



# 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,

Happy New Year! We hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we embark on the journey of 2024 together. The holiday season brought us much joy and warmth, and it was fantastic to see so many of you at our festive gatherings. Your presence added to the joy and camaraderie, making it a truly memorable time.

As we step into the new year, we're thrilled to share some exciting developments that will enhance your experience with our services. In 2024, we are introducing significant changes to our transportation program, aimed at making your journeys even more convenient and efficient. Stay tuned for more details as we roll out these enhancements.

In line with our commitment to continuous improvement, we're thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of new case management software. This cutting-edge software will revolutionize the way we manage your cases, introducing digital forms and signatures to streamline processes. This innovation will not only save time but also contribute to a more environmentally friendly and sustainable approach.

Additionally, we are delighted to inform you about our new Veterans Directed Care program set to launch in 2024. This program is designed to provide specialized care and support for our honored veterans. We believe it's crucial to recognize and honor the sacrifices made by our veterans, and this program aims to do just that. Watch out for more information on how you or your loved ones can benefit from this initiative.

We understand the importance of staying connected with you and keeping you informed. As these changes unfold, we will be sharing regular updates through various channels, so be sure to keep an eye out for announcements, newsletters, and information sessions.

Thank you for being an integral part of the WILS community. Your feedback and support inspires us to continually improve and innovate. We look forward to serving you in 2024 and beyond.

Warmly,  
Deb Hobson, Executive Director



**"It was awesome! It was my first time [doing something away from family] and it was awesome. It was my first time doing it by myself and I had fun and really enjoyed it." – Chris**

## **Friends on the Farm**

### **Peer Support & Transportation**

During our recent visit to the Deanna Rose Farmstead, participants were greeted with the sights and sounds of a bygone era. This hidden gem, nestled in the heart of Overland Park, offers visitors a unique opportunity to step back in time and immerse themselves in the days of westward expansion. From feeding goats and petting horses to exploring historic landmarks like Helen's Schoolhouse and Ben's Bank, the farmstead captivated both young and old with its authentic recreation of frontier life. Highlights of our visit included feeding and interacting with the farm's friendly animals and taking advantage of the many photo opportunities. We can't wait to return next fall!

## **Grateful and Beyond Blessed**

### **Independent Living**

Thanksgiving week holds a special place in our hearts! We feel truly grateful to have had the opportunity to engage with our community and share the joy of Thanksgiving with our WILS winners. Deborah, expressing her excitement, exclaimed, "Very excited. First time I ever won anything! Much appreciated." These winners were selected through a drawing that included both WILS participants and volunteers, and we were thrilled to witness their joy. Aileen, amazed at the thoughtfulness, exclaimed, "I can't believe all the Thanksgiving food and decorations and all. You thought of everything." Each fortunate recipient was presented with a traditional holiday feast, complete with a turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, rolls, and a pie. To ensure a hassle-free celebration, we also included paper plates, cups, and silverware in each basket. We extend a heartfelt thank you to F & C Bank and Manna Harvest Jeremiah 29:11 warehouse for their generous contributions to this program.



**"This makes me feel extremely blessed!"**  
**- Toni**





## Peer Support



## Spreading Sweet Cheer: Gingerbread Parties Take the Cake

WILS's gingerbread-themed holiday parties were delightful and festive gatherings that brought friends and family together to celebrate. Guests won big with bingo and had a great time. Thank you for displaying so much JOY this holiday season.

### Peer Support



### Independent Living



### Transitions



## Craft Day Delights

Craft enthusiasts gathered together and created masterpieces at WILS offices. We loved hosting everyone!

## Tech for All

As our health changes, we often discover that we need to adapt. That's where WILS AT Demo Center comes in!

## Empower Educators

WILS presented to future special education teachers from UCM and talked to them about Centers for Independent Living.

## Building Accessibility: Community Comes Together for Ramp Project

### Independent Living



To learn more about WILS ramp program, visit [W-ILS.org](http://W-ILS.org) or call 855-945-7929.



WILS worked with RISE to build 4-year-old Liam Pitts a ramp. His mother, Trisha said it is "fantastic", "I love it." Liam can now be safely and easily transported in and out of his home using his adaptive stroller.

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# COMMUNITY CARE EVENTS COMING SOON!



Solutions for Independent Living Since 1997

**Each adult attendee  
will receive a free bag  
with assorted hygiene  
and cleaning products.**



**Exciting News: WILS Community Care Days Coming Soon!**  
Get ready for a special event coming to your community or senior center. WILS Community Care Days are just around the corner, and we can't wait to spread joy and support throughout your community. Everyone is welcome to attend!

This publication is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) through USAGing as part of a financial assistance award to USAGing totaling \$74,999,835 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official view of, nor an endorsement by, USAGing, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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