



Advocate

Quarterly Newsletter
July — Sept 2022

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Summer is officially ending and Fall is just beginning. Staff in all three departments (IL, PAS, and Transportation) have been busy with referrals and providing services to consumers, and finally getting out and presenting at community events. CILWW will be taking part in a “Chippewa Valley Advocacy Training” being sponsored by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR) and the Chippewa and Eau Claire ADRCs on Tuesday, September 20th at the Eagles Club in Chippewa Falls. Participants will learn how to advocate with Legislators, connect with other advocates, and learn about the latest State and Federal policy updates that older adults and persons with disabilities.



CILWW has continued to host meetings in the training room, including a public hearing on the State Assistive Technology Plan (SPAT) sponsored by Wistech. In August, we hosted a meeting of the Independent Living Council of Wisconsin (ILCW). I am hoping we do not see another Fall spike in COVID cases like in the last two years, and we continue to use the training room for hosting other agency and community events.

CILWW will be partnering with the League of Women Voters of Greater Chippewa Valley and Disability Rights Wisconsin and hosting a Voter Registration Event on October 5 from 2 – 3 pm. It will be a hybrid event offered virtually by Zoom and in person at CILWW's main office in Menomonie. This will be an opportunity for people to learn how they can register to vote, how to request an absentee ballot, making an accommodation request to your local clerk, curbside voting, where to find information on the candidates, and more.

For more information, visit our website: www.cilww.com

Kyle Kleist
Executive Director

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CILWW is a community-based, non-residential, private non-profit agency that is staffed and governed by people with disabilities. Our focus is to empower people in making choices that maintain or increase their independence. We serve people with disabilities, their families, and the community in which they live. We also work with area businesses and service providers that need assistance in responding to the needs of people with disabilities.

Opportunity
+ Responsibility
+ Empowerment
= Independence



Welcome New Staff



Emma Barnd

Independent Living Specialist

My name is Emma Barnd and I'm currently living in Eau Claire with two roommates and my cat. I just graduated from UW- Eau Claire in May with my Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a focus in Gerontology/Geriatrics. In my spare time I enjoy golfing, reading, playing board games, and being outside in the sun. I'm very excited to start my career at CILWW!



Melissa Wold

Transportation Coordinator

I'm Mel (Melissa) I currently reside in Colfax. The picture of me does not show my usually messy hair and hot mess self since I have two children who are 7 months apart (it's a good story for when you have time), my daughter just turned 4 my son is 3 right now. I have been with my husband for 18 years and married a blissful 14 years. I have an associate's degree in hotel and restaurant management, a dental assisting certificate and I have worked a variety of jobs. My most recent job I was at a nursing home for the last 3 years. When I have some down time I like to go on motorcycle rides, bake, play card games, play in my garden or tend to my flowers, do crafts with my kids and drink coffee, lots of coffee.



Kari Jo Mankus

Independent Living Specialist

My name is Kari Jo and I live in Rice Lake. I have two grown adult daughters and a son who passed away at the age of 4, he was born with a very rare syndrome and had multiple disabilities and he is the passion for the work that I do. When I am not at work I love to be with my daughters, I love to travel, meet new people, be with friends, crafts, go to the beach and be with my dog.

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Conference, 2022

In late July CILWW's Finance Director, Tammy Grage, Transportation Director, Bobbi Hegna, board Co-Chair, Nicole Everson, and I attended the NCIL conference in Washington, DC. Attendance at this year's conference was much lower than it had been in recent years, most likely due to ongoing concerns around COVID. They even canceled the annual march to the capital and held the event virtually. The "hill visits" with staff from Senator Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson were done in person, but our meeting with Congressman Ron Kind was done virtually. Still, it was a great opportunity to meet and network with staff from other Independent Living centers across the country and there were some great workshops focused on advocacy, diversity, equity, inclusion, and overall equal justice for all marginalized persons and populations

Bobbi and I presented a workshop titled "How Advocacy Can Build a Transportation Program". I talked about the advocacy efforts that went into creating CILWW's New Freedom Transportation program and how persons can get involved in local, State, and Federal transportation advocacy. Bobbi talked about the New Freedom program eligibility, daily operations, funding sources, and opportunities for collaboration. It was an early morning workshop, but we still had good attendance and great questions, and feedback on the workshop was very positive.

Kyle Kleist
CILWW Executive Director



YOUR
 VOTE
MATTERS

GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 8

BEFORE YOU GO TO THE POLLS

#1 Register to Vote

Register to vote or be prepared to register at the polls. Call your local clerk and find out what you need to register before, or on, election day.

#2 Do Your Homework

Know where the candidates stand on the issues that are important to you. Here are some resources:

- Learn about who is on your ballot. You can do that by going to the MyVote Wisconsin website:
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Whats-On-My-Ballot>
- Find your polling place, and learn how accessible it is:
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Municipal-Clerk>
- Other resources and useful information for voters with disabilities is: <http://www.disabilityvote.org/>

VOTING ISSUES & CONCERNS

If you experience any barriers to voting, whether it is early voting, absentee voting, or election day voting, contact The Disability Rights WI Helpline at 1-844-347-8683 or email: info@disabilityvote.org

And as always, if you need assistance with these resources don't hesitate to contact CILWW.

Independent Living

Retirement is when you stop living at work and start working at living..

David Koch has been working for CILWW for 15 years. At the beginning of 2022, he shared with us that he would be retiring in July. David was a great asset to our organization; he has worked in many different service areas providing all different types of services to our consumers. In recent years David has focused on Assistive Technology, more specifically amplified phones, and alerting systems. David's knowledge and skills will truly be missed. David will still be involved with Fishing Has No Boundaries, which is a long time passion of his, and something that CILWW sponsors. David's teamwork and dedication to CILWW is greatly appreciated. We hope you enjoy your retired life as much as we have enjoyed you working with us!



Left to right: IL Director Amanda Miller, (Retired) IL Specialist David Koch, and Executive Director Kyle Kleist.



Fishing Has No Boundaries

Fishing Has No Boundaries 2022

In 1986, a local Hayward fishing guide, Bobby Cammack, founded Fishing Has No Boundaries®, Inc. after breaking his leg. Bobby still wanted to continue to fish (a special passion of his) and enjoy the beautiful area lakes. With a simple cast on his leg, however, fishing was not as easy now as it was previously.

With years of research, planning, and perseverance, the first FHNB event was held in 1988 on the Chippewa Flowage in Hayward, Wisconsin for all persons with disabilities regardless of age, race, gender, and especially severity of disability. This newfound opportunity gathered 75 people from seven different states.

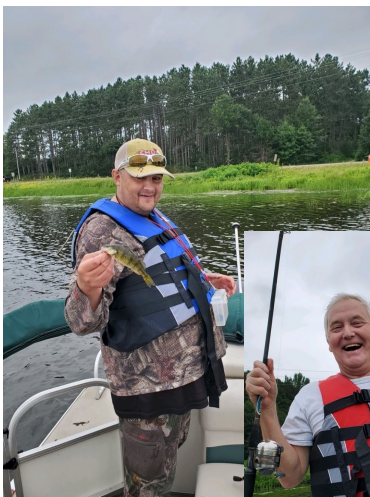
By the year 2002, FHNB, Inc. has had over 8,000 participants at various events, and double that amount of volunteers. In 2007, FHNB, Inc. grew to 23 chapters in 11 different states, with many more in the initial planning stages for 2008 and beyond. FHNB, Inc. is proud of all of our many volunteers that have supported FHNB in every aspect deemed possible. FHNB, Inc. is proud to say that we have more than 1,875 participants with disabilities attending at least one FHNB chapter event each year thanks to over 6,850 volunteers helping along the way.

CILWW is a proud sponsor of the Chippewa Valley Chapter event and has been sponsoring for around 20 years now. This year's event was held on August 6th 2022 at Paradise Shores in Holcombe Wisconsin. The event was completely accessible to all ages and all disabilities. The event this year drew in around 20 participants and caregivers, along with volunteer pontoon drivers, and volunteers to assist with many other tasks.

Anglers were loaded on the pontoon boats and out on the water fishing by 9:00am, most fished all day, even in the rain. Many caught fish that were fileted and brought home. We had many smiling faces and happy volunteers.

A special thanks to all that participated, volunteered, and to all the sponsors who made this event possible.

If you are interested in attending or volunteering for the event, please contact Amanda Miller amandam@cilww.com or Bobbi Craig craigb@cilww.com.



Personal Assistant Services

Caregiver Highlight



Hello,

I'm Kathy Proud and I am from Eau Claire. I've been with CIL for 6 years now. Working with a young girl. Who I've had the honor to know as an individual. I have 1 cat and 2 Shitzu dogs that are extremely spoiled!!! I'm a single parent of a 22 yr old young man and 20 yr old young woman. Which I help out with there daily ADL'S, errands, appointments or what ever they may need. So my job is never done.

When I am not working for CIL, I work as a PCW for ILIFE and Care WI. Outside of that I assist elderly people with ADL'S, cleaning, yard work, companionship ect... Which I can say are like family. I enjoy my jobs as a caregiver very much!! A few hobbies that I enjoy are fishing, gardening, camping and spontaneous road trips!

Thank you for recognition CIL!!



Tawny Nelson

Oaklawn Elementary

Special Education Paraeducator

As far as what I enjoy when I am not providing care for families:

I work in special education at Oaklawn Elementary, enjoy spending time outdoors and being active, paddle boarding, running, walking, fishing, biking... My boyfriend and I spend a lot of time in the winter cheering our children on at hockey, and cuddling with our 2 large cats at home.

Personal Assistant Employment

We are always looking for CNA's and Personal Care Assistants. CILWW's Personal Assistant Services program offers:

- competitive wages,
- flexible scheduling,
- paid travel for qualifying consumers,
- and paid training.

Interested individuals contact claschinger@cilww.com for further information.



New Freedom Transportation

Volunteer Driver Spotlight: Ken Arneson



Picture of Ken Arneson

Hi my name is Ken, I live in Chippewa Falls. I have been married for 23 years and have 9 grandchildren. Previously I was self-employed and had helped my mother deliver papers for the Chippewa Harold in the winter. I play in a band in my free time. I have played at Country Fest in Cadott several times, have played with a fiddle player from Hank Williams Sr.'s band and played with Dave Dudley's band for 6 years after he had passed away. (Do you know the song "Six day's on the road"? That was one of Dave Dudley's songs!)

I am a van driver for New Freedom and have been driving since 2016. I was brought to volunteer driving with New Freedom by a friend of mine who is also a volunteer driver, and in Ken's exact words "I've been driving my life away ever since!"

Also another fun fact about Ken, in 2020 he was the 1st volunteer to ever receive our Relentless Badger award! The Relentless Badger Award is given once a year to someone who has done the following:

- A person(s) who has demonstrated a commitment to the IL philosophy and the mission and goals of Wisconsin's IL Network.
- A person(s) who has performed commendable actions/activities that work toward the goals of Wisconsin's IL Network.
- A person(s) who best represents your region's commitment to the IL Philosophy and goals of Wisconsin's IL Network.



New Freedom
Transportation
One Call Center

If you are interested in getting rides through New Freedom Transportation or becoming a driver call us today! Call 800.228.3287 for more information.

Assistive Technology Demonstration & Loan Program

WisTech is Wisconsin's Assistive Technology (AT) program. AT is a device or service that allows people to function as independently as possible at home, school, work, and in the community. CILWW is a regional AT Device and Demonstration Center. CILWW has almost 2,000 different AT devices that we can loan and/or demonstrate to people. CILWW staff can bring devices to people's homes, answer questions about devices, loan devices for a short period of time, give vendor and funding resources, and use their experience to help find the most cost-effective options.

Check out our new assistive technology devices!

Pocket Talkers



Today's article will be talking about the Pocketalker Ultra from Williams Sound – which amplifies sound clearly and easily for better understanding. A person can use it in a variety of ways including one on one conversations, small groups, watching TV, and for conversations in the car. For the best performance, it can be used with a Neckloop or a telecoil-equipped hearing aid. It can work with speaker phones and a telecoupler to make corded phones louder.

Telecommunication Captioning

Ideal for people with some degree of hearing loss, the **Captioned Telephone**, or **CapTel**, works like any other telephone with one important addition: It displays every word the caller says throughout the conversation. CapTel phone users can listen to the caller, and can read the written captions in the CapTel's bright display window. There are a variety of captioning options available for landline phones and for cellular devices as well, ensuring that everyone can fully participate in telecommunication.



For more information on the Pocketalker, captioning options for telecommunication, or to learn more about other assistive technology to assist with living independently, please reach out to Jenesis Lindbo, Independent Living Specialist, by calling 715-233-1070 extension 222 or by emailing jlindbo@cilww.com.

There are various services available through the assistive technology program at C.I.L.W.W. as a part of the WisTech Assistive Technology Program. Our agency can provide information on WisTech's alternative financing options (WisLoan and Telework) per request.

AT Programs and Services

Are you or someone you know...



- Having difficulty hearing or using the telephone?
- Hard of hearing?
- Deaf or severely hard of hearing?
- Mobility/Motion impaired?
- Speech impaired?
- Deaf with low vision or blindness?
- Deaf and blind?



If you answered yes, you may be interested in finding the AT you need to access telephone services. Equipment could be amplified phones, captioning phones, neck loops, and other devices. Schedule an appointment to try a variety of equipment with one-on-one assistance from knowledgeable and experienced staff!

Staff can also help you apply for funding through TEPP:

Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program. Money collected through WI telephone service providers goes into the WI Universal Service Fund, which pays for TEPP. CILWW's role is to help you access the funding you need to get the equipment you need!

TEPP

Loan Programs

WisLoan offers loans to help people buy assistive technology or equipment such as modified vehicles, wheelchairs, and ramps. There are no income requirements and individuals are not required to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, banks provide loans at a fixed interest rate of 6.5% to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item and ability to repay.

Telework is a loan program that allows residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remote sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a Telework center.



For Sale List

Stainless Steel Handrail

Asking \$150. Contact Kari Ann (ask for her by her name). 715-233-1070.



Hospital Bed

Electric Hospital Bed-The bed has a Pressure GuarAir XL 48 X 80 Inch Bacteriostatic / Fluid-Proof Fabric. Pressure Guard Easy Air XL Bariatric CLT-L8048XL. The bed comes with extra sheets as well, all barely used. The frame is fully adjustable and has guard rails included. The whole bed can be lowered or raised as well and all functions work. Bed only used for two months. No tears in the mattress at all. We're asking asking \$1200 for everything. Contact Mary Stricklin at 715-235-6924.

Electric Hospital Bed-Almost New. Headboard, adjustable frame, mattress, remote for head, feet, and to raise and lower the bed. Asking \$600 OBO. Contact Marilyn @ 715-308-7014.

Walkers

2 Up-walkers, \$300 each. Includes grocery bag, handle bag, seat back and foot strap. Contact John @ 651-770-5283.

Wheelchairs

BRODA Chair Works good. Needs a new battery. Asking \$250 OBO Contact Henry @ 715-790-5986

Invacare Pronto M47 power wheelchair. Only used 3 hours. New battery 2 years ago. Paid \$3,500. Asking \$1,000 OBO. Contact Donna at 715-720-9262.

All from one seller

Lift to stand, electric with battery \$1000 OBO

Hoyer Lift, manual \$100

Bariatric **bath chair** with back \$100

Power wheel chair that tilts back. Almost new. Best offer.

Toilet seat with handles \$5

Bedside commode \$20

Bariatric shower chair \$100

Older **wheel chair** with cushion \$100

Contact Linda @ 715-303-1407.

All from one seller

Hospital Bed-Electric head and feet. Hand crank to raise and lower the bed. Asking \$75. Oversized (**Bariatric**) **wheel chair with cushion**. Asking \$50.

Contact Vinette @ 715-829-0613.

Electric Hospital bed. Head and Foot electric controls. Crank raises and lowers the bed. Contact Jolene @ 715-553-0002.

Walkers

4-wheeled walker with seat. Contact Deb @ 800-228-3287.

Sit-to-stand and Stander

Easy lift sit-to-stand. Contact Angela @715-651-3361.

Stander. Pics available. Contact Kevin or Mary Jo @ 715-859-6439.

All from one donor

**Beside commode
Extra Large wheelchair
4-wheeled walker with seat Adult gait belt.**
Contact John @ 651-770-5283.

For information on the items on this list, please contact the person listed directly. To get on or be removed from this list please contact Deb at CILWW @ 800-228-3287 or 715-233-1070 Extension 202.

CILWW does not warrant the condition or terms of the sale of any device or equipment offered for reutilization by any seller or buyer. CILWW is not liable for claims, liabilities, damages, losses, costs, expenses, maintenance and penalties arising from items being purchased or sold. It shall be the responsibility of the seller or donator to provide accurate and detailed information about the device and equipment specifications and condition to buyer. CILWW functions solely on sharing the information with other parties.

Contact Deb @ 800-228-3287

Center for Independent Living
2920 Schneider Ave SE
Menomonie, WI 54751

Consumer address



Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc.

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800-228-3287 Voice / TTY
715-233-1083 Fax

BRANCH OFFICE

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Rice Lake, Wisconsin 54868
715-736-1800 Voice / TTY
1-866-419-1260 Voice / TTY
715-736-0265 Fax

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