

The Center's News

Note from the New Executive Director:

First, I want to congratulate Pete Ciancone on his retirement. Thank you for the last 12 years of dedication to the center's consumers and staff. You will be missed, I'm happy to have had you as a mentor.

After working for the low vision program for 9 years, I am happy to be stepping into this new role. I am looking forward to continuing the life changing work we do and am truly inspired by the wonderful community we serve!

Independent Living Program

March is Disability Awareness Month:

Each March, we celebrate Disability Awareness Month throughout Indiana. Did you know that there are 54 million Americans with disabilities? Adults and children with disabilities represent nearly a fifth of Indiana's population. It's important to understand what a disability is and how you can be an Ally. Do your research and help to be educated on the subject, because disabilities are a life time, not just one month.

SHIP:

Medicare can often be confusing with questions like, when can I join, switch, or drop a plan. You have your initial enrollment period, your open enrollment period, your Medicare Advantage open enrollment period and a general enrollment period. These take place at different times of the year.

People are most familiar with “open enrollment” which takes place from October 15th-December 7th every year. But there is also a Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment period that is currently going on now. It started on January 1st, 2022 and lasts until March 31st, 2022. During this time frame, if you are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan or switch back to Original Medicare coverage. Choosing to go back to Original Medicare would require the individual to join a separate Medicare drug plan to cover prescription costs.

If you are currently on Original Medicare, you cannot sign up for an Advantage Plan during this Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period. You would have to wait until Open Enrollment later this year and the plan would go into effect on January 1st, 2023. The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment period is only for those individuals who are currently on an Advantage Plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me here at The Will Center.

Gloria Stamper, IL Program Manager/Ship Counselor
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Wheelchair Ramp Program

Now Hiring:

As of right now we are not taking any new wheelchair ramp request. We are currently looking for a Ramp Construction Coordinator. We have had several resumes turned in and are hoping to fill the position soon. Once we have filled the position, we will open the ramp request list.

Volunteers needed: If you would like to volunteer to build a wheelchair ramp please get ahold of: **Gloria Stamper, (812)-298-9455 ext. 211**
gloria@thewillcenter.org

L.I.V.E. (Living Independently with Low Vision to Empower)

Strategies for dealing with vision Loss:

There are many reasons someone may lose their vision, it could be from an accident, hereditary, and or eye disease. Regardless of the cause your life is not over. I wanted to share some basic survival tips, should your visual acuity change.

In the end you have only one person to depend on, that is yourself. Once you begin to mustard up the confidence and believe yourself. Then you can start the process of adjusting to your new life. That is the most important approach to dealing with sight reduction or loss.

Now that we have the emotional part covered, let us look at some daily living skills. Using various tools for marking important items. Something as simple as putting a rubber band around the shampoo as a tactical marker. That same approach will assist you when washing dishes to mark the dish soap. Instead of fighting with your toothbrush while trying to apply toothpaste, put a rubber band around your personal tube and just squirt the paste into your mouth. Then you won't have to worry about getting toothpaste all over your shirt.

How many times have you been asked to sign a document? Simply ask the other party to put their finger near the location where you need to sign. Another easy tip would be, ask for a paperclip and place that near the area or signing.

Do you love food? Losing your sight doesn't mean you lose your love for food. Yes, I love food and want to know what is on my plate. I would also like to know where items are on my plate. Using the clockface method will help you with determining where your food is on your plate. For example, the person who is sighted can say your steak or fish is at 6 o'clock and your peas are at 3 o'clock. One final simple tip, my work partner for nine years produced this suggestion as we traveled in western Indiana. When using a public restroom, they would say "Danny the Men's bathroom door is on the right and the handle is on the left side of the door". Very, simple but effective.

For more information about The Will Center visit our webpage is: www.thewillcenter.org.

Youth Transition

WE NEED YOUR HELP: YOUTH SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The WILL Center is conducting an informal needs assessment for our Youth Program. The goal of this assessment is to find out the barriers that students with disabilities and their families face to ensure a successful transition into adulthood. We also want to hear from providers who serve youth with disabilities. We will accept comments until Thursday, March 24, 2022. Please the link below to complete the form online. If you have questions, please contact Jared Price. Email: jared@thewillcenter.org or Phone: 812.298.9455 x 213

Link: <https://forms.gle/8vaCEGcMGM4CyUXJ9>

Please feel free to share this with your friends and networks.