

The Center's News



The WILL Center recognizes and celebrates Disability Awareness Month. We affirm that all people living with disabilities are deserving of accessibility and inclusion. We also recognize that advocacy and awareness are year-round efforts. As March comes and goes this year, it is our hope that allies to the disability community carry on their advocacy into the following months. We encourage allies of the disability community to be active in their advocacy.

In observance of this month, we ask allies to use positive, affirming language for people with disabilities. We ask that they make space for people with disabilities and show respect for the people with disabilities they interact with. Allies can follow our social media platforms to be in tune with advocacy opportunities.

In 2022, the CDC reported that 1,382,302 Indiana adults have a disability. This is around 20% of our state population. Of those adults with select disability types, 12% have a mobility

disability, 12% have cognitive disabilities, 7% have independent living disabilities, 6% have hearing disabilities, 5% have visual disabilities, and 3% have self-care disabilities (CDC, 2022). We see similar statistics at the national level. In the counties we serve, between 10-15% of the population under 65 have a disability.

We believe independence and inclusion are vital for people with disabilities to thrive. We encourage everyone to celebrate the ways we are all different and recognize what we have in common.

Happy Disability Awareness month! Let's make the world around us kinder and more accepting. Let's break down the barriers that keep us isolated!



S.H.I.P.

Medicare Updates-2023

From January 1 – March 31 each year, if you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan or switch to Original Medicare (and join a

separate Medicare drug plan) once during this time. Note: You can only switch plans once during this period.

What are the new Medicare changes for 2023?

For 2023, the Part A deductible will be \$1,600 per stay, an increase of \$44 from 2022. For those people who have not worked long enough to qualify for premium-free Part A, the monthly premium will also rise. The full Part A premium will be \$506 a month in 2023, a \$7 increase. Changes to 2023 Medicare coverage include a decrease in the standard Part B premium to \$164.90 and a decrease in the Part B deductible to \$226. Part A premiums, deductible and coinsurance are all increasing for 2023.

If you or someone you know needs help with Medicare, please feel free to contact The Will Center and ask for Gloria Stamper, 812-298-9455 ext. 211.



Navigating Medicare

Wheelchair Ramp Program



Ramps for Freedom program season starts!

Beginning March 1st, 2023, the WILL Center will be opening the application process for our ramp program. There is a process for this program and applying is no guarantee of receiving a ramp. There are many factors included in our decision to see who may qualify for one. Due to the lumber costs, we have had to scale back on the number of ramps that we can build. We are always looking for ways to find persons, agencies, or businesses, which may be able to help us

with donations to our program. The more donations that we receive, the more ramps we can build. Please help us raise money for this much needed program. If you can donate to our ramp program, please feel free to make your donation payable to The WILL Center or visit our website at: <https://thewillcenter.org/donate/>.



Note: The Will Center only builds in Vigo County. If you live outside of our county, please go online to Servants at Work website, and fill out an application online.

L.I.V.E. Program

Computers for the Blind (CFTB):

Finding programs with credible content is always a challenge when you engage with the Internet. After thorough research, The WILL Center low vision staff has identified a national program, Computers for The Blind, which provides computers to individuals who are visually impaired at a reduced price. Their mission is as followed:

Computers for the Blind is determined to bridge the digital divide for the community of the blind and visually impaired in the US by providing affordable, accessible refurbished computers and training. We do not have any age or ability restrictions. We are an ally for the community of the blind and visually impaired and some of us are members. Our solutions are ready and accessible. They facilitate the individual to lead an independent and connected life – opening

life-long opportunities for employment and digital equity. We provide customer guidance from purchase and beyond. Our seamless support is just a phone call away.

The WILL Center has assisted individuals in Western Indiana with this program. These individuals receive refurbished computers that are pre-loaded with a third-party software to assist those with low vision or total blindness. After the first year of use, consumers are responsible for the renewal fees that include the enlargement software and the screen reader license.

Computers for the Blind is always looking for donations of modern computers to re-distribute the devices through a volunteer base of individuals.

Computers for the Blind employs individuals who are low-vision, and have first-hand experience with the technology. This firsthand knowledge helps new consumers make the decision on what software best fits their needs, whether it's a screen reader, enlargement software, or the size of display monitors for laptop computers.

The WILL Center has a laptop available from computers for the blind to demonstrate zoom text and Jaws assistive technology. Please contact us at 812 298 9455 if interested in seeing how these features work.

Computers for the Blind is a trusted program, and we encourage you to consider this program.

To learn more about their work, visit www.computersfortheblind.org or call at 214-340- 6238.

