



The WILL Center

Monthly Newsletter for May 2021

The Center's News

Note from the Executive Director:

Happy Spring!

As we move cautiously into a time in which the pandemic is safely controlled, let us reflect about how we interact with each other. As vast as the world looks when you are on the beach looking out to sea, we are nevertheless closely tied together by our associations: family, friends, work, shared experience.

To strengthen those human ties, remember that we can all do our part. If you have not gotten your vaccination, please consider doing so. The life you protect may be someone dear to you. If you need help scheduling your vaccine, we are here to help.

Masks are not a be-all, end-all, but they do reduce the spread of all viruses. It is no accident that this past flu season we had the lowest incidence rate of common influenza in decades.

Wash your hands frequently.

None of this is difficult or complicated but doing these simple things can hasten the end of our isolation. We can all do our part to bring us back together into a stronger, safer community.

Independent Living Program

Peer Support:

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it has taught us to value human connection. We are all making greater effort to check in with family, friends and loved ones. Advancements in modern technology have helped to fill this need by providing us with ways to interact virtually with one another. There are several different programs such as Facetime, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Skype, and Zoom. The WILL Center's preferred virtual platform of choice is Zoom. If you are not tech savvy do not worry! Phone calls, letters, and cards work just as well. They help to provide that personal touch.

We are preparing to restart peer groups. You can expect a phone call from us to check in with you. We also want to find out from you what topics, community members, or other ideas you would like to discuss during this time? Remember this is your time to discuss what matters to you with a group of your peers and hopefully learn and grow in the process. We will make sure to use a combination of telephone, Zoom, and outdoors when weather allows.

Social Media:

WILL Center Staff will be hosting some future Facebook LIVE events.

They will be held every other Wednesday at 2:00pm (EDT). These Facebook LIVE events will be broadcast on our Facebook profile: Will Ctr- <https://www.facebook.com/thewillcenter>

These are the programs currently scheduled:

- Wednesday May 26, 2021

Facebook LIVE will introduce the center's new wheelchair ramp program coordinator discussing the Center's Ramps for Freedom Program.

- Wednesday June 9, 2021

Jared Price the center's Youth Transition Coordinator will be discussing the center's Youth Transition Program (for ages 14-24).

- Wednesday June 23, 2021

John Turner: Regional Ombudsman for the counties of Vigo, Sullivan, Clay, Putman, Parke, and Vermillion counties. John will speak about the Indiana Long-term Care Ombudsman Program. The Ombudsman program advocates for residents of long-term care facilities, which includes nursing home facilities and licensed assisted living facilities. Our primary purpose is to promote and protect the rights guaranteed to residents under federal and state law. We are here for you: residents, family members, friends and anyone interested in the welfare of the long-term care residents. Our services are free and confidential.

Thanks to everyone who listened to the Will Center's first two Facebook LIVE events!

Wheelchair Ramp Program

Greetings from the new Ramp Program Coordinator:

Hi Everyone,

My name is William Caldero, I am the new Ramps for Freedom Program Coordinator at The WILL Center. I am writing to formally introduce myself and share a little bit about the work I will be doing here. As the Ramps Coordinator, I will be responsible for taking applications for ramps, doing surveys for the builds, and at times helping install the ramps. I will also be focusing on fundraising and finding volunteers

for these ramp builds as well. I am eager to work directly with The WILL Center Staff and in doing so we will reach our goals of giving people with disabilities complete access to their homes.

While I was applying for this role, I noticed everyone's passion for advocacy and their desire to help others. That is not a quality you find everywhere and that made me excited to accept this role. It will be an adventure getting to know you all and help where I can.