

Note from the Executive Director

A note from the Executive Director – Fall 2024

Summer has come and gone and fall is here. This past July 16, CILWW hosted the Caravan for Disability Freedom Justice as it made its way across the state making stops at all the Independent Living Centers. CILWW had an open house and invited other nonprofits as part of the Caravan event, with games, adaptive equipment, and a Taco Food Truck (see pictures of the event in the newsletters). It was a great event and I am happy that CILWW could host the Caravan for Disability Freedom and Justice as it makes its way across the US in celebration of the ADA!



In August, CILWW had a facilitator assist with developing the Center's new three-year strategic plan. It was a great nearly daylong planning event with a number of the board members able to attend along with most of the center staff. I am looking forward to the board approving the center's new three-year strategic plan with new goals and priorities for the coming years. Part of the new three-year plan calls for rebranding our name, which we are currently working on with a marketing firm. We have not decided when to roll out the new name and logo at this time, but it will likely be sometime in mid-2025. Stay tuned for the new name and logo as CILWW follows indiGO in rebranding and everything that goes along with it!

Finally, I would like to welcome CILWW's two new Board members, Dennis Lenz and Tracy Fischer. Dennis has been a small business owner, advocate for ADA enforcement, and provides care for persons with significant disabilities. Tracy has a long history of working in human services with adoption services, as director of social services, and now as Manager of the Dunn County Aging and Disability Resource Center. Dennis and Tracy bring valuable skills and knowledge working with persons with disabilities and older adults to the CILWW board.

Kyle Kleist
Executive Director

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CILWW is a community based, nonresidential, private nonprofit agency that is staffed and governed by people with disabilities. Our focus is to empower people in making choices that maintain or increase their independence. We serve people with disabilities, their families, and the community in which they live. We also work with area businesses and service providers that need assistance in responding to the needs of people with disabilities.



Opportunity
+ Responsibility
+ Empowerment
= Independence



2024 Caravan for Disability Freedom Justice



CILWW Staff Highlight



Ruth Alf
Transportation Support

Hello, my name is Ruth Alf. For the past seven years I have served CILWW as a Transportation Support team member. This position entails processing and data entry of the monthly mileage logs sent in by our volunteer drivers, keeping the volunteer driver files up-to-date and assisting with the annual driver training event for volunteer drivers from northwestern Wisconsin.

I live in Menomonie, Wisconsin, with my husband, Steve. We have three grown children, one daughter-in-law and two young granddaughters. I enjoy spending time with my family, camping, reading, and sewing/crafting. I will soon be retired and am looking forward to spending more time with the grandchildren, family and hobbies. I have really enjoyed working with the staff at CIL as well as getting to know many of our volunteer drivers.

Happy Autumn!

Happy Retirement Ruth! We are incredibly grateful for the impact you left on us, and you will be missed.

Volunteer Driver Spotlight: Kris Fitcher

Meet the driver: Kris Fitcher

Kris just hit the 7 year mark a couple weeks ago driving for us! Kris owned her own business for 25+ years which was making crystal birthstone jewelry and traveled a lot to shows for her business. But in 2014 she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Leukemia and was told she was permanently disabled which led up to not being able to work anymore. Kris found out about driving for us through her sister. She thanks us for allowing her to have “a life” again by being able to drive and still be social. Kris has 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren, and one of those grandchildren has been living with her since she has been 8 years old and just turned 18. Kris said she “loves to travel and driving.” She has worked in 11 states (7 months out of the year) but still lived in Wisconsin while working in those different states. She has lived in Wisconsin her entire adult life. Kris’s favorite place she has traveled to is Rapid City, South Dakota. When Kris is not with her grandchildren she likes to do Diamond Dots art, watch and feed birds, and spend time with her dog Kera.



Kris Fitcher
Volunteer Driver

Wisconsin Association of Mobility Managers

My name is Bobbi Hegna, and I am the President of WAMM here to share the meaning of it, our vision, and what the benefits would be if you were to become a member.

WAMM (Wisconsin Association of Mobility Managers): The definition of Mobility Manger is using all available resources, and developing new ones to improve mobility increase efficiency and reduce cost.

The **vision** of the Wisconsin Association of Mobility Managers (WAMM) is to lead in coordinated mobility solutions and to support the systems and professionals working in the field.

Our **mission** is to provide opportunities for professional growth through educational and networking events, ongoing peer support and resource sharing.

Benefits of being a WAMM member

- Opportunity to become a certified state recognized Mobility Manager
- Valuable networking opportunities and peer sharing.
- Exposure to national experts in the field of transportation.
- Inclusion of a united group working toward improving mobility.
- Participation in legislative days, member conference calls, and mobility manager listserv.
- Participation in monthly member only conference calls.
- Opportunity to attend two statewide conferences.
- Subcommittee leadership opportunities.
- Enhanced credibility as a member of a nationally recognized Mobility Management Association.

Integrity: We value professionalism and uphold the guiding principles of our association.

Respect: We create inclusion of all through mentoring, delivering on commitment and working together.

Innovation: We learn, share and encourage our members to help make a difference in transportation solutions today and in the future.

Service: We contribute to our association and stakeholders with sound coordination and strong leadership.



Personal Assistant Services

Caregiver Highlight: Elizabeth Cone

I am 25 years old and live in Menomonie with my two cats. I have two degrees both being in Early Childhood Education as well as Special Education. I have been working with CIL for the past 7 years and it has been a very rewarding experience!

I love my consumers and working with them everyday is something that I love to do. In my free time I like to read, travel, and explore nature.



BECOME A CAREGIVER!

Help empower our community members to live an independent lifestyle within their own homes!

All services are completed within the consumer's home:

- Supportive home care
- Assist w/daily safety
- Respite/Mentoring
- General Cleaning Activities
- Assistance w/daily living activities
- Medically oriented tasks

CILWW's Personal Assistant Services program offers:

- competitive wages,
- flexible scheduling,
- paid travel for qualifying consumers,
- and paid training.

Interested individuals contact Samantha Lotts at slotts@cilww.com for further information or call 715.233.1070.



Assistive Technology Demonstration & Loan Program

WisTech is Wisconsin's Assistive Technology (AT) program. AT is a device or service that allows people to function as independently as possible at home, school, work, and in the community. CILWW is a regional AT Device and Demonstration Center. CILWW has almost 2,000 different AT devices that we can loan and/or demonstrate to people. CILWW staff can bring devices to people's homes, answer questions about devices, loan devices for a short period of time, give vendor and funding resources, and use their experience to help find the most cost effective options.

Check out our new assistive technology devices!

With funding from Wistech, CILWW was able to purchase a 3D printer. This incredible device uses rolls of plastic filament to convert digital blueprints into physical items. With the printer, CILWW will be able to create endless cost-effective assistive devices for the community, things such as pencil grips, joystick toppers, nail polish holders, or even a device to help you remove your earrings. New blueprints are being created every day, giving us access to thousands of tools, and—should we need to—the ability to design our own.



Pocket Talker Ultra

CILWW is pleased to present the Pocketalker Ultra personal amplifier. This high-quality assistive listening device is designed to enhance communication in challenging listening environments. It provides clear, distinct sound quality and is user-friendly. Please note that the Pocketalker is not intended for use with hearing aids, except for telecoil-equipped hearing aids.

The Pocketalker Ultra effectively amplifies essential sounds, thereby improving comprehension during one-on-one conversations, small group interactions, and when listening to television or radio programs, among other scenarios. Additionally, its portable and compact design allows for easy transport.

CILWW offers the opportunity for individuals to borrow or try out items mentioned in our articles before making a purchase.

To learn more about this assistive device or other devices that can improve your independence, please contact CILWW at 715.233.1070 or 800.228.3287. Our services are provided free of charge. However, we do not directly fund the purchase of assistive technology. Through the WisTech Assistive Technology Program, CILWW provides a variety of services, including information on alternative financing options like WisLoan, Telework, and TEPP, upon request.

AT Programs and Services

Are you or someone you know...

- Having difficulty hearing or using the telephone?
- Hard of hearing?
- Deaf or severely hard of hearing?
- Mobility/Motion impaired?
- Speech impaired?
- Deaf with low vision or blindness?
- Deaf and blind?



If you answered yes, you may be interested in finding the AT you need to access telephone services. Equipment could be amplified phones, captioning phones, neck loops, and other devices. Schedule an appointment to try a variety of equipment with one-on-one assistance from knowledgeable and experienced staff!

Staff can also help you apply for funding through TEPP: Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program. Money collected through WI telephone service providers goes into the WI Universal Service Fund, which pays for TEPP. CILWW's role is to help you access the funding you need to get the equipment you need!

Loan Programs

WisLoan offers loans to help people buy assistive technology or equipment such as modified vehicles, wheelchairs, and ramps. There are no income requirements and individuals are not required to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, banks provide loans at a fixed interest rate of 6.5% to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item and ability to repay.

Telework is a loan program that allows residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remote sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a Telework center.

TEPP



WisLoan +
Telework
Loan programs designed for
Wisconsinites with disabilities

IndependenceFirst
The Resource For People With Disabilities

For Sale List

ALL FROM ONE SELLER

\$49,500 OBO for 2021 Chrysler Voyager van. Approximately 10,000 miles. The van is red and a light tan interior.

\$2,000 side ramp for accessible van.

\$10,000 for the power wheelchair.

Please call, text, or for pictures contact Stephanie Goss @ 715.828.0113

HOSPITAL BED

Almost new Hospital Bed-all electric. Sheets and incontinence pads included. Paid \$1,900. Asking \$1,100. Will need to be picked up. Contact Bev @ 715.273.5629

WHEELCHAIRS

2 Jazzy models power wheelchair. One is in good condition – will need a seat. It raises and lowers. Asking \$2,500 OBO. Second wheelchair shows signs of wear and tear. It needs an armrest. Asking \$750 OBO. Both are in good running condition.

Contact Alyssa @605.690.6195

For Donation List

ALL FROM ONE DONOR

Bedside table.

Hospital bed. Manual. New Mattress.

Manual patient lift with sling. Older, works well.

One 4-wheeled walker with a seat.

Contact Peggy @ 715.514.2189

HOSPITAL BED

Hospital bed. All electric (head, feet, and to raise and lower bed, with remote.) Trapeze bar.

Two ½ bedrails. Contact Linda @ 715.556.9189

WHEELCHAIRS/WHEELCHAIR ACCESSORIES

Vertical platform wheelchair lift for home. Contact Leslie @715.529.0916.

Will need to be removed from garage and transported.

ATTENTION

For a complete list of our For Sale and Donation items, please visit our website at: www.cilww.com or check out our facebook: Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin.

For more information on the items on this list, please contact the person listed directly. To get on or be removed from this list please contact Deb at CILWW at 800.228.3287 or 715.233.1070 extension 202.

CILWW does not warrant the condition or terms of the sale of any device or equipment offered for reutilization by any seller or buyer. CILWW is not liable for claims, liabilities, damages, losses, costs, expenses, maintenance and penalties arising from items being purchased or sold. It shall be the responsibility of the seller or donator to provide accurate and detailed information about the device and equipment specifications and condition to buyer. CILWW functions solely on sharing the information with other parties.

Center for Independent Living
2920 Schneider Ave SE
Menomonie, WI 54751

Consumer address

Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc.

MAIN OFFICE

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800-228-3287 Voice / TTY
715-233-1083 Fax

BRANCH OFFICE

2021 Cenex Drive Suite D
Rice Lake, Wisconsin 54868
715-736-1800 Voice / TTY
1-866-419-1260 Voice / TTY
715-736-0265 Fax

Call Toll-Free 800.228.3287

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