



# 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,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the beautiful, but sometimes unpredictable fall weather. After such a warm summer and early fall, the crisp air, the vibrant foliage, and the cozy embrace of sweaters will be a welcome change for many of us. Change is not always as cozy as that sweater, but it is part of our lives. I hope that WILS has been a supportive part of empowering you to overcome the challenges that change can sometimes bring into our lives.

First and foremost, I want to encourage you to visit our website at [www.w-ils.org](http://www.w-ils.org) to stay in the loop about our upcoming activities. The website is regularly updated to provide you with all the information you need to fully engage with our community.

Every day brings us closer to our famous holiday parties! These celebrations are a highlight of the year, and we're working diligently to make them even more memorable this time around. We'll have awesome snacks, festive decorations, and plenty of Bingo to make the holiday season truly special.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community, and we look forward to celebrating this wonderful season with you at our upcoming holiday parties. Stay tuned, stay connected, and most importantly, stay well.

Warm regards,  
Deb Hobson  
Executive Director





## Breaking Barriers: A Day of Accessible Fun Independent Living

WILS recently held a successful Outdoors Without Limits event at Hazel Hill Lake in Warrensburg. Participants enjoyed a morning of accessible outdoor activities, including fishing, archery, and target shooting, with a free lunch provided. The event fostered community connections and showcased WILS mission to empower individuals with disabilities. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our community partners: Missouri Department of Conservation, Stealth Gobblers, Warrensburg Community Center, and RISE, for their support in making this event a memorable and impactful experience for everyone in attendance.

## Diving into Inclusion: WILS Celebrates ADA Independent Living

WILS celebrated the ADA anniversary with a spectacular trip to SEA LIFE Aquarium in Kansas City, where participants of all ages were truly captivated. Attendees explored the aquarium's interactive exhibits, including touch pools and immersive underwater tunnels, marveling at vibrant marine life up close. The day was filled with discovery, joy, and a deep appreciation for the wonders of the ocean. This event showcased the significance of accessibility and inclusivity, uniting a community dedicated to embracing diversity. It was an educational and memorable experience, highlighting our commitment to ADA access and celebrating the strides we're making toward a more inclusive world. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a resounding success! Your enthusiasm and support are truly appreciated.



## Assistive Technology



### Traveling with Confidence

Rick, a Warrensburg resident and retired Veteran, stopped by WILS to inquire about the possibility of borrowing a cane for an upcoming trip to the Northeast. Worried about mobility while traveling with his wife to Vermont, Rick remembered a presentation by WILS at his Lions Club meeting and decided to see if we could help. WILS staff were able to assist Rick with completing the necessary paperwork quickly. After trying out several types of canes, Rick found the perfect one. Just look at that smile... Vermont, here he comes!

## Transportation



### WILS Delivers When It Matters Most

When Sharon learned her sister was given just days to live, she feared she wouldn't make it to say goodbye. In desperation, she called WILS. Without hesitation, WILS Transportation team stepped up, arranging a last-minute trip to Sharon's sister's home. Thanks to Dan and the WILS team, Sharon was able to hold her sister's hand one last time. This act of compassion shows the heart behind WILS transportation services, offering more than just rides – we provide moments that truly matter.

## Peer Support



### Mystery Art Challenge

The art room was buzzing with excitement as participants in the Paint Group took part in a unique and engaging peer-led activity—a “drawing” for paintings, each carefully selected from a local thrift store. The twist? All paintings were placed face down. Each artist immediately set to work enhancing their new artwork. The goal wasn't just to paint but to breathe new life into the thrift store finds, transforming them with personal flair. The group is already looking forward to showing off their creations!

## Community Care Success

### Independent Living



WILS Community Care Days for 2025 will be coming to a city near you! [W-ILS.org](http://W-ILS.org)

Christina reached out for help when her fan stopped working, and she couldn't afford a replacement. She explained, “I have a hard time breathing, and it gets really stuffy and hot in my room. Is there any way you could help me get a fan?” With quick action from WILS staff, a fan was located through the Jeremiah Project and delivered. Grateful, Christina said, “The fan works perfectly, and I can sleep so much better now. I really appreciate it so much; thank you!” WILS partnership with the Jeremiah 29:11 Warehouse helps us provide essential items, improving comfort and quality of life for those in need.

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The **WILS Transportation Team** is making a significant difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities, providing reliable, accessible transportation to help them stay active and independent in their communities. Whether it's attending medical appointments, completing essential shopping, or participating in community events, WILS ensures individuals have the freedom to engage in everyday activities. **Donate or learn more at [W-ILS.org](http://W-ILS.org)**

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