



WEST CENTRAL INDEPENDENT LIVING SOLUTIONS (WILS)

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, West Central Independent Living Solutions (WILS) has served people with disabilities of all ages in Benton, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis & Saline Counties since 1997 celebrating its 25th year anniversary and recognizes the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990; and

WHEREAS, as a Missouri Center for Independent Living (CIL), WILS is a consumer-driven, nonprofit resource center that empowers people with disabilities to take charge of their lives and live as independently as possible by offering core services of Information and Referrals, Advocacy, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills and Life Transitions; and

WHEREAS, fifty-one percent of the staff and board of directors are persons with disabilities fostering a "we-are-who-we-serve" culture and current leadership includes WILS executive director, Deb Hobson, and WILS board of directors include Bob Crumb, President, Ron Williams, Vice President, Barbara Mayfield, Treasurer, Christy Millen, Secretary, Ashley Hurr, Member, and Dave DeFrain, Member; and

WHEREAS, WILS also offers many additional programs like Consumer Directed Services, accessible transportation, assistive technology demos, CLAIM Medicare counseling and youth services; and

WHEREAS, according to the Prevalence of People with and without Disabilities for within WILS Service Area 2020 Census, the disability population of Johnson County's total population of 54,150 listed 6,402 or 11.8% of persons with a disability and of that number, 5,619 are veterans; and

WHEREAS, through community education and advocacy, WILS works to encourage the removal of architectural and attitudinal barriers to allow full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in community life. WILS envisions a community where all individuals can participate fully without barriers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Warrensburg is proud to proclaim its continued dedication to fostering equal access and demonstrating commitment to full inclusion of people with disabilities and re-affirms its desire to be known as the most inclusive community in the United States of America declared on April 25, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Jim Kushner, Mayor of Warrensburg, and the Warrensburg City Council, applaud the exemplary work of West Central Independent Living Solutions (WILS) and convey the heartiest congratulations and best wishes upon a successful observance of its 25th Anniversary celebration.

Dated this 12th day of September, 2022.

ATTEST:

Jim Kushner, Mayor
Tarl Bentley, Chairman Pro Tem
Casey Lund, Council Member
Eddie Osborne, Council Member
Bruce D. Uhler, Council Member

Jodi L. Schneider, City Clerk