



# The WILL Center

## Monthly News Letter for June 2020

# A Note from the Director

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## Welcome to our June 2020 newsletter

As you can read below, we continue to work on behalf of our community, assisting in the accomplishment of goals and in the support of individuals who need it. Throughout the time that the Center has been closed to walk-ins, 30 to 40 percent of the staff have been in every day, making sure we maintain a safe healthy work environment and that we can quickly move to respond to the calls that come in.

Not surprisingly, the number of calls has diminished as people shelter in place, but they are still coming in. We are providing all the services we normally provide, with the added pressure that has been brought by the change in how our community has had to respond to a dangerous public health concern, one that is especially dangerous to our older population and to people with other existing health concerns.

Our peer support groups have continued to meet remotely, our coordinators are actively contacting past and existing consumers, we have made limited consumer home visits to support technology needs, and we continue to advocate for the things that make our community more inclusive.

Our current operational plan follows Gov. Holcomb's guidance. Offices have been encouraged to work remotely until June 13, and provided testing and new case milestones have been met, can then begin the process of reopening.

We will be monitoring the milestones, and will change our plan as necessary to protect consumers and staff.

Our reopen will occur in stages, first bringing staff back into the building with appointments here as necessary, followed by a reopening to walk-in consumers. When the time comes, we

will encourage consumers to call ahead, and we will have staff contact individuals with appointments to ensure they can pass a screening before making the trip.

The screening is what you should expect. Many other offices and organizations are using the same template. We'll ask if you have any of the conditions that might be symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been exposed to someone diagnosed with it, or have been to a place that has been found to have active cases. We will also have a no-touch thermometer here to screen temperature. If you cannot answer no to any of the questions, or if your temperature is 100.4 or above, we will ask the individual to come back at another time.

We will also provide masks if you do not have one, and will have hand sanitizer/hand washing facilities.

This is all new to us, too. Please bear with us. Your health is a serious matter to us, and we'll do everything we can do to ensure you get the support you need in a manner that keeps you safe.

# The Low Vision Program

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## Computers for the Blind

If you have been searching for a communication solution and have not purchased a computer in a while I would recommend "Computers for the Blind." This non-profit organization can provide you with a re-furbished desktop computer or laptop computer. The laptop computers come with a webcam. If you have heard family or friends talk about communicating via a software program which displays the parties in conversation the webcam is part of the communication mix. The price range is \$130 for a desktop and \$180 for laptop computers. If you receive social security payment you may inquire about a discount.

Please call us if you have any questions

Contact: [computersfortheblind.org](http://computersfortheblind.org)

Or phone (214) 340-6328

# The Independent Living Program

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## Sheltering in Place

So here we are in another month of change. I know in the last few days some retail stores have reopened.

While it's nice to have choices again, it remains advisable to be safe when venturing out.

- Make a list.
- Wear a mask.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Limit the time you're in a store.
- Wash your hands when you return home.

The first thing I do when coming in to the center in the morning, is wash my hands. Since there's no certain information of where the COVID-19 can live it's better to take precautions.

If you have been out in public, you have probably noticed that there are people who don't keep their social distance or have a mask on. Please remember this is serious business. I would rather be on the side of caution. You have to do what is right for you, but please consider your safety and the safety of others around you. Choose to be safe!

The hardest thing is not seeing all of you. We are here in the office so you can always call and talk with us, even if it's just to say hello.

## Medicare Supplemental Insurance

As a reminder to the public, The WILL Center is a Medicare Enrollment Center. The federal Medicare program pays most medical expenses for people 65 or older, or for individuals under 65 receiving Social Security disability benefits. However, Medicare does not pay all expenses.

As a result, you may want to purchase a Medicare Supplement policy that helps pay for certain expenses, including deductibles not covered by Medicare. When you elect coverage under Part B, either due to age or disability, you have a six month open enrollment for a Medicare supplement policy, which guarantees you coverage with a plan and a company of your choice. If you do not choose a plan during this open enrollment period, any company you apply to can deny you coverage based on your health condition. You may also incur penalties associated with late enrollment.

If you have questions or concerns about Medicare supplemental plans, please feel free to call the center at (812) 298-9455 and ask for either Denise or Gloria. We can help you with this process.

Although our office is currently closed to walk-in traffic, we are available to take your calls and assist you with your insurance needs.

## Ramps for Freedom Program

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### Ramps Construction

Summer is nearly here and we're working to restart our wheelchair ramp construction program.

Please bear in mind that alongside the need for the ramps, we remain concerned for the safety of the volunteers who build them. Gov. Holcomb's guidelines recommend gatherings of 10 or fewer, which would limit the size of the projects. We are also working to ensure these volunteers are safe on site, and that the homes we will be working around will be safe.

## The Youth Transition Program

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### Work to Include

The WILL Center needs your input!

Jared Price is the Chairperson for the Work to Include program in Terre Haute and the surrounding area.

Work to Include aims to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities into the Indiana workforce. We need your input to develop plans that can be implemented with local employers to ensure that employment of people with disabilities is a primary outcome. We need your voices to be heard to create change in West Central Indiana.

The Work to Include Coalition Goals:

- Build a cadre of individuals with disabilities and family members that promotes Employment First.

- Identify barriers to getting jobs and design a system that works for all people with disabilities.
- Develop local initiatives to educate and dispel myths about community employment.
- Conduct a campaign known as Work to Include to document the success of individuals with disabilities working in the community.

We would also like to schedule another public meeting to gather insight so we can transform the Terre Haute and surrounding area into a robust chapter.

I need your help to make this a success. For more information call (812) 298-9455, extension 213, or email [jared@thewillcenter.org](mailto:jared@thewillcenter.org).