

3RD QUARTER 2025

# THE WILS WAY

[W-ILS.org](http://W-ILS.org)

855-945-7929



## Anita's Independence at Home in Action

Anita, 62, from Sedalia, is navigating the daily challenges of spinal degeneration. The pain she experiences makes it difficult to cook, clean, or even move around her home. With no other support in her household, Anita relies entirely on the Consumer-Directed Services (CDS) Program to maintain her independence.

"I'm so crippled up, I can hardly do anything. An attendant helps me out a lot and makes sure I don't fall, and clean the house. If I didn't have an attendant, I probably wouldn't be able to walk and get around good. My house would be a mess and I wouldn't get adequate meals to eat," Anita shared.

Thanks to CDS, Anita can remain safely in her own home, manage her daily needs, and continue living independently despite her significant physical challenges. The program gives her the support she needs while keeping her in charge of her own care.

## 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

I hope you're enjoying the start of the beautiful fall season! As the leaves change and cooler days arrive, we have some exciting news to share.

WILS has been awarded a Medicaid Transportation Contract — which means we can now transport you to your medical appointments! We're thrilled to expand our services to make it easier for you to get the care you need. Stay tuned for more details soon on how to become a transportation member and schedule your rides with WILS.

*LEARN MORE IN THE "NEED A RIDE?" ARTICLE ON PAGE 9*

And speaking of exciting news... it's that magical time of year again — holiday parties are coming up! We can't wait to celebrate with you! Watch for more details coming your way soon.

Thank you for being part of the WILS community. We're grateful for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to all the good things this season will bring!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb Hobson".

# Artfully Accessible

## A DAY OF MASTERPIECES AND MEMORIES

WILS consumers recently enjoyed a special ADA trip to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. The outing provided not only a chance to explore world-class art collections, but also an opportunity for participants to become artists themselves.

During the visit, consumers created their own art prints using building block templates they designed. This hands-on activity allowed everyone to express their creativity while connecting with the museum in a meaningful and memorable way.

The day highlighted the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in action—removing barriers and making art and culture accessible to all. Consumers left with smiles, shared stories, and one-of-a-kind creations to remind them of the experience.

Trips like this showcase WILS commitment to independence, inclusion, and community engagement—ensuring consumers can live fully and explore their world without limits.





## Celebrating Access

WILS joined community partners at Cave Hollow Park in Warrensburg to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Proclamation. The event, held at the city's inclusive playground, brought together the Johnson County Board of Services, Mayor of Warrensburg, and community members to reaffirm a shared commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

The proclamation highlighted the importance of the ADA in ensuring equal opportunities and access for people with disabilities. Hosting the event at the inclusive playground was especially meaningful, as it served as a living example of how communities can design spaces where everyone belongs.

Partnerships like this make a difference. By working together to raise awareness and take action, WILS and its community partners continue to break barriers, build understanding, and create opportunities for people of all abilities.

Together, we celebrate how far we've come—and the ongoing work needed to achieve true inclusion.

## Community Leaders Unite for ADA Awareness

# A Blessing for Kendis

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT BRINGS COMFORT

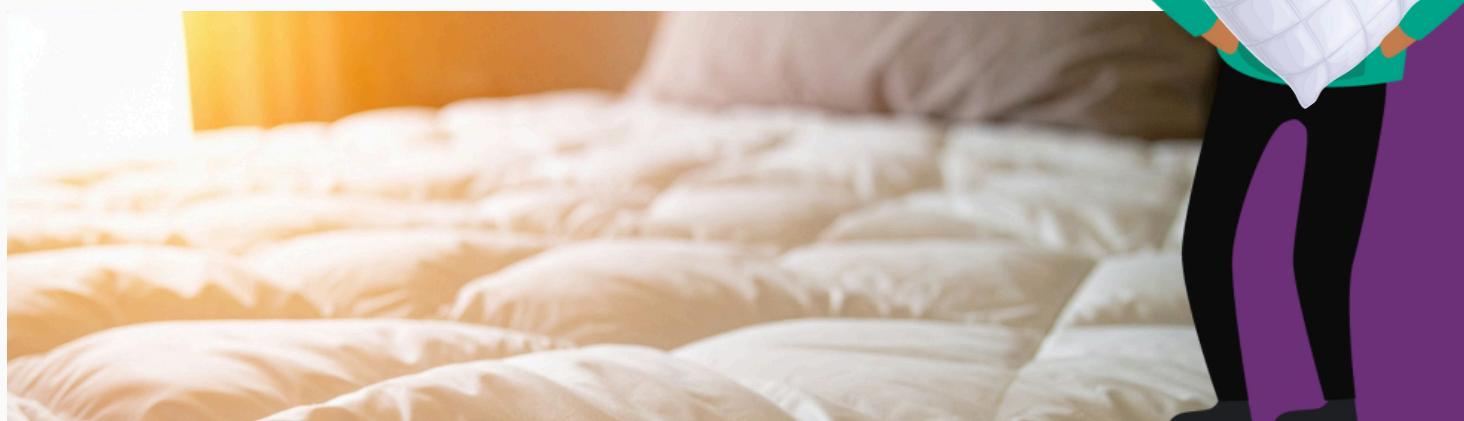
Kendis, a 67-year-old man from Sedalia, lives with COPD and relies on oxygen 24/7. When the weather is hot or humid, he struggles to breathe. On top of managing his health, he faced another challenge—he didn't have access to a traditional mattress and had been sleeping on an air mattress, which developed a hole and deflated.

Kendis reached out to WILS for help. WILS provided information and referrals to local resources and also connected with a local resource warehouse to see if additional assistance could be found.

Utilizing partnerships and teamwork, WILS was able to locate a twin-size air mattress, a queen-size mattress, and a bed frame for Kendis. When he learned the items would be delivered to him, Kendis shared his gratitude:

"Thank you so much for your help—you've been a blessing. This is really a blessing, and you don't know what this means."

With this support, Kendis can now rest more comfortably, easing some of the challenges he faces each day. His story is a reminder of how WILS works alongside consumers to meet needs and support independence.





## Breaking Barriers in the Outdoors

### THE TRADITION CONTINUES

WILS was proud to once again host the annual Outdoors Without Limits event, bringing together more than 150 participants for a day of recreation, connection, and inclusion in the outdoors.

Since its start on May 19, 2008, this event has grown into a cherished tradition for people of all abilities. Each year, participants come together to enjoy the outdoors in a safe, supportive, and accessible environment—breaking down barriers and building new friendships along the way.

This year's gathering continued that legacy of success. With activities tailored to meet diverse needs, the event provided opportunities for participants to experience the joy of outdoor recreation while highlighting the importance of accessibility and inclusion.

The strong turnout is a testament to the lasting impact of Outdoors Without Limits. What began 16 years ago has become an annual celebration of community, ability, and the shared love of the outdoors.

WILS thanks the volunteers, sponsors, and community partners who make this event possible each year. Together, we are creating spaces where everyone can participate fully and thrive.

# “I love WILS.” — Katheryn



## Katheryn Takes the Lead Directing Her Own Care

Katheryn, 74, from Sedalia, has been part of WILS Consumer-Directed Services (CDS) Program for several years. She chose CDS because it allows her to hire her own care attendant and direct her own care—giving her the independence she values most.

Katheryn has Stage 4 COPD and relies on oxygen daily. Over time, she's found that she needs extra assistance with everyday tasks like cooking, cleaning, and transportation.

“I love WILS. They have been so good to me and better than the others I've tried. I love Shanna and we're coming up on 4th year of her working for me. She does everything for me. Without WILS, I don't know honestly where I'd be. I'm able to live in my home. Without an attendant, I'd probably have to live in a care home or with my son. I love my son, but we can't live together,” Katheryn shared.

Thanks to the CDS Program and the dedication of her attendant, Katheryn can continue living safely and comfortably in her own home, maintaining both her independence and her quality of life.



## Shout Outs

"Just a note of thanks for the excellent service I receive from WILS staff. This process could not have been any better. Please accept this as a little token of my appreciation and share it as far as it will go. Many thanks again for an excellent experience" — Ronald, a WILS Rider

## Buckets of Thanks

WILS is truly thank-full for everyone who purchased buckets during our recent fundraiser. Because of donors' generosity, we can look forward to sharing the "give" buckets with our community—helping meet needs, break barriers, and spread independence in meaningful ways.



## WILS Holiday Closures



**Veterans Day**  
Tues. November 11

**Thanksgiving**  
Thurs. November 27–Fri. November 28

**Christmas and New Year's**  
12pm on Thurs. Dec. 24 –Thurs. Jan. 1



## 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.

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## Need a Ride?

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

Need a ride to a medical appointment? Medicaid medical trips must still be scheduled through MTM, not WILS. MTM assigns those trips to us through their portal. If you call WILS directly, we'll have to refer you back to MTM to complete the request.

To schedule your ride, call MTM at 1-866-269-5927 (TTY: 711) or visit [mtm.mtmlink.net](http://mtm.mtmlink.net) at least three days before your appointment.

When booking, be sure to request "**West-Central Independent Living Solutions**" as your preferred transportation provider! MTM will assign you to us if available.

