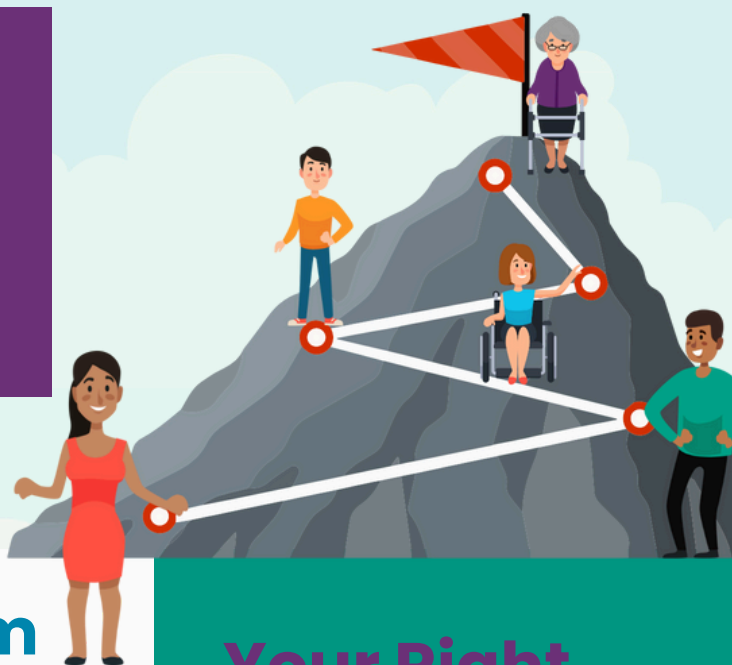


2ND QUARTER 2025

THE WILS WAY

W-ILS.org

855-945-7929



Rising Through the Storm

"Jennifer, my house is a wreck," Debra said. "A big tree came through my house, and the back of the house is lying in my front yard."

When a powerful tornado ripped through her town, Debra and her granddaughter had nowhere to go. WILS IL Case Manager Jennifer had a visit scheduled that morning and quickly stepped in. "Just breathe — I'll talk with my supervisor and see what we can do," she said.

While WILS was helping Debra get settled in temporary lodging, she got word her insurance would cover three nights at the hotel. Jennifer continued to check on Debra daily, offering steady support and advocacy. Thanks to WILS efforts and Debra's own determination, she and her granddaughter now have housing in senior apartments. "I feel safe and very thankful," Debra shared.

With support from WILS, her insurance, and the Salvation Army, Debra is safe and rebuilding. Her story is one of resilience, resourcefulness, and the power of community — proof that even in the storm's aftermath, no one has to face recovery alone.

Your Right

At WILS, we believe that independent living is a choice, and we're here to offer the options you need to take control of your life. With the right support, you have the power to create change and live life on your own terms. Your goals and your future are in your hands — your life should be shaped by what you want, and we're here to help make that a reality. Together, we can guide you toward the independence you envision, empowering you to thrive in your home, your community, and beyond.

Deb's Desk

A NOTE FROM WILS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear WILS Consumers,

We hope this letter finds you enjoying the warmth and sunshine of summer. It's a season of activity and growth — and here at WILS, we've certainly been busy.

Our team has been hard at work finalizing our annual budget to ensure we continue providing the essential services you rely. At the same time, we've been deeply involved in advocacy efforts, both at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City and in Washington, D.C. We are committed to making sure the voices of individuals with disabilities are heard loud and clear when decisions are being made about the programs that impact your daily lives.

These advocacy efforts are vital. From protecting funding for Independent Living programs to pushing for stronger support services, we're standing up for your rights and independence at every level of government. As we move through the rest of the summer, please continue sharing your stories, needs, and successes with us. You are the reason we do what we do.

Thank you for being a part of the WILS community.
Warm wishes,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Hobson". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "D" and "H".

WILS Warsaw Office Update

OFFICES MERGE, SERVICES CONTINUE!

As part of our continued efforts to use resources wisely and serve our consumers more effectively, WILS has officially closed its Warsaw office location.

While the physical office has closed, our services in Benton County will absolutely continue! Consumers in the area will still receive the same support and connection they always have, now through our Sedalia and Warrensburg offices. Our dedicated staff will remain available by phone, in person (through home visits and community outreach), and at events throughout the region.

We're confident this change will help us work more efficiently across teams while strengthening our ability to deliver quality, consumer-centered services.

And we'd love to see you soon! Mark your calendars and join us at one (or all!) of these upcoming WILS events:

🎉 ADA Celebration

Sunday, July 28 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

🧑‍🌾 Outdoors Without Limits

Tuesday, September 17 at Hazel Hill Lake, Warrensburg

We remain committed to walking alongside you on your path to greater independence — and we can't wait to see you at our upcoming events!





Best Wishes

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Elder Young for his incredible dedication and support as a WILS volunteer. Throughout his time with us, Elder Young generously assisted with facility maintenance and used his amazing skills to 3D print assistive technology devices that have made a real difference in the lives of our consumers.

Meeting More Needs

WILS CARE BAGS REACH RURAL FAMILIES

In April, WILS proudly partnered with the AIM Food Pantry in Wellington, Missouri, as part of our expanded outreach during Missouri Mobile Food Distribution Day events. Through our Community Care Day initiative, every vehicle that came through the pantry's April distribution received a WILS care bag filled with personal care and cleaning supplies — at no cost — while supplies lasted. These essential items are often overlooked in assistance programs, but they're vital for health, dignity, and independence.



Teresa and Dan representing WILS with smiles and support .



A Day of Sunshine, Laughter, and Local Goodness at the Sedalia Farmers' Market

WILS participants recently enjoyed a fun and fulfilling outing to the Sedalia Farmers' Market — and it was a trip to remember!

From the moment our group arrived, the market vendors greeted everyone with warm smiles and open arms. The welcoming atmosphere made it easy for participants to explore the booths, ask questions, and learn more about local goods and produce. Many also had the opportunity to learn about the SNAP Double Up Food Bucks program, which helps stretch food dollars while supporting local farmers — a win-win for health and community!

Of course, it wouldn't be a WILS trip without some good laughs. Our drivers and participants shared plenty of jokes and friendly banter along the way, making the journey just as enjoyable as the destination.

With beautiful weather, great company, and meaningful conversations, the day was a perfect example of how community outings can promote connection, confidence, and independent living.

WILS looks forward to more adventures like this one — where accessibility meets opportunity and joy is shared by all.





Peer Support

While Don's wife attended WILS Peer Support Paint Group, Don stayed in the parking lot dealing with car trouble. Thankfully, WILS transportation staff member stepped in to help. With WILS staff quick assistance, Don was able to get the vehicle running so he and his wife could head home safely — a small act that made a big difference.

Become a WILS Bucket Filler

Buckets are available for purchase at \$25 each — anyone can join in! You can keep your bucket and fill it with items from WILS overstock inventory during July 21–25, or donate your bucket back to be filled with care items and given to people in need.

This fundraiser supports WILS programs that provide essential resources, services, and support for people with disabilities.

Help us fill the bucket — because every drop counts! For more info, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wilsbucketfiller>

Scholarship Awarded to Smithton High School Senior



WILS is proud to announce Malena as the recipient of the 2025 Empowerment Scholarship! Her dedication to making a difference in her community truly inspires us. Read more about her journey and what this scholarship means to her:

👉 w-ils.org/scholarship-winner



“I have had the privilege of working closely with students with a variety of disabilities — helping them navigate their education while ensuring they have equal access to learning opportunities.”

Educational Interpreter Joins WILS Board

WILS is thrilled to welcome Teri as the newest member of our Board of Directors! Teri is a certified advanced and Missouri-licensed educational interpreter currently serving the

Warrensburg R6 School District. With more than 12 years of experience, she has supported students with a wide range of disabilities, ensuring they have equal access to learning and a meaningful educational experience.

A proud Child of Deaf Adults (CODA), Teri brings not only professional expertise but also a personal passion for accessibility, inclusion, and advocacy. “As a Child of Deaf Adults, I have a profound appreciation for diverse perspectives and the needs of individuals with disabilities,” she says. “I also understand the importance of fostering inclusive, accessible communities.”

Outside of work, Teri stays deeply engaged in community life. She is a board member for Love Over Circumstances, assistant director for the Miss Higginsville Pageant, and an active volunteer with New Life Church, supporting ministries and community outreach events. She also co-teaches American Sign Language classes to promote inclusive communication and stronger community connections.

One Step at a Time

ED RECLAIMS HIS STRENGTH

After months of determination and hard work, Ed is celebrating a victory that once seemed out of reach — taking steps on his own and transferring without assistive equipment.

Since April, Ed has been attending physical therapy three times a week. At the start of this journey, Ed was almost entirely dependent on his family. He was confined to his bed, and his wife had to rely on assistive devices, such as a sit-to-stand lift, to move him from bed to his wheelchair. Every transfer required equipment and effort.

But last week, everything changed. Ed accomplished a huge milestone: he walked four feet — three separate times in one day — using a walker. Then came another proud moment that filled his wife with joy and hope.

After a ride with WILS Transportation, Ed's wife excitedly phoned to share the news: "Today was the first time I hadn't had to use the sit-to-stand device to get him from the bed to the wheelchair," she said. "I was able to just assist him with the transfer instead of having to get equipment out." In the background, Ed let out a triumphant, unmistakable celebration: "WooHoo!" You could hear the pride in his voice — just being able to transfer with his wife's help instead of relying on devices marked a major step forward in his independence.

WILS Transportation has played a key role in Ed's progress. As his only form of transportation, it has made it possible for him to access the physical therapy that's helped make these incredible changes possible.

Ed's story is a powerful reminder of how consistent support, hard work, and access to the right resources can help people reclaim independence and quality of life — one step at a time.



2ND QUARTER 2025

THE WILS WAY

W-ILS.org

855-945-7929

Let's Chat

WILS is a consumer driven, non-residential, 501(c)3 nonprofit resource center that serves people with disabilities in Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, and Saline counties.

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

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



Independence Starts with You

WHERE THERE'S A WILS, THERE'S A WAY

If you or a loved one need support to live independently, WILS is here to help! Whether you're looking for mobility solutions, advocacy, or resources to enhance daily living, our team is ready to assist. Contact us at (855) 945-7929, visit w-ils.org, or stop by one of our offices to explore the services available to you. Independence is within reach—let's navigate the journey together!

