

Compass IL 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.

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Navigating Toward Independence and Freedom

2920 SCHNEIDER AVE SE
MENOMONIE, WI 54751

JAN — MAR 2025

Note from the Executive Director

Grants, Anniversary, and more!

Spring is here, and I am looking forward to warmer temperatures after a frigid winter. We are still getting the word out that CILWW is now doing business as Compass IL and conducting outreach with the various agencies and organizations that we work with. The signs at the Menomonie main office and Rice Lake branch office were changed to reflect the new name and tagline, and we ordered new fleece and T-shirts for all staff and board members.

We are planning to start up our planning committee for the 45th Anniversary celebration in October. A lot of planning for the anniversary and highlighting the rebranding, center name change, and new logo with tagline. It's still six months away, but a lot of planning with go into the event to make it a great celebration.

In other news, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Community Foundation of Dunn County for \$5000 to provide no-cost medical, nutrition, and social rides to eligible persons living in Dunn County who use the New Freedom transportation program. This funding will go a long way toward assisting persons struggling to cover the cost of transportation.



Compass IL formerly known as Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin received \$3,500 in funding to provide no-cost medical rides to persons living in Dunn County for United Way St. Croix & Red Cedar Valleys. Compass IL is thankful to the United Way for its support in providing life-essential medical rides to persons in need.



"We met with both legislators and their staff on the priority issues this budget year for the Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN), with the IL Funding increase at the top of the list."

Annual Independent Living Days (2025)

On February 12 – 13, eight staff from Compass IL, including myself, attended the annual IL Days in Madison. There was a variety of workshops on the 12th for staff to attend, and Amanda Miller and Ashley Lien did a workshop on creating a healthy work environment. I also assisted with a workshop on the polling place audits conducted by all eight ILCs, and the most common issues or barriers to voting in person for persons with disabilities.

On the 14th, the seven staff and I broke up into two teams and did our annual legislative visits to all the State Senators and Representatives from our ten county service area. We met with both legislators and their staff on the priority issues this budget year for the Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN), with the IL Funding increase at the top of the list. We had some productive meetings and made sure to invite legislators to take a tour of Compass IL and learn more about the services we provide.



Compass IL Staff Highlight

Samantha Lotts

Personal Assistance Services Director



My name is Samantha Lotts. I have been married for 19 years and am a proud mother of a wonderful 15-year-old son. I reside in Bloomer on a small farm that is home to cows, mini donkeys, and my two lively yellow labs. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling and riding side-by-side. I began my career at Compass IL, where I worked one day a week auditing records of care. I quickly discovered my passion for this mission and took it upon myself to learn everything I could about Medicaid and personal care regulations. I subsequently returned to college to earn a degree as a Health Navigator, with the aim of becoming the PAS Director. That goal was realized just a few months ago, and I am truly enjoying my role as the Director of Personal Assistance Services, helping individuals receive the care they deserve in their own homes. My aspiration is for no one to have to live in a facility.

Relentless Badger Award

When you look up the meaning of the word Volunteer it says: noun - a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. When someone spends unpaid time doing something to benefit others.

When you look up super volunteer the definition is: a person who volunteers a significant amount of time to a single organization. You will also find this man's name, Craig Tobias.

In 2017 Craig began to volunteer for CILWW now Compass IL, he started out driving his car as a volunteer driver then moved to driving our SMV Van for us. He is very well known by our riders in the community. He is very respectful of the riders and "his" team here at CIL. No matter when Michelle calls him or how short the ride or long the ride "or how short a notice the ride, if he can do it he will. He goes above and beyond when picking some elderly

riders up who struggle at times with walkers, and wheelchairs, or oxygen tanks. He is very patient with everything from riders to dispatchers, he drives some dialysis patients on a regular basis and has become a fixture and a stability in these riders lives, almost like "family" I have heard from some riders. He is always willing to do extra community events to expose New Freedom Transportation/ CIL to the community.

Craig is also on the board for the Center. He thought he was going to have to drop off the board due to all of his van rides but then a new board member joined and needed a van ride there so Craig brings the new board member and himself to the meetings. Craig is on the road everyday taking riders to Dialysis and Chemo treatments. He also helps out when we do trunk or treat at local churches. One day after driving all day, Craig came to the Center to volunteer even longer that day and help the Center be a stop for the Menomonie's Amazing race.

Teams from the community were given clues and they had to find the Center and had to watch Craig load and secure a wheelchair, then they had to do it as well. He goes out of his way to help in any way possible. Every year he comes to legs days and makes sure everyone staying at the hotel who needs assistance can get to the Capitol safely with the SMV Van.

Craig takes care of the van as if it was his own and makes sure all maintenance is done.

I wish I could clone Craig; he is an excellent volunteer.

Thank you, Craig, and congratulations on being Compass IL's 2025 Relentless Badger Aware recipient!



Volunteer Driver Highlight



Meet the Driver: Kathy Rudi

Kathy just started her 8th year driving for us in January.

Kathy started driving for Sawyer County as a volunteer at first, then she came to New Freedom Transportation. Kathy grew up in Rusk County and has been in Sawyer County for the last 52 years with her husband Wayne. Kathy had worked at a Saw Mill prior to driving for both programs. She also worked on a family farm for about 10 years, milking cows.

Kathy has 2 children, and 6 grandchildren.

Kathy enjoys knitting or crocheting in her free time and selling some of her items at craft shows. Kathy also uses some of her free time to visit the elderly so they have someone else to talk to besides family members. Thank You Kathy for your dedication to driving for our program!

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Caregiver Highlight



Caregiver:
Will Worthington

This quarter, we're excited to shine a spotlight on Will Worthington! Will has been a valued caregiver with the PAS program since July of 2022. He truly enjoys stepping in to assist consumers on short notice and has been a wonderful advocate for their needs.

When asked what he loves about caregiving, Will shared: *"I enjoy being a caregiver because I like to help people, especially those who are in need who can't do some things themselves."*

Thank you, Will, for your dedication and outstanding service!



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

Become a Caregiver

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 please contact Samantha Lotts at slots@compassil.org 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!

Talking Keyboard

The TextSpeak Wireless Standard Talking Keyboard offers an excellent solution for individuals seeking seamless communication while on the move. This sleek and portable keyboard is particularly suited for those with speech impairments who require a synthesized speech generation device. It can store up to 30 user-defined phrases and features both male and female voice options. Additionally, both the speaker and the keyboard are rechargeable, allowing users to easily power on the device and begin typing to communicate.

The TextSpeak Wireless Standard Talking Keyboard retails for approximately \$639.00 available on the manufacturers website and Amazon.



Compass IL 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, CIL provides a variety of services, including information on alternative financing options like WisLoan, Telework, and TEPP, upon request.

AT Programs & Services

TEPP

WisLoan + Telework

Loan programs designed for
Wisconsinites with disabilities



Independence First
The Resource For People With Disabilities

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. CIL'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.



Disclaimer

For a complete list of our For Sale and Donation items, please visit our website at: www.compassil.org or check out our facebook: Compass IL

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 Nou Chi at Compass IL at 800.228.3287 or 715.233.1070 extension 234 or nouchiv@compassil.org.

Compass IL does not warrant the condition or terms of the sale of any device or equipment offered for reutilization by any seller or buyer. CIL 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 donor to provide accurate and detailed information about the device and equipment specifications and condition to buyer. CIL functions solely on sharing the information with other parties.



All images used are for reference only. For exact image of item sold or donated, please contact the individual.



For Sale

Project Wheelchair Van. \$1,800 or best offer. 170K miles, factory built with wheelchair lift in the 2001 Ford E350. Needs windshield and driver side mirror, and more. Price is very negotiable; charitable or church groups get automatic 55% discount. Contact Bob @ 715.246.9006, or text 651.253.0195

Invacare Hospital Bed. All electric. Asking \$50.
2 Shower Chairs. One padded, one plastic. \$10 each.
Standard aluminum walker. 4 or 5 walkers. Asking \$10 each. Contact Don @ 715.829.0613

Geri-chair with tray. Green. Average size. Like new condition. Asking \$200 OBO. Contact Debra @ 715.218.4256



For Donation

Electric Hoyer lift. 2 slings. Has an attachment that can weigh people.
Shower chair for shower or can fit over toilet. It fits over the tub and slides into the shower. There is a back and footrest on it.
Over the bed bedside table.
Two half-size bedrails.
Manual wheelchair. Tilts and reclines.

Roho cushion. Headrest. Side supports. Contact Missy @ 715-828-5806.

Hospital bed. Electric head and foot remote. Bed is raised and lowered with a hand crank. The bed is located at the Kinnear

Adult Family Home in New Auburn. Contact Melissa @ 509.899.0771

Crutches
4-wheeled walker with seat. Contact



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Toll Free: 1-800-228-3287

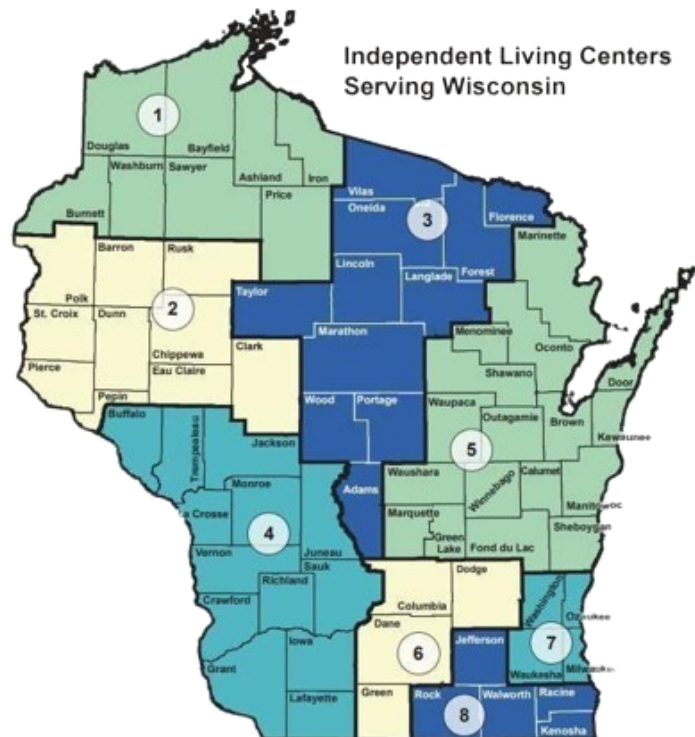
Fax: 715-233.1083

Type address here or use Mail Merge to automatically address this publication to multiple recipients.

Find your local Independent Living Center

Did you know that Wisconsin has 8 Independent Living Centers? Independent living centers (ILCs) are consumer controlled, community based, cross disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agencies that are designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities, and provide an array of independent living services.

Need help finding a personal care attendant? Looking for advice or support from someone with the same disability as you? Want to find an accessible form of recreation? All this and much more is available at your local independent living center.



1. indiGO
2. Compass IL
3. Midstate Independent Living Choices
4. Independent Living Resources

5. Options for Independent Living
6. Access to Independence
7. IndependenceFirst
8. Society's Assests