MISSION

To enhance the rights and independence of people with disabilities to actively participate in their communities and to live self-determined lives.

VISION

Our vision is for Northeast Missouri to be accessible for all people and for our communities to foster and promote acceptance and diversity.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

NEILS is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization which provides a multitude of services and programs to individuals with disabilities in Northeast Missouri. We rely on charitable donations in order to continue our progress and add much needed programs and services.

As NorthEast Independent Living Services’ Executive Director, I am privileged to hear stories of people with disabilities who have found resources and support to increase and maintain their independence in the community. As you read previously in this brochure, Dr. Michael Norman was placed in a nursing facility and longed to regain his independence and reside in his own home. His opportunities are endless now that he is back home. While stories such as this illustrate our success, I also recognize too many people with disabilities in Northeast Missouri are either unaware of our services or cannot access them due to limited personal resources, lack of transportation, or other barriers.

The purpose of charitable contributions is to generate unrestricted support, which will be used to expand NEILS’ capacity in order to serve more people with disabilities in our local communities. Whether it is installing a ramp to make a home more accessible, providing classes to learn the basics of living independently, or even assisting with funding expensive adaptive technology, your charitable contributions provide our local residents with disabilities the tools necessary to live independently.

I personally invite you to make an investment in your community. Make a donation to NEILS today so we can continue to make Northeast Missouri diverse and barrier-free for individuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Brooke Kendrick
Executive Director

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

I would like to become a contributor to NorthEast Independent Living Services.

Please accept my tax-deductible gift of:

- $100.00
- $75.00
- $50.00
- $25.00
- Other ______

909 Broadway, Suite 350 • Hannibal, MO 63401 • (573) 221-8282 phone
DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAM

NEILS firmly believes that persons with disabilities are and/or can be fully productive citizens in the community; however, even today parts of society don’t fully include persons with disabilities. Society still has the view that they are not capable of working, raising children, or even living at home independently. NEILS strives to make everyone aware of the disability community and that they can do most things that any person or citizen can do. Our goal is to help the community accept and respect persons with disabilities just as they want to be accepted and respected. We provide Disability Awareness Presentations free of charge to any organization, school, or other group. For the children, we use dolls with different types of disabilities to explain their disability and the things they CAN do just like any other child. For the older groups, we use presentations with handouts and other information.

WHAT IS NEILS?

Independent Living is based on the concept that a person with a disability can lead a constructive life as a functioning member of his or her community. It recognizes that one’s worth, as a vital human being, is not diminished because of a disability.

Building skills and confidence to live an independent lifestyle requires programs that provide peer support, assistance in purchasing needed equipment, and hiring and managing a personal care attendant, with a whole spectrum of services provided by professionals. These programs and services are offered through Centers for Independent Living (CILs). NEILS is a Center for Independent Living which provides services to residents with disabilities in Northeast Missouri.

Independent Living also requires the cooperation of the community. It’s hard to hold down a job, shop, or go to the movies when public transportation and buildings are not accessible. It’s hard to exercise one’s rights as an American to vote when voting booths are not accessible. When a community is educated on disability issues, it’s easier for everyone to come together to make living in the community better for everyone.

In 1972, a group of people with disabilities who wanted to take control and be responsible for their lives, started the first Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, California. From those humble beginnings, the Independent Living Movement has produced more than 400 CILs in the United States and hundreds more abroad. Hannibal Mayor Richard Schwartz declared July 22-26 ADA Week in Hannibal, celebrating the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990. This date is celebratory of most people with disabilities in the United States.

NorthEast Independent Living Services (NEILS) was incorporated on August 2, 1994 and began as a grassroots effort by community members with disabilities to educate the broader community about disability-related issues in Northeast Missouri. In February 1996, NEILS received funding and opened its doors for services. NEILS offers a full range of programs for individuals with disabilities and any family members, employers, and/or co-workers wanting to learn more about disabilities.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS (IEP)

IEP Services are available to children and youth from birth to 21 years old. NEILS staff works with youth and their families on IEP (Individual Education Plans) or other education advocacy issues. IEPs can include assisting families with getting better access to the school for their child or even advocating on behalf of the child that they should remain in the general classroom setting.

CIRCUIT BREAKER ASSISTANCE

Circuit Breaker services are offered by NEILS staff members to assist you in receiving a property tax credit of which you may be owed. You may qualify for up to $750 per year for the past three (3) tax years. If you are on any type of Social Security, you have paid real estate taxes or rent, and you have lived in Missouri for the entire year, you may qualify for a Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. Donations are accepted for the Circuit Breaker Program per filing year.

www.neils.org
CORE SERVICES

Information and Referral

Information about disability-related issues, resources, and services are provided to people with disabilities, professionals, and the general public. Staff members are available to assist with locating and learning about available resources. We also provide referrals to other agencies or service providers. If you or someone you know is having difficulties locating a resource that can assist them with their needs, NEILS can help!

Independent Living Skills Training

ILST is individualized training in daily living activities that are essential to living independently, safely, effectively, and successfully. Training topics available include but are not limited to: budgeting and personal finance, cooking, lease and tenant/landlord responsibilities, recreation, computer/internet, reading, training on management of attendant services, pre-employment skills, interpersonal skills, social skills, utilization of other services available, and goal setting to achieve increased independence. In addition, NEILS staff can assist those with disabilities in GED training classes to help prepare the individual for the GED exams. If you have daily living activities you are needing assistance with, NEILS can certainly help you. Whether in a classroom-type setting or in the comfort of your own home, NEILS will be glad to assist you in learning to manage your daily activities.

Advocacy

NEILS is available to help people learn how to speak for themselves and become better self-advocates. Becoming an advocate for yourself and/or others means you can more effectively address your own needs and impact local, state, and national disability policies. In addition, NEILS can assist and/or advocate on your behalf to obtain access to benefits, services, and programs, as well as protect against discrimination and community barriers.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RECYCLE PROGRAM

NorthEast Independent Living Services accepts donations of both new and gently used equipment that is provided back to those in need at no cost to the consumer. There are no income limitations, and equipment is available first-come-first-serve. A physician’s note is required to ensure that the equipment can help the individual to remain living independently. If you have equipment you would like to donate, please call us to schedule a drop-off or pick-up time.

Equipment we accept:
- Wheelchairs - manual & powered
- Walking canes
- Hospital beds - electric only
- Transfer boards
- Lift chairs
- Bath chairs - with or without back
- Bath benches
- Portable commodes
- Other equipment on a case by case basis

Please visit our website to find the most updated list of needed items.

www.neils.org
BENEFITS COUNSELING

Benefits Counseling can range from a simple question and answer, to an in-depth analysis of a person’s benefits and how working at any level would affect those benefits. Topics addressed may include but are not limited to the following: Social Security Benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, Private Disability Benefits, Subsidized Housing, and Veteran’s Benefits.

Youth Transition

NEILS Youth Transitioning services include any service that develops skills specifically designed for youth with significant disabilities between the ages of 14 and 24. These services promote self-awareness and self-esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and the exploration of career options, including the transition from school to post-school activities such as postsecondary education, vocational training, employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.

Peer Support

One-on-one support is available from staff and other individuals with disabilities. Staff and volunteers who have acquired positive skills for managing their own disabilities assist consumers to explore options, solve problems, and develop new skills. At NEILS, it’s easy to talk to someone who has had similar experiences, barriers, and challenges.

Nursing Home Transition/De-Institutionalization

NEILS strongly believes that individuals with disabilities should not be forced to live in institutional settings. Our Nursing Home Transition Program is designed to assist individuals with moving out of the nursing home and back into their own home in the community. There are many steps that must be taken in order for de-institutionalization to occur. NEILS will assist in all stages of this process, including the initial planning, finding a home, locating and obtaining household items, helping find financial assistance, along with the many other stages of the transitions program. Individuals have the right to live in the least restrictive setting possible. There is an abundance of community resources available to help you stay living in your home longer and to assist you in the moving back home from a nursing home. NEILS staff will provide Options Counseling Services to both family members and nursing home residents that are interested in moving out of the facility. The Options Counseling is designed to provide you with information about all the options that are available to you in the community to help you make a more informed choice about whether to remain in the facility or to continue with the transition process.
SUCCESS STORY:
DR. MICHAEL J. NORMAN,
A NURSING HOME TRANSITION STORY 2014

“I was first admitted to the [nursing home] for rehabilitation after undergoing several surgeries that attempted to salvage my right leg following a botched amputation of the great toe of my right foot. The salvage attempts ultimately failed, and I underwent several additional surgeries and medical procedures for treatment of osteomyelitis, systemic MRSA, septicemia, and gangrene. The seventh and final surgery resulted in a below-knee amputation. After my post-op hospital stay, I was once again admitted to the [nursing home] for rehabilitation.

My care and treatment at the [nursing home] ranged between good and barely adequate, but I made the best of the situation by making friends of residents and staff members alike using the available rehab resources to my greatest advantage and by becoming a strong, vocal, and periscrverant advocate for better nutritional options and living conditions for myself and the other residents.

My dissatisfaction with the nursing home experience began in earnest after my Medicaid benefits ran out, and with them so too, my rehab program. Initially, I compensated by purchasing my own exercise equipment and working out on my own, but soon was soon informed that my financial independence would be coming to a screeching halt. Once Medicaid benefits ran out, the nursing home takes all but $40.00 per month of a resident’s income to pay for their care. For me, this was unacceptable because I was still paying rent on my apartment that I hoped to return to, and where my pet companions were still living; additionally, I was also paying for a storage unit, life insurance, and pet care. Thus, the administration of the nursing home thought I was going to spend the remainder of my life content in their institution, I was under no such delusion. I believed that the nursing home had long since outlived its intended purpose as a rehab facility, and I was ready, indeed eager, to move on and to reclaim my life. I wanted to be reunited with my beloved pets, my family, and friends with whom I had lost contact for almost a year because the nursing home did not permit the use of any social media. I wanted to be independent and free: free to go outside and enjoy the fresh air when I wanted to; free to hop on the bus and go wherever I wanted to go; and free to enjoy my privacy and self-direction.

NorthEast Independent Living Services was the organization that brought my desire for independence and self-direction to fruition. They were my advocated, mentors, and facilitators in the endeavor. My [Transition Coordinator] helped me to navigate the bureaucratic paperwork and kept me informed of progress. She went to bat for me in order to overcome institutional barriers and even advocated along with the state’s ombudsman to ensure that I received my interim prescriptions during the transition phase. NEILS offered advice and made suggestions regarding the housing options available to me, but I was always assured that the ultimate decision was my own and that was both comforting and empowering.

When the transition finally occurred, NEILS staff not only orchestrated and carried out the physical move, but they also ensured my new residence was wheelchair-accessible, and that any special needs I had were properly taken care of in a timely fashion.

www.neils.org

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Tap Telephones

The purpose of the Missouri TAP for Telephone is to provide access to basic voice telephone calling (both sending and receiving) for individuals with all types of disabilities through the delivery of adaptive telephone equipment. The program provides such equipment as text phones, voice carryover phones, phones for hearing impairment, amplified phones, Braille phones, hands-free phones, and photo phones. NEILS is a demonstration site, meaning you can come to our office to try out different types of phones and select the phone that best matches your needs. If you are unable to come to our office but already have a land-line phone at your home, NEILS can bring some display telephones to demonstrate to you in your own home. All applicants must be certified by a professional (doctor, audiologist, etc.) to have a disability and must meet income guidelines. Once you qualify and choose your phone, NEILS will assist you with the set-up process. The telephone is yours to keep and you can re-apply for new equipment every four years. The TAP Telephone program is available through Missouri Assistive Technology.

Low Vision Library

In partnership with Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, our Low-Vision Library provides individuals with visual impairments the ability to try different magnifiers and other pieces of low-vision equipment. Low-vision equipment is available by loan, or NEILS staff can assist you with locating the equipment you need and researching funding options.

Missouri Assistive Technology Demonstration Site

NEILS is contracted with Missouri Assistive Technology to provide technology demonstrations to individuals with disabilities in Northeast Missouri. NEILS can assist with obtaining anything from lifts to vehicle hand controls, to assistive computer devices and much more. Staff will provide recommendations for technology choices and assist with locating and applying for financial assistance. People also have an option of trying out items such as adaptive equipment. NEILS has adaptive computer programs, keyboards, joysticks, home technology, and so much more. We also have catalogs of various technology and update our inventory twice per year with new, alternative technology.
ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Ramps, hand rails, and wider door openings are all accessibility features that can literally open doors that have, until recently, been closed to a significant portion of the population – not just those in wheelchairs, but those using a walker or cane or having difficulty negotiating stairs.

Residential Accessibility

NEILS can perform an on-site survey of your home and discuss options to make your home more accessible. The surveys are provided at no cost to you, and once it is determined what accessibility features are necessary, NEILS can assist you in locating financial resources, grants, low-interest loans, and/or payment plans that are available to you. NEILS staff builds ramps and completes other minor home modifications according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

Commercial/Business Accessibility

NEILS assists local businesses in ensuring their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Business owners can request an Accessibility Survey of their business at no cost. NEILS will perform an on-site survey and draft a report of any findings. The survey would include, but would not be limited to, the accessibility of all building entrances, hallways, stairs, ramps, elevators, doorways, and bathrooms, as well as automobile parking spaces. NEILS can provide information about tax incentives to make businesses more accessible. In addition, individuals with disabilities are encouraged to notify NEILS of any local businesses that have barriers which prevent their access. Our staff will complete a brief on-site survey of the issue and contact the business owner to discuss possible resolutions. For a nominal fee, NEILS will provide minor modifications such as painting/re-painting accessible parking spaces.

Universal Design

Universal Design means that a home is fully functional for people with disabilities, the elderly, and the non-disabled community. The living spaces within the home are made accessible through a variety of modifications such as using open style sink bases in the bathrooms and kitchens; raising toilets for easier transfer; and installing roll-in showers. Doorways are wider and even the light switches are at an easily accessible height. Every detail of the house is made accessible. This style of home allows the individuals to stay in their home as they age or develop the need for some form of mobility aid, and they are not forced into the nursing home. They can stay in their home because of its Universal Design. Contact NEILS to get more information on financial assistance, lenders and floor plans.

NEILS staff made sure that safety grabs bars were installed in the bathroom where I needed them and that the shower was easily enterable and equipped with a suitable transfer bench. Staffers made sure I had adequate food, utensils, linens, cleaning supplies, and even entertainment. They cleaned, assembled, arranged, and organized my belongings and my living spaces and ensured that the environment would be safe for me.

The care and concern did not end after I moved into my own home. I have enjoyed good follow-up visits and other communications that have served to gauge how well I am doing and if I have any unmet needs. I am grateful for the flexibility that NEILS has afforded [their consumers] because often one doesn’t know the full extent of one’s needs until weeks or months after the initial transition. When these situations occurred in my own case, my [Transition Coordinator] had no trouble at all accommodating my newfound needs.

I’ve been in my new residence going on five months now. I regularly enjoy meals and a variety of social activities with my neighbors at our community center; I regularly correspond with friends, family, and associates via social media; and I enjoy having company come by and visiting over a game of Scrabble or a meal that I’ve prepared. We look after one another here; if someone is ill or is in need, we come together to share our food or a phone or a ride. I’ve made myself useful around here helping folks with new technology – setting up televisions, video recorders, cameras, phones, etc., and helping others with legal papers and such. I’ve earned a reputation for my cooking, baking, and bingo calling! Neighbors like helping me with taking out trash, sharing the produce from their gardens, and coming over with coffee and goodies to share. I am making new friends and enjoying my life on my terms. I am grateful for the care I received in the hospital and nursing home and, no doubt, someday I may have to go back; but for now, I am living life and not merely surviving.

I’d like to add that NEILS offers a variety of services for [their consumers] that I have not taken advantage of. There’s never been any pressure to make use of them. I am free to choose. For those who wish to continue working in some capacity, there are programs available for training and education; if a less active lifestyle is wanted or required, then that’s okay too. The folks at NEILS have always treated me with kindness and respect; without their advocacy, I would not be enjoying life as I am. I like that.

I can’t say enough in thanks and praise for the women and men who serve us through Northeast Independent Living Services; like many caregivers, you know they don’t do it for the pay or perks. Instead, they do their jobs out of a sense of honor and duty, proud to serve the less fortunate, the often forgotten and left behind, and [consumers] who don’t always appreciate their hard work and dedication. They do battle with the State and Federal governments on our behalf; advocating for those whose voices might not otherwise be heard. And they somehow manage to work miracles with meager budgets and indomitable spirits through long days, dark nights, and all-too-short weekends.”

- Dr. Michael J. Norman

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HOME CARE SERVICES

Consumer-Directed Services

Consumer-Directed Services (CDS) are home care services which give you the most control of the services you receive, who is in your home completing the work, and when the services are provided. Individuals who choose the CDS program for their home care services must be able to direct their own care and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. With CDS, you are the attendant’s legal employer and may hire a personal care attendant of your choice, including a family member or friend (spouses are not permitted). Your MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) pays your attendant’s wage, and NEILS acts as your fiscal agent to prepare your attendant’s payroll on your behalf and to monitor your services.

Services provided:
- Personal Care
- Meal Preparation
- Shopping & Errands
- Housekeeping
- Essential Transportation
- Toileting
- Laundry

Funded by: Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet)

Counties Served: Clark, Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, Shelby, Knox, Scotland, Adair (if you are outside of these counties, please contact us as we plan to expand services into other outlying counties)

In-Home Services

In-Home services are provided by NEILS In-Home Aides in your own home. Individuals receiving in-home services are not required to be able to direct their own care.

Services Provided:
- Personal Care
- Meal Preparation
- Toileting
- Nurse Visits
- Housekeeping
- Shopping & Errands
- Laundry
- Diabetic Nail Care
- Medication Set-ups
- Respite Care

Funded By: Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet) and Private/Self Pay

Counties Served: Marion, Monroe, Ralls (if you are outside of these counties, please contact us as we plan to expand services into other outlying counties)

Veteran’s Home Care

NEILS is contracted with Veteran’s Home Care to provide home care services to qualifying veterans or their surviving spouse. The VA requires the veteran to have served a minimum 90 days active duty with at least one day during wartime and honorable discharge. There must also be a medical need.

If you meet the qualifications, your home care will begin the first week of the month after your application goes to the VA. The program allows you to pay for home care with no out-of-pocket costs even before the VA approves your application.

Services Provided:
- Bathing & Dressing
- Personal Care
- Meal Preparation
- Transportation
- Light Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Transferring
- Medication Reminders
- Companionship
- Respite Care
- Assistance with accessing other community resources to improve your quality of life

Funded By: Veteran’s Administration benefits

Counties Served: Marion, Monroe, Ralls (if you are outside of these counties, please contact us as we plan to expand services into other outlying counties)