

The Center's News

A note from the Director:

Over the last two years, while dealing with the pandemic and all changes that have come with it, one thing has become apparent to me, that is that I am blessed with a great staff. During these stressful and emotionally draining times, our staff has stepped up. They have made sure that everyone who walks through our doors is treated with respect and dignity. This is something that is often taken for granted, especially in the disability community. Inclusion is talked about all the time and the disability community is often overlooked; this is not the case at our organization. We are a team who inspires to treat everyone equally and every consumer we work with becomes part of that team!

As the director I am so proud, and I want to take the time to thank my staff for being an amazing team. I might have inherited this team, but I am so lucky to be a part of it!

Independent Living Program

Peer Support:

Our Peer Support Group meets the second Wednesday of the month. We take this opportunity to educate the group on upcoming events that might interest them. It is also a time to get together and socialize. One of the group's favorite activities is to play BINGO and win door prizes. If you are interested in this group, please notify the center at: 812-298-9455. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Craft-ability:

Come enjoy, meeting new people and making a craft. We meet monthly on the second Monday of the month from 1:30 until 3:00pm.

All are welcome!

Medicare Open Enrollment:

Medicare Open Enrollment begins on October 15th and runs through December 7th. This would be the time to see about changing your health plan or your drug plan. You can also drop a plan and go back to your original Medicare. Call The Will Center and ask for an appointment time to discuss your personal health coverage. You will meet with our SHIP counselor, Gloria Stamper. You may reach her at 812-298-9455, ext. 211.

Energy Assistance Program:

The official start of the new program year will begin Monday, October 3rd, 2022. If you need help with your application, please call our office to make an appointment. We will start taking appointments on September 3rd, 2022. We will not process your application if you do not have everything needed. You will need to reschedule once you have all your documentation.

All applicants will need to Bring the following:

- ID
- Social Security cards for all members of the household
- Income from the previous three months
- Copy of energy bills

WICAA processes all applications by the date WICAA's staff receives them. WICAA will start making pledges for this year's applications on or after November 1, 2022.

******Please remember to be patient through this process******

Wheelchair Ramp Program

Meet the new wheelchair ramp coordinator:

Hello, my name is Jeremy Laney, and I am the ramp coordinator for the “Ramps for Freedom” program. Since this is my first season with the program, I have been working hard to ensure that we can get as many ramps built as possible. You can see several of our finished ramps on our Facebook page. The individuals that we have built for are very appreciative and are now able to leave their homes. This increases their ability to enjoy their independence and participate in community activities.

Currently, The Will Center is not accepting new applications for ramp builds. Our building season is ending; however, we will resume taking applications in the spring of 2023.

L.I.V.E Program

Living with Low Vision:

The WILL Center recognizes National White Cane Day October 14, 2022

National White Cane Safety Day is an annual observance celebrated traditionally mid-October of each year. Take time to celebrate and appreciate the achievements of visually impaired people with a day in a year. It is created to celebrate those blind people's achievements. The Mayor of Terre Haute will be presenting a Proclamation. One of our goals is to have installed audio pedestrian signal crossings for downtown Terre Haute. Make a donation to our WHITE CANE on display and receive a free coffee from Federal Coffee.

WHEN: October 14, 2022

TIME: 10:00 am

LOCATION: 7th and Wabash Ave in front of Federal Coffee

Youth Transition Program

What is inside an Individualized Education Plan and what is it:

First, I want to explain what an IEP is. An IEP is a legal written document that describes how a student with a disability will participate in general education curriculum if appropriate. It describes the special education and related services that the school will provide to the student. The school will form what is called a Multidisciplinary Team. The team is comprised of Special and General Education teachers. Sometimes, they will include the schools guidance counsel. This team will work with the parents to decide what is best for the student with a disability. The school and parent must first establish a baseline for academic achievement and functional performance. This is typically compiled through teacher and parent observations, the student's grades, and other educational testing completed either by a third party or the school Psychologist.

After the baseline has been determined, there are several other questions that must be answered. The team will sit down to determine goals for each student and the guidelines by which each goal is to be measured and reported to the parents. Then they must decide the appropriate Special Education modification and related services that will be needed to support the student. Related services may include: audiological services, orientation and mobility for visually impaired or blind students, communication services, and transportation. The IEP must also include sections on accommodations that are each listed in the IEP. Some of more common accommodations include: use of a calculator, extended time for tests and quizzes, scribe, modified test length of homework assignments. The team must then decide if the student will be included in classes with nondisabled students or not. They must also consider how the student will participate in state or local achievement tests. They must also consider the extent to which the student will participate with non-disabled peers. The IEP must also include the date when services will begin as well as location, length, and duration. The IEP will also contain notes from the most recent case conference. It also must contain a transfer of rights statement. This explains that once the child reaches the age of 18, all educational rights transfer from the parents to the student unless an educational advocate has been appointed or the student is under guardianship.

The IEP can also help to address a student's behavior needs as well. The school will complete a functional behavior assessment. They will then meet with the team to discuss the results. If needed, they will make a behavior intervention plan to address the behaviors.