

Advocate Autumn 2007

**Center for Independent Living  
for Western Wisconsin, Inc.**

**Take Control Of Your Services:  
It's Your Life**

**By Tim J. Sheehan  
Executive Director**

More than three months late, Wisconsin citizens have a budget for the next two years. And as I have opined in this space before, there are a number of significant initiatives in this budget affecting people with disabilities of all ages.

Perhaps most significantly, the long awaited blueprint for meaningful Long Term Care reform—and the funds to implement it—have been signed into law by Governor Doyle. There will be much discussion in the coming months about what this paradigm shift in community based services means to each of us, but I wanted to use this space to tell you about one exciting aspect.

As we move toward implementation of a managed care model that will lead to an entitlement to services for those eligible, consumers will have increased choices and increased responsibilities to be knowledgeable participants in this process. The new system will feature Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) at the county level as the point of entry into the system, and Care Management Organizations (CMOs) to develop plans with consumers and deliver long term care services.

To a disability rights advocate like myself, one of the exciting options those who enter the managed system will have is to self-direct services. Self Directed Services (SDS) is one of the ways in which individuals needing community long term care services take more control over critical parts of their own lives. As someone who lives and breathes the Independent Living philosophy foundational values of consumer control and choice, SDS promises an opportunity to make “choice” a truly meaningful word in the arena of long term care.

CMOs will be required to explain and explore SDS as an option within the managed long term care benefit. Within SDS individuals will have an array of choices as to the extent they chose to self-direct portions of the services they need. And SDS will be available to all of the individuals eligible; adults with physical and developmental disabilities, as well as older adults requiring long term care services.

While the potential of SDS is exciting indeed, it also implies an increased level of understanding, knowledge, responsibility, and risk sharing on the part of consumers. The Center is committed to being a resource to long term care consumers and their families in exploring the possibilities within SDS.

There will also be available an SDS option for those who choose not to enroll in managed care. The state is developing an SDS program for those individuals and is currently waiting for a federal waiver to implement that community-based option.

SDS is only one of the aspects of this significant change all of us will be experiencing over the next two years. We all are in this together and it is only through our shared collective efforts that we can implement a system that enhances the choices that people have when they need long term care services.

Look for an announcement coming soon on information and training sessions on SDS that CILWW is currently planning across western Wisconsin.

If you want to learn more about SDS and what it may mean to you, we have posted a policy paper on SDS on our website at <http://www.cilww.com/>.

Take control, it is your life after all.

## **Update on the Legislative Advocacy Network!**

Advocacy training is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> at Chippewa Valley Technical College in River Falls. The training will be on Long Term Care and Self Directed Supports. Details will follow.

## **WHO'S NEW AT CILWW??**

By Kay Sommerfeld

WELCOME!

Heidi Scherr will be working as a Resource Counselor in the Menomonie Office. Heidi has a Bachelors Degree in Social Work and completed her internship with us so she may be a familiar face to some.

David Koch will be working out of the Menomonie office as a Peer Support Program coordinator/ Resource Counselor. David has a Bachelors Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation and will also be a familiar face to some as he completed his practicum here and has been a peer mentor.

Denise Westin joins us in the Rice Lake Office as a Resource Counselor. Denise has a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and experience as an Economic Support Specialist.

Maribeth Hartung returns to our staff as an Employment Specialist. Maribeth is working on a grant project out of our Menomonie office. Welcome back!

Ben Luer joins staff in the Menomonie office as a resource counselor. Ben has a degree in Vocational Rehabilitation and experience working with a senior employment program.

Christine Richardson, another familiar face, completed her practicum at CILWW this summer and joins us as a part time resource counselor. She is completing her Vocational Rehabilitation degree at UW Stout.

Della Fisk has been with CILWW for over a year as our receptionist. My apologies to Della for not introducing her earlier! Della is employed through the Senior Citizens Employment and Training Program (SCET)

Michael Hagberg is the new voice that greets you when calling CILWW in the mornings. He recently joined us as a receptionist.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Maribeth and Denise who have completed intensive training in Benefits through the Wisconsin Disability Benefits Network, and are able to work with Cami in providing Analysis on how work could impact Social Security and other benefits.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Lori McElveny, who has been promoted to Medical Assistance Personal Care Specialist.

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? Cami, Jeanne, Noelle, Kari Ann, in addition to the new staff have been busy with attending training opportunities these last few months. Training included: Organizing for

Self Directed Supports, Access to Devices and Technology for Sensory & Learning Disabled, Working with Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Vision Loss, Finding Powerful Tools for Independence, Recovery: Building Systems, Programs, Practices and Lives, Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, and Transition and the Rehab Act.

Goodbye:

Good luck and our best wishes go to Laura, Sara, Jessica, and Kyle as they enter into new adventures!

## **What's New in the Loan and Demonstration Program?**

New Phones at CILWW:

- CLS45i Amplified Phone™ By Clarity
- Clarity® W425™ Cordless Phone:
- 2.4 GHz Amplified Cordless Phone with Answering Machine (modified cordless phone)
- 2.4 GHz Amplified Cordless Phone with Additional Handset (modified cordless phone)
- ClearSounds ® A50 UltraClear™ Expandable Amplified Cordless Phone
- Clarity® C320™ Amplified Phone
- JV-35™ Amplified phone by Clairty®
- Reizen RE-50 Amplified Phone
- Pocket Speak & Read VCO Phone
- Hands Free Cell Phone Amplifier

Our new phones have a variety of features- too many to list! Some features include: different levels of amplification, speaker phone ( handset and/or base) headset jacks, call Waiting, Caller ID, adjustable controls of volume and tone, hearing aid compatible, T –coil compatible, back lit dial pads, visual ringers, speed dial, handset locator, neck loop jacks, large buttons, and light ring flasher.

Phones and their features can be viewed at <http://www.cdhh.org/> or call CILWW and a

Resource Counselor can assist you with identifying a phone that might meet your needs. CILWW has many styles of phones, which are available for demonstration or loan, and staff can assist with providing information on TEPP and the application process. (Telephone Equipment Purchase Program).

## **Assistive Technology- Tips**

We get many calls with questions and concerns about equipment that is not working properly. This may include phones or other “tech’ equipment. While CILWW staff is willing to try and troubleshoot problems with you, we may not get there as quickly as we (or you) would like. Also, while CILWW may assist with choosing a product, we are not the Vendor and can not replace or fix phones. We do our best at initial set up and training to anticipate problems, but with new technology and more buttons and options, it can be confusing.

When you get your equipment:

- Keep the boxes your order came in..
- Keep a copy of the purchase order
- Keep directions and troubleshooting guide

Equipment not working? We offer the following troubleshooting tips:

- Make sure equipment is plugged in properly everywhere in case the plug got nudged a bit. It is a good idea to push plugs in SECURELY.
- If your equipment uses batteries, check to be sure they are charged good, or replace with new batteries.
- Is your equipment fully charged?
- Refer to the troubleshooting section of your equipment manual/instructions for possible solutions to problems.
- Use the owner’s manual to setup your equipment and the troubleshooting guide when something doesn’t work. Ask a friend, relative or neighbor to learn about the equipment with you and be willing to help you with problems

Still having problems?

- Call the company that filled your order within the timeframe of their satisfaction guarantee if you are dissatisfied and need to return equipment. Use the boxes you have saved and send a copy of the purchase order. Keep one for yourself
- After the satisfaction guarantee timeframe, you will need to contact the company that manufactured the equipment to troubleshoot or return your equipment under their warranty plan

We recommend that you keep backup equipment handy to use in case you need to return your equipment. This is a good idea also in case of power outages. Find out if your equipment can operate with battery backup

Remember: you can call CILWW for assistance, but by doing a bit of your own troubleshooting you

may easily fix your problem!

## **Around the Region**

MENOMONIE

### **Restaurant tool helps people with hearing loss ~**

Culver's restaurant, 1330 Stout Road, has added a feature to help hearing-impaired customers. Those customers can enter the drive-through, pull up to the order speaker and touch the OrderAssist bell. The signal alerts restaurant personnel that the driver would like to place an order with the help of the special printed menu that will be given to the driver as soon as the customer advances to the order window. The OrderAssist system includes an oversized touchpad and menu template.

"We are determined to make the dining experience a happy one for everyone who visits," said Gary Theelke, owner of the Menomonie Culver's.

According to the Hearing Loss Association, 28 million Americans are deaf or hard-of-hearing. OrderAssist also allows Culver's to help customers whose language skills or speech problems are impediments to simply giving an order over an intercom. OrderAssist is available inside the restaurant as well at the counter.

## **Tepp Outreach Grant**

The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin recently received a grant from Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund program. The purpose of this grant is to promote awareness of the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) and to demonstrate specialized telecommunication equipment to people with disabilities, service providers and the community at large. CILWW maintains a device Loan and Demonstration Program which has specialized telephones and communication devices available for a person to try out to determine what works best for them. Staff will assist with TEPP applications or provide information on purchasing equipment. If you are interested in trying specialized telephone equipment, please give us a call.

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION**  
**VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM OF ST. CROIX COUNTY**

On April 23, 2007 at the VFW Hall in Baldwin, the Board of the St. Croix Valley Disability Coalition held an appreciation dinner for the drivers of the Volunteer Driver Program of St. Croix County. Eight of our 10 drivers were present for a catered dinner, presentation of certificates, gifts, and door prizes. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual appreciation dinner for the program, which is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Last year our drivers volunteered over 3900 hours of their time to help others by providing transportation.

The Volunteer Driver Program provides transportation to people with disabling conditions who are under age 60 to medical appointments during business hours. We also transport people of any age to medical appointments outside of business hours (e.g. dialysis), to social/recreational events, for educational/training purposes, and independent living activities. The program is supported by grants from the Department on Aging, United Way of St. Croix Valley, the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation and the New Richmond Community Foundation. Anyone in need of transportation or who might be interested in becoming a part-time volunteer driver is encouraged to call Joan toll-free at 1-877-595-7283 between 8:30-11:30, Monday through Friday.

**"If you are interested in becoming a part-time volunteer driver (mileage reimbursement at 48.5 cents per mile provided), Call Joan toll free at 1-877-595-7283, Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30."**

## **Do you need Medical Coverage?**

Do you have a disability determination? Are working or will you be working in the next year? You could be eligible for HEC (Health and Employment Counseling) or MAPP (Medical Assistance Purchase Plan). HEC and MAPP are programs that allow people with disabilities to receive Medical Assistance. If you are interested in finding out more about either of these programs, contact Cami at 715-736-1800 or 866-419-1260.

## ***Area Activity Highlights***

By Michael Hagberg

Eau Claire County - The Potting Shed, an Eau Claire gardening haven! They are open all year, and have

a lot to look at and experience. The Potting Shed hosts hands on classes, most of which are seasonal. 1804 Rudolph Rd. Eau Claire. You can call them at 715-831-4000 or check their website <http://thepottingshed1.com/default.aspx>

Eau Claire County - Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra will be playing January 26, 2008 at the Eau Claire State Theatre, and February 23, 2008 at the Grace Lutheran Church. Single tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$6 for students. Another possibility is to buy packs of 5 tickets for \$65 = \$13 apiece. To find the nearest place to buy tickets, or for more information you can call 715-831-2345 or purchase tickets at the door.

St Croix County - Cady Cheese is located east of Spring Valley, a short distance south of I-94 on highway 128, and is the countries largest producer of Longhorn Cheese with over 25 tons of cheese being produced each day. A shop with samples and a viewing window of the production floor make for an entertaining experience. They are open daily from 9am to 5pm. For more information call 715-772-4218, or go their website [www.cadycheese.com](http://www.cadycheese.com).

Dunn County - Pleasant Valley Tree Farm has "cut your own" Christmas trees! A wonderful part of the Pleasant Valley experience, is how they cater to the individual. They will do all or none of the work. Hayrides to the fields and back are available. You pick your own tree and you can cut it yourself, load it and leave. Or you have a bow with a number or special color. You have it tied to your tree, and pleasant valley will have someone cut it for you, and load it on\in your vehicle! A good family environment. They offer hot chocolate, spice cider, baked goods, popcorn and sledding. A large children's play area is there for use. Many of the drinks, all the popcorn and sledding are free. A nice family outing to pick a tree or spend an afternoon. You can reach them for directions or questions at 715-879-5179.

Barron County - in Rice Lake there is plenty going on! January 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> the Rice Lake Curling Club is holding the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mixed Stein Spiel. From January 31<sup>st</sup> though February 3<sup>rd</sup> Disney's "Jungle Book" will be performed at the Northern Star Theatre. February brings us a Farm Show on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, a Model Railroad Show on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and a Home and Garden Show on the 29<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup> all being held at the Cedar Mall. There are many other events and activities in the area, and can be found at <http://www.ricelaketourism.com/events.asp>.

Clark County - on the crest of a hill, three miles west of Neillsville, overlooking one half million acres



of spectacular woodland scenery and glacial moraine, is The Highground, Wisconsin's Veterans Memorial. Here individual monuments and sculptures honor the veterans of Vietnam, WWI, And WWII, Military Service Women, and Native American Vietnam Veterans. Also, on the grounds are the Timber Frame Building, housing an information/gift center; a Pow Wow area, home of the annual "Warrior (Veteran) Pow Wow" where veterans of all cultures and conflicts are honored through traditional Native American ceremonies; picnic shelters and tables; and, a 3 1/2 mile walking trail system. The Highground is open to the public 24 hours a day, every day of the year. For more information you can call 715-743-4224.

Clark County - Tufts' Museum is a grand mansion, built by Emery Bruley in 1885, and reflects the changes of that period and the personalities of each succeeding generation of owners; from an airy Victorian residence to an interior re-decoration by Marshall Fields in 1916 and finally extensive remodeling by Col. and Mrs. William B. Tufts, before donating it to the city for use as a museum. Open Tues., Thurs. & Sat. 1:00-3:30pm., Memorial Day to Labor Day. 715-743-3346

If you will need accommodations, call ahead for arrangements for any community event.

## **DUNN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**

Interfaith Volunteers, Dunn County United Way, CILWW, NEXT International, CHP, House Calls, Dunn Co Human Services, Office On Aging, , West CAP, UW Stout and Community Volunteer Harold Halfin have formed a collaborative to assist families and individuals with limited means to remain in their homes safely and with dignity. The program is a community repair program that will focus on small repairs (ramps included) that are not covered by other programs. Volunteers provide the repairs and labor. The program will serve two groups: seniors aged 62 and over and homeowners of any age facing limited means to repair their homes. There are financial guidelines for applicants. For more information on this program or to volunteer call Noelle at CILWW 233-1070 or Angelakay at Interfaith Volunteers 235-2920.

## **Get Checking™ – Access to Mainstream Financial Services**

GetChecking™ is a national financial education program designed specifically to help consumers establish a primary banking relationship and gain access to mainstream financial services. Get Checking is sponsored in tandem by eFunds Corporation and the University of Wisconsin Extension.

Already helping over 11,000 unbanked consumers open deposit accounts and effectively apply the knowledge financial education affords, Get Checking is a proven program providing opportunity to close the disproportioned financial gap between the banked and unbanked.

Get Checking is the only national financial education program that guarantees program graduates can open a checking or savings account.

### In Our Area...

For more information regarding the Get Checking program, visit <http://www.getchecking.org/>.

## For Sale:

1991 GMC Safari **van**, 111,000 miles, all wheel drive, new tires, runs good, receiver hitch, Cold River wheelchair **lift** for up to 500#. \$3,000 OBO Call Randy 715-672-3335

Brown leather **lift chair**, \$150, **wheelchair**/Roho air cushion, \$150. Call Charles 715-579-9520

Chrysler Town & Country 2,000 **van** All wheel Drive, about 90,000 miles, remote starter, new tires. **scooter hoist**, and Invacare Zoom 220 2006 **scooter**, rechargeable battery, Package Deal \$5,000 call Alice 715-723-6969

**lift recliner** "Cat Napper" 6 months old Was \$599, sell for \$450 Call Alice 715-723-6969

Minivator (**smaller type elevator**), 15 yrs old, good shape, \$3,000 OBO Call Thomas at 715-832-5345

1992 Chevy Astro **van**, 147,000 miles. Raised roof, Braun Wheelchair lift, Hand controls, Auto Start and Power Seat. \$7,000 obo Call Roxanne 715-836-7381

Hover Round **scooter**, with all attachments, like new, also ramp for house or to van and threshold ramp. \$8,000 new. Asking \$4000 obo. Call Shirley at 715-688-2806

Jazz Electric **wheel chair**, air cushion, for smaller person, used less than one hour. New at \$7,000 asking \$600 Call Lynda at (715) 658-1272

1988 GMC Conversion **van** with wheelchair lift. Auto side-door wheelchair lift, includes tie downs and seat belt, custom interior, cb radio, television, table & bench seats, new brakes & battery. 115,000

miles. Asking \$3,000 OBO Call Sharon 715-868-5893

1989 Ford conversion accessible **van**, Crow River lift (side) 90,000 miles \$5,000 negotiable, call Sammie 715-833-9040

1990 GMC Safari XT, all wheel drive **van**, 4.3 liter engine, hand control, Ricon automatic lift & door slide, raised roof, key control start, fits standard wheelchair. 139,117 miles. Asking \$2,000. Call Pam or Mike 715-448-3330

Electric, adjustable **hospital bed** rated for 600#, mattress rated for 400#. Two 16" long side rails included. Asking \$1000 (was \$3500). Invacare Model 450 Hoyer **lift** includes spare Battery & Charger. Was \$800 new, asking \$400. 1989 Chevy 150 modified **van** with Crow River lift, less than 100,000 miles, runs well. Asking \$1500 Call Ed 715-532-7040

Chevy 15 passenger **van**, 2000 size 3500, 98,000 miles. Sell for \$9,500 Call Bill 715-202-0280

Electric head & foot, crank to raise **hospital bed**, mattress & side rails. One rail needs adjust or repair, \$125 OBO. Call Donna 715-874-5303 or Lori 715-879-5184

Electric, adjustable **hospital bed** & mattress with side rails. Paid about \$1700, sell for \$500 OBO. Call Christine 715-702-2190

Hi-Low Sunrise Medical electric, **hospital bed**, single, Collapsible, Like new \$1200 OBO. Call Larry, Barbara or Evonne at 715-832-8657 or Barb's Cell 715-475-9619

Rascal 245, model #60T **scooter**. Never used, 4 ½ years old. Asking \$1500 OBO. Call Don at 715-832-3090

Pronto Sure Step M51 electric **power chair**. Was \$5045, asking \$800 OBO. Excellent condition used very little. Possible delivery Call Chris at 715-296-2232

1993 Ford E-150 **van** with lift, power seat and doors, remote start, raised roof, very good condition. \$5,900. Call Dan at 715-834-1130

Lark rear wheel drive **scooter**- Great for indoor or outdoor use, Condition good. Asking \$400 obo. **power wheelchair** by Invacare Nutron R32-Condition excellent. new in 2004 Paid \$6,085. Asking

\$1,150. Includes elevating leg rest, belt strap, battery. Call Marty at: 262-896-8741

Email: [msteinert@theredmondco.com](mailto:msteinert@theredmondco.com)

**air mattress** Power Pro Elite with low air loss 9500 full size alternating air mattress. New - \$500 Call Dale @ 715-267-6989 or [dale@sunsetpinesresort.com](mailto:dale@sunsetpinesresort.com)

Legend Pride **scooter**, \$800. Call Terry at 715-552-5511

Suntec 710 electric **hospital bed**, in Eau Claire, 5 years old. \$395 Call Elliott at 612-618-5969 or 952-848-0566

**cctv** – 19” color screen and up to 200X magnification and moveable tray.. Call Joe at 715-235-7933 or Lorraine at 715-235-5711.

Manual **wheelchair**, Invacare, average size, \$300 OBO, PVI **portable ramp**, 48lbs, \$275, **lift chair**, Invacare, mauve, average size. \$350 Call Lorraine at 715-834-4949

Convertible R245 Rascal **scooter** and R255 front end for power Chair. Excellent condition. \$1500. Call Lois at 715-237-3397.

2001 Celebrity Pride 3 wheel scooter, for sale. (not for off road / hilly areas). Needs batteries, Asking \$400. Contact Gerald at 715-875-4724.

Invacare Storm TDX motorized wheelchair, Air/foam cushion, both standard & contoured backs, adjustable arm rests, headrest, oxygen holder. Can be adjusted to individual needs and preferences. Used only a few months. Asking \$2,000, call Karen to negotiate 715-743-4735.

## Looking For:

”Quickie” **wheelchair** or other lightweight wheelchair. Call Roy at 715-832-4454.

2003 or newer Class A, 36-40 ft, **motor home**, handicap accessible, with power lift into coach, ceiling track & lift, roll in shower. Call Bon or Will 715-832-1111

**Folding ramp** to get 4-wheel scooter into van. Judy Green 925-2533 (Chetek)

**Donation: commode** call Ann 715-835-2458

**Wanted:** to rent with option to buy, used 12 foot long **parallel bar**, walker/exerciser/therapy set up. Call Mrs. Carlson 715-637-3872.

## Stay Safe - Wisconsin's Winter Weather

Exposure to winter weather can become life-threatening. Here are some conditions to be aware of.

### Frostbite...

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by freezing of the tissue. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose.

If symptoms are detected, get medical help

immediately. If you must wait for help, slowly re-warm affected areas.

### Hypothermia...

Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature drops too low. Warnings signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If a person's temperature is below 95°F (35°C), seek medical care immediately.

**If medical care is not available**, begin warming the person *slowly*. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap them in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give the person **hot** beverages or food; warm broth is better. Do not warm extremities (arms and legs) first. This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

### Overexertion...

Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.

### Pet Care...

When temperatures fall, pets need extra care. Bring pets inside when temperature reaches 30 degrees with wind chill. Dogs and cats can get frost bitten ears, nose and feet if left outside. Outdoor dogs need a dry, elevated house, with clean dry bedding and a flap over the opening to keep drafts out. Make sure water bowls are not frozen. Chemicals used to melt snow on sidewalks can irritate pets' paws and be sure to keep antifreeze, salt and other household poisons away from pets.

# Principles of Universal Design in Residential Housing Construction

Universal design is a means to simplify life for everyone by making the environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities. Residential construction with the principles of Universal Design does not just apply to disability-related situations. It applies to everyone.

Everyone plans to stay in their new home for a long time. Adding simple features at the time of construction will add immediate benefits such as: ease in entering; safety by eliminating steps (falls are the #1 injury in the home); and moving furniture. National estimates indicate the cost of implementing the features below will add 1% - 2% to the construction costs.

**A universally designed home will be welcomed & useable by ALL.**

- q Zero step entrance
  - ü A minimum of one exterior entrance.
  - ü Service door from garage to house is most used door, thus we recommend this door be zero-step and that it be 42" wide).
- q All interior and exterior door widths at 36".
- q Lever handles on doors & plumbing fixtures.
- q Hallways wide enough to accommodate turn by wheelchair into a room (minimum 42").
- q Bathroom large enough to accommodate 5' turning radius.
- q Bedroom on main floor large enough to accommodate 5' turning radius.
- q Other considerations
  - ü Cabinets under sinks easily removable.
  - ü Higher electrical outlets.
  - ü Lowered thermostats and switches (48" – 54" maximum).
  - ü Primary fuse box on main floor
  - ü First floor laundry facilities
  - ü Bathroom wall(s) re-enforced to accommodate installation of grab bars as needed, i.e., toilet & shower areas (5/8" plywood min).

For more information on Universal Design and construction applications, contact CILWW.

**Clark County Volunteers Help People with Disabilities Enjoy Hunting**

Written by Dale Petkovsek

The simple task of walking into a woods or climbing a tree is taken for granted, until you find yourself blind, confined to a wheelchair or required to use crutches for mobility. During the week of October 6-14, 2007, 97 landowners from Willard, Greenwood, Neillsville, Colby, Thorp, Loyal and Fairchild assisted 64 hunters with disabilities in going gun/deer hunting on their own private property. Battling extreme heat to wind to very wet conditions and an abundance of acorns and forage in the woods made it a very tough year for seeing deer. Yet with the dedicated help of an additional 45 guides and support staff, these hunters with disabilities managed to harvest 55 deer from the Clark County private lands. Thirty-five of the 64 hunters killed deer. Thanks to the abundance of Herd-Control permits, several hunters were able to harvest more than one whitetail. But this hunt is no longer about shooting deer - It's about the friendship and camaraderie spirited by willing sports-persons wanting to help those that need it. Clark County should be proud to have such a great group of unselfish volunteers in its midst. If you know any of them, give them a pat on the back.

These landowners and assistants look forward to and make plans for each coming year. For some, their fall schedule revolves around this first week of October. For many of the hunters, the size and shape of the deer doesn't matter. They are satisfied with the opportunity to enjoy Mother Nature and to be part of a "camp". We have experienced a 97% return rate of hunters. For most, this hunt will be their only chance to go hunting this year. For some, maybe for the last time in their life. Over the past nine hunts we have sadly lost about 7 or 8 hunters who enjoyed a quest with us during their final moments here on earth. Their families have contacted us and expressed great gratitude for the satisfaction they received during their last years. Without the aid of an assistant they could not have accessed a woods or field and could never retrieve an animal if they did harvest one. Each year a handful of new hunters arrive with new challenges. By the time they leave they are counting down the days until next year with a rekindled spirit, full of ideas and plenty of self esteem.

What started out in 1999, as a simple suggestion to a group of 12 neighboring landowners with 1,370 acres in the Willard area, as a way to help reduce the expanding herd of whitetail deer, has since turned into an immense community effort to enable fellow disadvantaged sportsmen enjoy the great outdoors. Now in it's ninth year, the West-Central Clark County "Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities" is the largest organized gun/deer hunt in the nation with 97 generous landowners enrolling 11,060 acres of their precious private hunting land. Enabling a group of sports-people with disabilities and sometimes total strangers the opportunity to enjoy the tradition of deer hunting and the ambiance of a

“deer camp”.

The hunter's disabilities ranged from high level paralysis to amputee to blind. They traveled from all corners of Wisconsin, plus one each from Iowa and Minnesota to participate in this special season. The hunt also had its misfortunes, as all hunts do. Twenty-nine of the sixty-four hunters returned home with empty tags. But not from lack of effort on their part. Some could only hunt one evening and some had equipment problems. Though in percentage of fulfillment and pleasure, the hunt was 110% successful, thanks to all the caring landowners, guides, assistants and friends.

We host a late morning “get acquainted” session. With Dale’s North Mound Tavern being the central headquarters for this “Hunt”. Hunters, guides and family fill the establishment by 11:00am on the first day. New friendships immediately develop as old ones are rekindled by the participants of the past hunts. After a hearty luncheon, any hunter needing to check the sights on their gun or demonstrate their adaptive equipment to their hunting partner, are sent down the road to a shooting range set-up by the organizers. Several participants venture over to take one last practice shot and allow their guide to become familiar with their needs. Throughout the next eight days, hunters arrive and leave each with their own story to tell.

For further information about the West-Central Clark County “Special Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities”, Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors, Inc or to become involved as a hunter, guide, landowner or sponsor, contact Dale Petkovsek of Dale’s North Mound Tavern in Willard. Phone number 715-267-6989 or e-mail at: <http://www.sunsetpinesresort.com/>

## **Everybody Loves a Success Story**

Finding the right resources and adaptive equipment may seem like a frustrating and tedious task for people who experience a hearing loss. However, for one Chippewa Valley woman, this frustration was turned into an increased sense of security in her home.

The woman began her journey through the maze of adaptive equipment and community resources in search of devices that could alert her to a doorbell ringing, a phone ringing, an alarm clock going off, and even a burglar entering her home. Once the right adaptive equipment was found, it was equally



as important to find funding to assist with purchasing of this equipment. Funding...funding...what comes to mind first? The **Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP)**, of course!

TEPP assisted with the funding for an amplified phone and a signaling device that has the capabilities to alert to telephone calls and the doorbell. These devices are easily connected to bed shakers, lamps, or other visual alerts. This Chippewa Valley woman states that she now feels safer in her home, knowing that she can use the phone with confidence in case of an emergency. She also said that it is nice to know that you aren't missing anything, like a friend calling or stopping over, especially around the holiday season.

By Heidi Scherr, Resource Counselor