

# Advocate

Quarterly Newsletter  
Oct — Dec 2023

## Note from the Executive Director

Winter is here along with the cold weather! It was a busy late Summer and Fall at CILWW, with staff in all three departments busy providing services. We are looking forward to the winter “slowdown” that generally happens this time of year to provide training to our new staff. We recently added two new staff in both Independent Living and Personal Assistant Services and one new staff in our New Freedom Transportation program.



This past October, three CILWW staff and I attended the annual APRIL Conference in Orange County, California, right next to Disney Land. It was a great conference with informative workshops, especially the one for executive directors and middle managers to network. It is great to hear what is going on at other rural Independent Living Centers from across the country and that we are all facing many of the same challenges. I was officially voted onto the APRIL Board of Directors for a full term as a Member at Large after having been voted onto the board in July to fill a term that was up for election in three months. I look forward to serving on the APRIL board and representing Wisconsin on a national Independent Living advocacy organization.

In November, we had a catered lunch for all CILWW staff and Board members before the board meeting. It was a great opportunity for staff and board members to get to each other and it was a fantastic Thanksgiving theme lunch with turkey and the fixings! I am looking forward to planning future staff and Board activities this coming year.

Finally, I hope everyone had a Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year. We are looking forward to the New Year at CILWW. In 2024, we will be developing our new three-year strategic plan and begin planning for the 35th anniversary of the ADA and CILWW's 45th anniversary in 2025.

Kyle Kleist  
Executive Director

## IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Executive Director
- Welcome New Staff
- CILWW Staff Highlight
- Independent Living / FHNB
- Personal Assistant Services
- New Freedom Transportation
- Assistive Technology Corner
- AT Programs
- For Sale/Donation

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**



# Welcome New Staff



Lyndsey Madsen  
*Independent Living Specialist*

I'm Lyndsey Madsen and I am an Independent Living Specialist. I obtained a degree in Vocational Rehabilitation with a concentration in Independent Living from The University of Wisconsin-Stout. Throughout my professional career, I have had the privilege of working with individuals with disabilities in various capacities since I was 16 years old. I currently live in Menomonie with my husband and children. Some of my favorite things to do include thrift shopping and playing board games with family and friends. When I am outdoors I enjoy fishing, swimming, and disc golfing. Steve Jobs said "The only way to do great work is to love what you do." I am ecstatic to be a part of CILWW and help fellow community members in their daily lives!



Tina Joiner  
*PAS Consumer Specialist*

Hello! I can't believe it, but my husband Nick and I moved to Menomonie 20 years ago this year. After attending UW-Stout we decided to stick around and make Menomonie our home. We have enjoyed living here, and it's nice to be halfway between both our families. We have two energetic shelties that share our little home, and they are definitely our pride and joy! Some of my favorite things to do when I'm away from work are camping, visiting state and national parks, and playing my guitar. I've really enjoyed my first few months working with the PAS program and look forward to learning more about my role here at CIL.



Stephanie Majewskie  
*Independent Living Specialist*

Hello, my name is Stephanie Majewski, and I am an Independent Living Specialist. I recently made the move to Eau Claire from Illinois with my husband. We have two dogs, two cats and a Cuban False Chameleon. With 7 years of experience in disability services, I am truly driven by a deep passion for empowering individuals with disabilities to live independently and make their own choices.

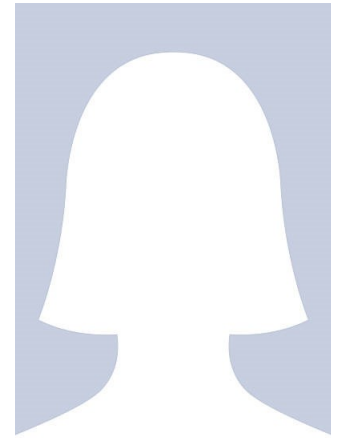
In my free time, you can find me diving into the world of gaming, indulging in crafting projects, getting lost in horror movies, and embarking on paranormal investigations. And here's a fun fact about me - I said "I do" on Halloween!

## CILWW Staff Highlight

My name is Desiree Hutsell. I started with CILWW in December 2009 as an Administrative Assistant. Over the years, I have worked my way through all CIL programs, including New Freedom, Personal Assistant Services, and Finance, before landing in the Independent Living department. Currently, I am an Independent Living Specialist specializing in Home Access and Public ADA Access. Throughout my different roles here at CIL, it has always brought a sense of accomplishment to know all of the different individuals CIL has assisted with our wide variety of services. I have always enjoyed the challenge of learning different aspects and broadening my knowledge of assisting individuals with disabilities to live more independently within their lives.

I was born and raised in Ladysmith, WI. I am currently living in Thorp, WI, with my family. We have five children, three boys and two girls ranging from age 1 to 12. In our free time, we enjoy family camping trips, boat rides, fishing days, and just hanging around the house.

CILWW also runs a Fishing Has No Boundaries Chippewa Valley Chapter. This event opens up accessible and adaptive fishing to participants who may not otherwise get the chance to enjoy the water. It is held yearly on the Holcombe Flowage. I have volunteered in this event many times throughout my time here at CILWW. As of last year, I am able to be a part of coordinating the event, which is an exciting new opportunity.



Picture Unavailable of  
Desiree Hutsell  
Independent Living Specialist  
(Home Access and Public  
ADA Access)

## CILWW Employment Opportunities

Are you interested in working or volunteering for our organization or know of someone? Call our office at 1.800.228.3287 (v/tty) or 715.233.1070 and ask for Nou Chi or email [nouchiv@cilww.com](mailto:nouchiv@cilww.com) for the latest career opportunities for you, your friend, or family member!

Employment and volunteer opportunities include:

- Independent Living Specialist
- Transportation Specialist
- Personal Caregiver
- Volunteer Driver

**JOIN  
OUR  
TEAM**



*The Center for Independent Living is an equal opportunity employer and fully subscribes to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity. It is the policy of the Center to provide employment, compensation and other benefits related to employment based on qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, veteran status or disability, or any other basis prohibited by federal or state law.*

# Independent Living

## Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC)



I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Jason Glozier and I am the Director of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers. When Kyle asked me to write something for their newsletter, I was incredibly excited for the opportunity. It's not often I get to come out from behind the curtain to talk about what the Coalition does and who I am.

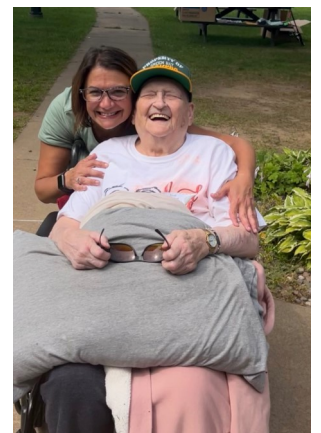
I took over as Director of the Coalition at the beginning of 2022 and am starting my third year in this role. This marked my return to the Independent Living Movement after being away for more than a decade, and I am excited to be back. In my previous job, I served as the Disability Rights and Services Specialist for the City of Madison. In that role I was responsible for ensuring accessibility in all city programs and services, which allowed me to develop a broad base of expertise. What really brought me back to IL and the Disability Rights Movement was how little I could really impact within a government system. The big issue that made me return was the longstanding home care crisis and a realization that our communities need leadership to hold government accountable for this issue. In my role at the City I often found myself biting my tongue on issues I couldn't impact, now I hope to be a voice, and help people find their voice.

The Coalition is made up of leadership from all 8 centers, and is a vehicle for their collective action and representation across the state. I often get asked how the Coalition relates to the general community and I think this is best demonstrated through our advocacy groups. Although most of my work happens at the State level it begins with you. Many of you have received our advocacy priorities survey over the years, and this helps to set the agenda for my advocacy priorities. In addition, part of my role is providing technical assistance to the ILCs in Wisconsin and ensure that their staff are equipped to provide the best services possible. Over the past two years we have focused on strengthening best practice efforts and statewide consistency in hopes that all people in Wisconsin get the same level of services regardless of where they live. It is my hope that as you work with your local ILC you keep in mind that you can impact things at a statewide level by sharing your concerns and needs. This upcoming year we will be looking at ways to better include the public in advocacy efforts, and hope you will be interested in joining us.

### Fishing Has No Boundaries



Cleo has been attending Fishing Has No Boundaries for many years and looks forward to it each year. When Nurse Mandie worked for CIL she would bring her son Nelson and Cleo and Nelson would be on the same pontoon fishing. To this day, Cleo still remembers Nelson and asks about him all of the time. This year, Cleo and her friend Lynn were able to ride on a boat with driver James and Cleo had a blast!



## Devin's Designs

CILWW is excited to share one of our many uplifting consumer stories, check out Devin Jamison's story on the inspiration behind his t-shirt design business with Onsite Apparel:

Devin is 20 years old, and currently living in Hudson, WI with his family. Devin graduated from Hudson High School in 2022 and he enjoys dancing, music, the Green Bay Packers, and the Milwaukee Bucks.

At home, Devin loves spending time with his Golden Retriever, Oliver, taking him for walks or to the dog park. Devin has recently partnered with Onsite Apparel to expand his very own business venture Devin's Designs.

Devin started making T-shirts because he loves to see and make other people happy. He started printing t-shirts to create art and connect with people. Devin loves inspirational quotes, and coloring and injects these things into the designs he chooses.

Devin and his team at Onsite Apparel all help to create beautiful and creative designs on the computer. Devin chooses the ink color and the garment and prints each item himself, also lending his stellar modeling skills for product photography! Devin loves providing creativity and what he wants to share with the world.

Devin's main goal for the future is to be happy and make others happy too! His biggest mission is sharing awareness that living with Autism makes him Different not less.



Pictured is Devin Jamison



Pictured is Devin Jamison standing in front of Onsite Apparel's building.

BIG thank you to CILWW's Independent Living Specialist Danielle Dworak and Devin Jamison and his guardian (Dawn Johnson) for allowing the Advocate to share Devin's story in our newsletter.

You can purchase and support Devin's t-shirts by typing in the link:

<https://www.onsiteapparel.com/collections/devins-designs>

# New Freedom Transportation

## Volunteer Driver Spotlight: Dave Mountain



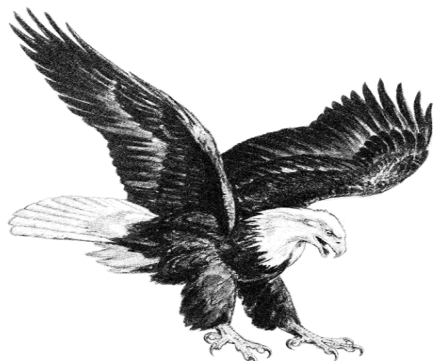
Dave Mountain  
*Volunteer Driver*

Meet Volunteer Driver: Dave Mountain

When asked how long he has been driving for us his first response is “too long” (November 2017 to be exact) the car he had when he started driving with us had 14,000 miles and currently has 202,000 miles.

He found out about driving for us from a deacon at a church. Dave grew up in Ellsworth and has lived in WI his whole life. He was married for almost 45 years and wife passed from pancreatic cancer 2017.

He has 4 kids and 5 grandkids. He has worked a variety of jobs and usually always held 2 jobs at once. Some of the jobs Dave has worked are: Red Wing shoes, Refrigeration Company, Controlled Data, ADC Telecommunications, and Custodian. In his free time he enjoys watching football, riding his motorcycle if he ever gets the chance because he is so busy driving for us. Dave’s fun now is driving he says (LOL)!



If you are interested in getting rides through New Freedom Transportation or becoming a driver call us today! Call 800.228.3287 for more information.

# Personal Assistant Services



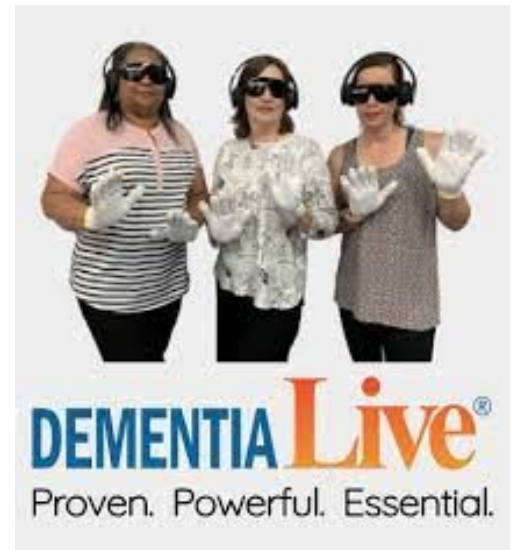
## Caregiver Highlight

Hi my name is Donna Bishop and I live in Cadott. I grew up on a small dairy farm. I have always enjoyed working with animals and helping people. I have helped people with their daily routines on and off over the years. Since 2020 I have dedicated my jobs to be strictly taking care of others. I love helping them out and they have become family to me. I look forward to what the future holds!

## Dementia Live Training

### Dementia Live Training

In October the PAS program provided two opportunities in Rice Lake and Menomonie for caregiving staff to attend an experiential dementia training. This training was an insightful experience that helped attendees to better understand what an individual with dementia experiences on a daily basis through hands-on activities and discussion. This training was provided by Carla Berscheit, Dementia Care Specialist at the Dunn County ADRC and Tricia Witham, Dementia Care Specialist from the Barron County ADRC. For more information and resources pertaining to supporting individuals with dementia contact your local Aging and Disability Resource Center or visit their website.



## Personal Assistant Employment

We are always looking for CNA's and Personal Care Assistants. 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](mailto: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!

### Foot Flush for Toilets

Simple daily tasks that many people take for granted can become difficult for the elderly or persons with disabilities. Many individuals struggle with dexterity, reach range, balance, and physical barriers that prevent them from doing daily tasks. One prominent barrier for individuals can be toileting, it is a necessity, but can become an overwhelming task. One piece of assistive technology that may ease the barrier of flushing is the Foot Flush. The Foot Flush is a hands free flushing device for toilets. This device is designed for those experiencing barriers from arthritis, pain, reach range, and physical barriers. It is easy to install and works on most standard toilets. The handle of the toilet will still work if the foot flush is installed.

If you would like more information on Foot Flush or any other assistive technology devices that could potentially improve your independence, please call CILWW at 715-233-1070 or 800-228-3287. CILWW provides services at no cost to the individual, and are not a funding source to purchase the assistive technology.

**There are various services available through the Assistive Technology program at CILWW. As a part of the WisTech Assistive Technology Program our agency can provide information on WisTech's alternative financing options (WisLoan, Telework, and TEPP) per 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!

# TEPP

## 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.

WisLoan +  
Telework  
Loan programs designed for  
Wisconsinites with disabilities

IndependenceFirst  
The Resource For People With Disabilities

# For Sale List

## 2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN ACCESSIBLE VAN

**[\$28,000] [Located in Germantown, Wisconsin]  
Contact: Philip Meinzen 262.707.4493**

- 72,300 Miles-Well cared for-Excellent Condition-Great Value
- New tires; New brakes and rotors
- Side entry Ramp/with auto Lift
- Two removable front seats - also has EZ Loc, with electronic cradle and pin installed for wheelchair front sitting.
- Clean interior-well preserved exterior-clean underbody



## 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

## POWER WHEELCHAIR

**2023 Pride Mobility Quantum Q6 Edge 2: 1 Level.** Reclines, elevates, 300# weight limit. Only used 3 weeks. Paid \$10,000. Asking \$1,500.  
Contact JoAnne @520.682.7375

## STAIRLIFT

**Pinnacle Stair lift system.** Will need to disassemble. Used on an approximate 15 step stairs. Includes 2 remotes. Asking \$500. Contact Cindy @715.456.4333

## STAINLESS STEEL HANDRAIL

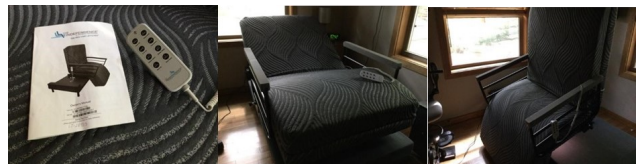
**Stainless Steel Handrail.** For pool or hot tub. Asking \$150.  
Contact Kari Ann @ 715.828.3718



## ALL FROM ONE SELLER

Contact Becky @ 715.239.1486

**Journey UP Independence Bed, Twin XL** multi-position that rotates to standing position, like a lift chair. Brand new, never been slept in. \$2,500.00.



**Standing Rolator.** Upright type with little use. \$100.00



## FROM PERSONAL ASSISTANT SERVICES (LOCATED AT CILWW)

**Bedside table** variable height.  
**Commode Assist** removable bucket.  
**Transfer benches** one wooden and one plastic.

*CILWW waiver will need to be signed before donation. If you are interested in any equipment under this section, please contact Samantha @ 715.233.1070*

## STAIR LIFT

**It is a straight lift for 10 stairs**, then it makes a 180 degree turn to the left for the last 4 steps.  
Contact Terrance @ 715.235.0079

## WHEELCHAIRS

**Manual wheelchair** small size.  
Contact Ervin @715.492.3445

**Manual wheelchair with back up brake system.**  
When the person stands up the brake engages.  
When the person sits down the brake releases. This provides an extra safety feature. It has the normal brakes too. Contact William@ 952.270.5481

## WHEELCHAIR LIFT

**Interior wheel chair lift for van.** Hydraulics make the lift swing out to the side of the van and lower the ramp (with assist). Contact Rodney @ 715.222.9390

## ALL FROM ONE DONOR

**Arms that attach to a toilet**  
**Shower chair**  
**Walker-standard**  
Carol @715.808.2129

## ALL FROM ONE DONOR

**Upright walker**  
**4-wheeled walker** with seat  
**Bike-looking seat** on a steel frame-seat is able to move. Contact John @ 651.770.5283 (please call late afternoon or evening).

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

### **MedCline Reflux relief pillow system**

- Natural reflux relief without medication. And, no more stacking pillows.
- Four-layer, cool gel-infused, environmentally safe Certi-PUR® foam.
- The only patented Reflux Relief Wedge with arm pocket for side sleeping.
- Adjustable stuffing in the Therapeutic Body Pillow.
- Made to last years and years.

Contact Deb @ 800.228.3287  
or 715.233.1070 ext. 202

*For 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 @ 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. Contact Deb @ 800.228.3287

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

Consumer address



Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc.

**MAIN OFFICE**

2920 Schneider Avenue East  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-233-1070 Voice / TTY  
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

The Advocate is available upon request in various formats including large print and e-mail notice. Our website also displays a text version of our most current version issue. If you are receiving more than one copy of the Advocate or wish to be removed from the mail list please call our Menomonie office. If you are currently on our Advocate mailing list and have Internet access please consider being notified by e-mail and contact [cilww@cilww.com](mailto:cilww@cilww.com) .



Follow us on

