



Advocate

Quarterly Newsletter
Oct — Dec 2022

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Fall is ending and winter is on the way! Staff at CILWW have been busy with a number of activities lately. We collaborated with the League of Women Voters of the Greater Chippewa Valley and the Disability Vote Coalition on a voter registration event. Two staff that conduct Home Modification and ADA assessments for the CILWW took part in audits of polling places during both the August primaries and November general election, along with other Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in the state. The Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Center (WCILC) had negotiated a contract with the Wisconsin Election Commission to have the eight ILCs in Wisconsin assist with the polling place audits this election year.



CILWW received a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) grant through the Department of Human Services to assist with caregiver retention and recruitment, along with other activities for the Personal Assistant Services department at CILWW. With the caregiver shortage continuing to be a major issue throughout Wisconsin, this grant will allow CILWW to hire a staff person in the PAS department to work on outreach and recruitment of caregivers, so we can expand our PAS services that allow individuals with disabilities to live in the community.

Independent Living or IL Days will be on February 8th and 9th this year in Madison. We are looking forward to meeting face-to-face with legislators this year, as IL Days and legislative visits have been virtual for the past two years due to the COVID pandemic. Meeting face-to-face with legislators or their staff is always a great opportunity to discuss the legislative priorities for Independent Living. This year there will be a big legislative push by all the ILCs for additional state funding.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy and joyful Holiday Season! Remember that this time of year is all about giving, so please think of those less fortunate than you and ways that you can give back to others and your community.

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



Giving Back to the Community

Every year, during the holidays, CILWW gives back to its community by sponsoring three local families. This year, CILWW took a different direction and donated gifts for the Christmas is for Children program. We donated new, purchased items (winter clothing and toys) that the volunteers wrap and distribute accordingly per the family's wish list.

All donations received throughout the years of us participating in these holiday programs, are from none other than our very own 30 plus staff who we are truly grateful and appreciative of for continuing this tradition.



Holiday Scams

As the festive seasons are closing in and all are preparing to check off their Christmas Shopping List, beware of falling into a Scammer's trap.

Some of these warning signs are:

- Huge discounts on hot gift items, especially when touted on social media posts or unfamiliar websites.
- Spelling errors or shoddy grammar on a shopping website or in an email or text.
- An unsolicited email that asks you to click on a link or download an app to access a deal or arrange a delivery.
- Pressure from a charity fundraiser to donate right away.

How to protect yourself from these scams:

- Rather than clicking on a link from an email or text to a hot deal, go to your web browser and type in the web address of the company purportedly offering said great deal.
- Pay by credit card. This way you can dispute charges and limit the damage if the transaction was fraudulent.
- Buy gifts cards online directly from the issuing business instead of from a retail rack, where the cards can be tampered with. When receiving a gift card as a present, register it if that's an option, and use it sooner rather than later.
- Avoid conducting any business online (making a purchase, donating, accessing password-protected sites) while using a public Wi-Fi network unless you employ a virtual private network (VPN).
- Pushy charities could be an indicator that the cause is bogus; legitimate charities will accept your donations on your own timeline.
- Anytime you are prompted to make a purchase or a donation by wire transfer or gift card, it is a scam.

If you encounter a holiday scam, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission ([online](#) or at 877-382-4357) and report it to your [state's attorney general](#) and consumer protection office.

Personal Assistant Services

Caregiver Highlight



Northern Neighbors provides care to clients in their own home. Our mission statement is Providing In Home Care with compassion and integrity. Our goal is to work with the clients and their families to customize a plan that enables the client to live their life to the fullest while maintaining as much independence as possible. I personally meet with every client and their families myself to determine the client's needs and the services we can provide to assist them to make their lives the best it can be. I then determine the best fit for caregivers and take the caregivers to meet the client and family. We serve young adults through clients at the end of life. We provide care based on the client's needs, anywhere from minimal hours each week up to 24/7 care.

Every staff member on our team at Northern Neighbors is dedicated to providing care with compassion and integrity. We strive to not just meet the needs and expectations of our clients but to exceed them. We are a team; we love our job and it shows in the success we have with our clients.

I understand what it is like to be dependent on others. When I was 11, I had transverse myelitis. I was paralyzed from the waist down. I went through 3 years of rehabilitation. I had a wonderful support system of caretakers including family, friends, community members and medical teams to assist me in my recovery. I personally know the difference good caregivers can make in a person's life. I knew from that point in my life that I wanted to help others. Northern Neighbors is my dream come true with our amazing team of caregivers we are providing care and helping every client live their life to the fullest.

Austin Pacholke
Owner/Administrator
Cell (715)-205-0661
Fax (715)-475-1288



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

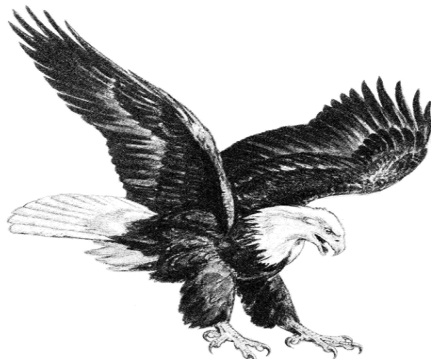
Volunteer Driver Spotlight: Craig Tobias



Picture of Craig Tobias

Hi my name is Craig, I currently live in Chippewa Falls because Duluth was too cold all the time for me and my family. I have been married for 26 years, I have 5 kids (2 are in Germany!) and 5 grandkids. I have mostly been self-employed and after I retired, I wasn't ready to retire yet you could say. So I decided to take on part time jobs that I wanted to do but never got to, such as installing tombstones at cemeteries. One day I seen a taxi drive by and I decided I wanted to drive a taxi so I drove for Share Ride in Chippewa for a while, and then one of the riders had told me about New Freedom Transportation and that is how they got rides out of town. So I applied to drive for New Freedom and I've been here since 2017!

(In addition, when New Freedom asked Craig what his favorite job has been out of all the ones he has had he said "this one, I enjoy the people I drive and I enjoy driving!")



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.

Volunteer Driver Training

I am the (Bobbi) Regional Mobility Manager; I work in collaboration with our service counties and other agencies with driver programs. It helps to save money and time for everyone involved to have one big training. The Regional Driver Training is held every year in October, at the Turtle Lake Casino event center. Trainings are given throughout the day and a nice lunch is served along with raffles, for very nice prizes. The camaraderie between drivers from all programs getting to know each other is great to see.

This year the trainings we presented were on :

Dementia — Trisha Witham *Dementia Care Specialist*

Seniors — Jeff Kerstem *Agency Liaison WI Dept. of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection*

Crisis Intervention — Jill Mattson *Director of Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Program*

Domestic Violence against the Elderly — Mainhia Yang *Advocate from Bolton Refuge House*

80 drivers and transportation providers were present this year for the training. Due to the pandemic, counties are still leery of sending drivers out of their own counties. In a non-pandemic time 100-150 usually attend.

If anyone is interested in becoming a driver please call Melissa at 715-233-1070 ex.226. She would be happy to send you an application and background check to get you started.



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!

Ice Cleats



It is that time of year again, of snow and ice! There are some pieces of technology that you can use that increase safety while navigating outside of your home. Slip-on traction cleats to increase stability while walking on snow or ice. The elastic outer band with heel tabs slip easily over your shoes, making it an excellent tool to use during Wisconsin winters. Should you have questions about assistive technology to increase safety during the winter, CILWW is happy to explore options with you and help find something that suits the individual needs. The ice cleats we have are only available for demonstration, but an Independent Living Specialist is able to assist you in finding an option that meets your needs.

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.

Caregiver Alerts

As time moves forward, we have noticed an increase in requests for caregiver alert systems. These are a solution for in-home caregivers to be able to be alerted when needed. CILWW has a variety of button alert systems and motion alerting systems. Alerting Systems like these allow a loved one to push a button and have a sound alert to get the attention of caregivers, or a motion sensor will alert a caregiver when your loved one gets out of bed or leave the room. Should you have questions about the variety of alerting systems, CILWW is happy to explore options with you and help find something that suits the individual needs.

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, Telework, and TEPP) per request.

If you would like more information in regard to any of the assistive technology highlighted please feel free to call CILWW, by calling 715-233-1070 or 800-228-3287 and ask to talk to someone who completes Information and Referral for Independent Living.

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

Brand new, never used, ideal for an in ground hot tub/pool. Size is 35 in. high, 30 in. outward.

Asking: \$150.00

Contact Kari Ann: 715.828.3718



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 \$1200 for everything.

Contact Mary Stricklin at 715.235.6924

Walkers

2 Up-walkers, \$300 each. Includes grocery bag, handle bag, seat back and foot strap.

Contact John @ 651.770.5283

Wheelchairs

Nova wheelchair like new

Collapsible with footrests, lightweight.

Asking \$50.

Contact Renee @ 715.829.9645

Shower Chairs, Transfer Benches, and Toilet Seat Risers

Shower chair. Small 15 ½ wide. Asking \$10 OBO. Contact Lynn @ 715.495.1966

Walk in tub. Asking \$10,000. Pictures available. Contact Judi @ 715.552.8664



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

Electric Hospital bed.

Head and Foot electric controls.
Crank raises and lowers the bed.
Contact Sandy @ 715.226.2984

Easy lift sit-to-stand.

Contact Angela @715.651.3361

Hoyer lift.

Battery operated. Needs a new battery. Includes sling.
Contact Judy @ 715.415.3745

Stander.

Pics available.
Contact Kevin or Mary Jo @ 715.859.6439

4-wheeled walker with seat.

Contact Deb @ 800.228.3287

All from one individual.**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

NEW Program!

BECOME A PEER PARTNER



ABOUT:

Peer Support for people with disabilities.

Open to all ages!

Pairs are matched through an application process.

Pairs decide on

1. Goals
2. When, where, and how often they meet



INTERESTED?

Call the **Center for Independent Living** today! Use the contact info below.



800-228-3287



ddworak@cilww.com

amandak@cilww.com



<https://cilww.com>



2920 Schneider Ave SE,
Menomonie, WI, 54751



MUSICAL DONATIONS

The Center for Independent living is beginning a new music program for individuals with disabilities all over Western Wisconsin.

You can help us make this happen by donating any of the following:

- Musical instruments (used or unused)
- Books and materials on music
- Other music-related items

Any donations are appreciated.

Please contact the Center for Independent Living Western Wisconsin if you are interested in helping:

715-233-1070 or JulieC@cilww.com

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

Consumer address



Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc.

MAIN OFFICE

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Menomonie, WI 54751
715-233-1070 Voice / TTY
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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