

# Empowering People with Disabilities in West Central Indiana

The Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center, Inc. (The WILL Center) is a nonprofit, community based, nonresidential organization that is run by and for people with disabilities. **Our mission is to empower people with disabilities to ensure that they have full and complete access to community resources to promote their independence.**

As an Indiana Center for Independent Living, The WILL Center provides services to residents of Vigo, Clay, Putnam, Parke, Owen & Vermillion counties regardless of the type of disability, the age, the gender, sexual orientation or the ethnicity of the individual. We refer to the people we serve as consumers, in recognition of their right to maintain personal control over their lives and make their own choices.

**E M P O W E R  
Y O U T H**



**The WILL Center is open Monday through Friday.**

**Visitors are always welcome and  
volunteers are needed.**

Donations are welcome and  
are tax deductible.



**The Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center, Inc.**  
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**Educational Advocacy**

**High School to College Transition**

**Independent Living Skills Training**

**Advocacy**

**Peer Support**

**Information and Referral**





## How We Work

At The WILL Center, we believe that people with disabilities have the right to control and direct their own lives: that they should only be limited in carrying out this right in the same ways that people without a disability are limited. Controlling and directing one's own life means making cultural and lifestyle choices from acceptable options and leads to self-determination and independence.

We also believe that people with disabilities have the right to actively participate in all aspects of community life to any extent they choose. They should have opportunities to fulfill a range of social roles - working, owning a home, raising a family, and engaging in recreational and leisure activities, for example - and to assert their rights and fulfill their responsibilities as citizens.

A case coordinator works with each consumer, based on his or her primary service need, to make sure that The WILL Center provides needed services in a timely manner. Generally, Services received, other than information and referral, are provided in agreement with an Independent Living Plan developed with the case coordinator.

## Youth Empowerment Services

The WILL Centers Youth Empowerment Services Program provides young people with the community based experiences, skills, and access to services needed to promote their inclusion in community life and successful transition to adult life. Ways to help our young people become self-reliant, contributing members include:

**Educational Advocacy:** Assists young people with significant disabilities and their parents/guardians in the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and Individualized Transition Plans (ITP). These plans help children with disabilities be successful in school.

**High School to College Transition:** Assist students with making a seamless transition from High School to College. Helping make sure the student gets in contact with the appropriate recourses in Financial Aid, Disability Services, Enrollment, and much more.

**Independent Living Skills Training:** This itinerant program provides daily living skills instruction to consumers, including home and personal management, as well as communication skills training.

## Youth Empowerment Services Cont.

**Advocacy:** Individual advocacy services assist people with disabilities to obtain the services that they need and teaches personal advocacy skills. The WILL Center also works at local, state, and national levels to ensure that needed supports are available and that discriminatory practices and barriers to independent living are removed.

**Peer Support:** This program is designed to promote personal independence for people by providing one-on-one peer support or referral to a support group. A peer who is successfully dealing with a disability is able to provide practical, real life solutions to everyday problems encountered as a result of a disability.

**Information and Referral:** Information & Referral services are provided by all staff members. We want to ensure that information relating to rights, options, issues, and resources is available to any individual, organization, or business who wants to know.

