



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,

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the rejuvenating spirit of spring. As the world awakens to the warmth and beauty of the season, we at WILS have been bustling with activity, advocating for your rights, and striving to enhance your independent living experience.

Every April, WILS Staff participate in advocacy efforts at the Capitol in Jefferson City. We have been tirelessly working to secure essential funding for Independent Living programs. These programs are vital for empowering individuals like you to lead self-directed lives and participate fully in your communities. Your voices matter, and we are committed to amplifying them on the legislative stage.

Furthermore, we're thrilled to share some fantastic news regarding our transportation services. In response to your feedback and to enhance your mobility options, we have recently acquired new transportation vehicles. These vehicles are equipped with modern amenities and safety features to ensure comfortable and secure journeys for all our consumers. Whether it's attending appointments, running errands, or exploring the community, we're committed to providing you with reliable and accessible transportation solutions.

At WILS, we remain dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where your needs and aspirations are at the forefront of everything we do. Your continued engagement and feedback inspires us to push boundaries and strive for excellence in our service delivery.

As we embrace the spirit of renewal that spring brings, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your trust and partnership. Together, we are building a brighter future where independence and empowerment are within reach for all. Wishing you a season filled with growth, joy, and boundless possibilities.

Warm regards,
Deb Hobson, Executive Director





“This bucket is a start to helping that may come about in the future.”
- Nancy

Empowering Independence

Assistive Technology

Seventeen Missouri Centers for Independent Living (CILs) have joined forces in a grant project spanning 89 counties across the state, including all five regions of the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH). Kenneth, Rhonda, Connie, Edward, and Betty, among others, are shining examples of individuals benefitting from this initiative. Through the grant, they were able to access assistive technology devices, empowering them to lead more independent lives both at home and within their communities.

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

Veterans Directed Care

Independent Living

WILS has been working behind the scenes to launch a new home and community based services program for Veterans. The Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program offers Veterans and their families greater access, choice and control over the long-term services and supports that allow them to age safely and independently in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Veterans enrolled in VDC manage a Veteran-specific monthly budget, with oversight and support from community Providers. The Veteran can decide for themselves what mix of products and services best meet their needs. This includes the ability to hire, schedule, and supervise a caregiver of their choice - it can even be a spouse, family member, or friend.



Peer Support



Soup-er Bowl

Participants gathered to discover the art of creating delicious, quick, and nutritious soups using basic pantry items. Whether they were seasoned chefs or kitchen novices, everyone found something to learn and enjoy. Attendees learned valuable cooking techniques and had the chance to taste and take home the soups they created, along with handy recipe cards for future reference. All participants were automatically entered for a chance to win a fabulous crockpot – the perfect addition to any kitchen.

Independent Living



Building Community

Thanks to those who stopped by to say hello in Benton, Henry, Lafayette, and Saline counties. WILS community care bags have made a real difference in our communities. With the help of grants, volunteers, and the Jeremiah 29:11 warehouse, we've expanded our reach, touching even more lives. This ongoing project is all about providing essentials for healthier, happier living. It's a prime example of how a community can band together to lend a hand and support each other. Johnson and Pettis counties will be served in April 2024.

Transportation



On the Move

Ever had to skip a medical appointment because you couldn't get there? Yeah, we get it. That's why WILS Transportation is here to make sure you never miss another one. We'll pick you up and drop you off at the doctor's office, hassle-free. We're not just about the serious stuff. WILS Transportation also knows how to have fun. They'll also take you on adventures you'll never forget. With WILS on the scene, getting around has never been easier – or more fun! We're all about making your life easier, one ride at a time.

Unsung Heros

Volunteers



Volunteers assisting at an ADVC grant sponsored event at UCM in Warrensburg.

The volunteers of WILS are a group of extraordinary individuals who dedicate their time and efforts to serve. Each member brings their own unique talents to the table and they work together to uplift and support WILS consumers. Elder Young lends a helping hand by cleaning and organizing. Dell makes it a priority to volunteer as a driver transporting participants to events, appointments, and employment. Roxie and Donna lent their time to prepare for and assist at various events that WILS attended in the community. Their dedication and enthusiasm are inspirational.

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Lori's gratitude for the ramp installed at her home speaks volumes about the power of community support. "Amazing! Thank you for asking," she exclaimed, expressing newfound freedom and independence. Lori's journey reminds us that even simple acts can create lasting change. In her story, we find inspiration to build a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Consider donating at W-ILS.org to support the construction of ramps for those in need, and together, let's continue building a more inclusive society.

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