Maintain your independence and have greater control over your healthcare. Enjoy the freedom and flexibility to plan your travel according to your preferences.

mtm-inc.net/mileage-reimbursement

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WILS received funding from USAgings's Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative. This funding will allow us to provide vaccination outreach to older adults and people with disabilities. Together with other Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative grantees, we will deliver vaccines and supportive services to more than 2 million older adults and people with disabilities. USAgings's Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative is funded by the U.S. ACL. Watch for more news about our exciting plans for this program.

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