



# 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 you are enjoying the warmth and sunshine of summer. As the season brings its vibrant energy, we want to keep you informed about important developments within our organization.

Over the past few months, our team has been diligently working to finalize this year's budget. Unfortunately, we faced a significant challenge as the state has reduced our funding allocation for some programs and eliminated a proposed increase for other services. As a result of these cuts, we will not be able to increase the caregiver pay this year for the CDS Program.

In addition, due to the reduced budget, we will need to make adjustments to some of our services and events such as transportation, ramps, and peer support. While we are committed to maintaining the quality and integrity of our core programs, certain activities and offerings will be impacted. Our priority remains to provide the essential services that you rely on, but there will be modifications as we adapt to these financial constraints.

We understand that these changes may raise concerns and questions. Please know that we are dedicated to minimizing the impact on our consumers as much as possible. Our team is exploring every available option to continue delivering the support and assistance you need within the constraints of our revised budget.

Despite these challenges, our commitment to fostering independence and enhancing the quality of life for all our consumers remains unwavering. We are confident that, with your understanding and support, we will continue to thrive and adapt to these changes effectively.

Thank you for being a vital part of the WILS community. Your resilience and cooperation inspire us to keep pushing forward, even in the face of adversity.

Wishing you a pleasant and sunny summer.

Warm regards,  
Deb Hobson  
Executive Director





## A Charming Day Out: Retro Road Trip Delight

### Independent Living

Our recent Retro Road Trip to Warsaw, MO, was a delightful journey back in time, proving that sometimes, the best experiences come in small packages. The day was filled with laughter, discovery, and the joy of shared memories. At the heart of our trip was a visit to a charming antique mall. Each aisle was a portal to the past, brimming with vintage treasures that sparked stories and excitement. From delicate porcelain to quirky collectibles, everyone found something that caught their eye and captured their imagination. We bonded over our finds, shared stories from the past, and made new connections along the way.

## Empowering Accessibility: Innovations in 3D

### Assistive Technology

Elder Young is a volunteer at WILS who has been harnessing the power of 3D printing to create assistive technology devices. These creations, ranging from pill pack openers to nail clippers and utensil holders, are not just gadgets; they represent newfound independence and dignity for individuals facing mobility challenges. Beyond the aforementioned devices, Elder Young has the capability to craft a wide variety of tools tailored to individual requirements. Whether it's a grip for a writing utensil or a specialized handle for kitchen appliances, the possibilities are nearly limitless. If you're interested in exploring 3D printing for yourself, [makersmakingchange.com](http://makersmakingchange.com) is a great resource to explore. You can also follow @techowlpa on Instagram and Facebook and @equipment on Instagram and YouTube to discover more assistive technology devices and uses.

**“We  
loved it!”**

**“Can we  
go back  
every  
year? ”**



## Peer Support



## Creative Expression and Connections

WILS Painting Group recently showcased their incredible creativity by transforming buttons, paint, and canvas to create unique works of art. Participants experimented with different techniques, blending colors, and exploring new patterns. Members of the group, who come together on Fridays at 10am in Warrensburg to support one another through shared experiences, found joy and connection in this artistic endeavor. The result was a vibrant collection of artwork that are as diverse as the artists themselves.

## Advocacy



## Winning with WILS Pop-Up Bingo

Our recent Pop-Up Bingo event was a hit! Held at our WILS offices this Spring, the event saw an incredible turnout from WILS consumers eager to combine fun with learning. Participants enjoyed a lively afternoon filled with traditional bingo excitement, the thrill of winning prizes, and invaluable insights into healthcare advocacy. The event provided a unique platform for attendees to learn more about WILS and how to effectively advocate for their healthcare needs. Thank you to everyone who participated!

## Independent Living



## A Day of Learning and Discovery

The market visit was a tremendous success, with attendees excitedly browsing stalls filled with fresh produce, handmade crafts, and local delicacies. Those with SNAP cards or their own money relished the chance to shop independently, while others enjoyed the vibrant ambiance and friendly interactions with vendors. The day was filled with smiles and laughter as participants navigated the market, discovered new favorite items, and shared their experiences with each other.

## Swap 'n Shop Success

### Peer Support



Shop the MO AT online marketplace:  
<https://tinyurl.com/shopmoat>

Bryan, a WILS consumer and Veteran, needed a hospital bed after his knee surgery so he could recover at home. A week before his surgery, another WILS consumer, Teresa, offered to donate a nearly new hospital bed and an electric chair. Bryan offered to pay Teresa and she accepted as she needed new tires for her vehicle. WILS Transportation staff and IL Case Manager Janet worked together to coordinate delivery of the bed to Bryan's home, where it was set up by Facility Coordinator Brad and Bryan's attendant, Kaylin. This act of peer support was an unexpected blessing for everyone involved.

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

1800 W. Main St.  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
Phone: 660.829.1980  
Fax: 660.829.2353  
Toll Free: 855.945.7929

1330 Commercial St.  
Suite 100B  
Warsaw, MO 65355  
Phone: 660.438.0016  
Fax: 660.438.3076

Social Media:  
@THEWILSWAY



Raymond says that he loves his ramp. He said he has friends that drive by specifically just to see the ramp and how it fits perfectly. He said it makes it so much easier to get in and out of his home. He cannot believe how it looks so aesthetically aligned with the home and that it looks like it was just meant to be there. It has created such an ease for him to now exit his home with safety and security. Due to state budget cuts, we rely on generous donors to help fund ramps like these. To contribute, please visit [W-ILS.org](http://W-ILS.org).

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Warrensburg, MO  
Permit #71

