The past few months have been a series of positive and negatives for *Options*. In January, Lynne Wichmann, IL Coordinator in *Options* Fox Valley Office, passed away. Lynne had been involved with *Options* in different capacities since the 1980’s. For those who knew Lynne, she was a consummate advocate for people with disabilities. We at *Options* miss her positive attitude and effervescence.

We are in the process of completing *Options* accessible garden [more about this later in the newsletter]. This project will provide many alternative gardening techniques and adaptive garden tools for everyone. This project is collaboration between the Green Bay Botanical Gardens, NWTC Horticultural Training Department and *Options*.

I am pleased to note that requests for *Options* services are at an all time high, especially Work Incentives Benefits Counseling; residential assessments for accessibility; and the Personal Assistance Services.

This month is critical for people with disabilities and those who are older as the State Legislature develops the budget for the next biennium. We encourage everyone to monitor this process and let your legislator know about programs and services that may affect you or your loved ones. Some of the critical issues in the upcoming budget include: the expansion of Family Care Statewide, especially for 8 counties in Northeast Wisconsin; transportation issues surrounding Wisconsin Transit and Para-transit systems and a new Non–Emergency Medicaid Transportation provider; changes for the Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP); the expansion of Medicaid/Badger Care; and more. To find out who your legislator is you can call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472 or online at http://legis.wisconsin.gov/Pages/waml.aspx.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” ~ Margaret Mead ~
Consumer Spotlights

Scott Menzel—I am a digital contemporary fine artist and designer. I create my work digitally, which ironically reflects my life that is aided by technology. It is the tool that aids my existence and allows me to be myself when my natural tools fail. Digital technology is just an extension of me in the creative process. With Options help, they have contributed to my independence which indirectly has helped my art career.

I have known Options and many of the staff for many years. They have been a crucial element of support and guidance in my life. The staff is more like a family to me and are wonderful. Working with them to help pioneer their Personal Care program was an honor and hopefully will open many new doors for others as well. Please visit me online at www.menzelfineart.com. Also, please see me this fall at the Northeast WI Free Self-Guided Autumn Tour of the studios of working artists, October 11, 12, and 13th. For more information go to: http://newartstudiotour.org/

Katie—I am a 23 year old female who has Cerebral Palsy. When I was 16, I got connected with Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). DVR’s job is to help people with disabilities find a job and keep a job by offering support services related to employment on and off the work site. I have been doing several work experiences that involve doing data entry. Because my Cerebral Palsy affects my ability to type at a normal rate, DVR connected me with Options for Independent Living. Options’ Assistive Technology Specialist, Calvin Richtig, did an assessment to see if I could get a laptop with Dragon Naturally Speaking on it, a program where you speak to it and it types what you said. I finally got the laptop with that program on it. I use that program at the worksite because it allows me to complete projects and data tasks at a much more normal rate.

With all the work experiences I have had, I was wondering how working a steady job would affect my benefits. DVR also connected me with a Work Incentives Benefits Specialist at Options, Karin Zuleger. Karin found out that although I thought I was receiving SSI, I was actually receiving SSDI because I was considered a disabled adult child (DAC), an adult child with a disability who had a parent who died before I was 21. She also found out that I was supposed to be under special status Medicaid due to the fact I was considered DAC. Since Medicaid had me under the wrong thing for at last 3 years she got that all straighten out and I received a refund of over $2,000. Also, Community Care Family Care had me paying a cost share, which Karin found out I was not supposed to be paying. So Karin contacted them and is working on getting me a refund for their mistake. If it wasn’t for Karin and all the work she did by contacting the right people, I would never have known about the mistakes, and the fact I would be getting my money refunded.
Support Groups Meeting at Options

Options for Independent Living hosts several support groups meeting at Options on a regular basis:

NEW Multiple Sclerosis Support Group—Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at Options from 6:30—8 pm. Care partner breakout sessions at most meetings. Contact Debbie at 920-373-7160 or email her at debbiebernarde@gmail.com for more information.

CARE Café—“A place for adults on the spectrum.” This is a social/support group for adults 18 and over on the autism spectrum. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Friday from 6-8 pm at Options. The meetings are free. For more information contact CARE Café on Facebook or email jjmorton@spectrumblue.net or mortongbay@aol.com. You can also request that you be added to their email roster which will include updates on meeting plans and location, any meeting changes, etc.

Epilepsy Support Group—Meetings are held at Options every 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:30 – 8 pm. For more information contact Ann Hubbard toll-free at 1-800-693-2287 or direct at 715-341-5811 or email her at ahubbard@epilepsywisconsin.org.

Info Alert!

New Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Provider Starting August 1st, 2013

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has announced that they have entered into a contract with a new non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) manager, Medical Transportation Management, Inc. (MTM). MTM will replace LogistiCare. MTM is a company based out of St. Louis, Missouri. They have call centers in Texas, District of Columbia, Minnesota, Missouri, Virginia and a new location in Madison, WI. MTM will also have an office in Milwaukee.

August 1, 2013 is the Go-Live date for MTM to start providing transportation to Medicaid members eligible for NEMT services. The phone numbers for the reservation line (1-866-907-1493) and “Where’s My Ride” (1-866-907-1494) are the same as those currently being used by LogistiCare. The “Where’s My Ride” line will be for inquiries about a ride that is late or did not show up, not complaints. There is an additional phone number to accommodate complaints called the “We Care” line. All complaints will go through this new phone number, 1-866-436-0457 (the “We Care” line).

Please note: Until July 31, 2013, LogistiCare will be coordinating transportation for members; public presentations will be held throughout the State in early summer with dates to be announced in the near future; in early summer a Member and a Provider Update will be mailed out to provide an overview of MTM, Inc. as well as non-emergency medical transportation processes and procedures. This update will list the rules and member responsibilities for scheduling and receiving rides to covered services through MTM, Inc. and other NEMT related materials.
Options for Independent Living Inc.
Vision and Mission Statements

VISION STATEMENT
Options for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities.

MISSION STATEMENT
Options for Independent Living, serving people with disabilities in 17 counties of Northeast Wisconsin, is the pre-eminent non-profit organization of choice to empower people with disabilities. Options provides opportunities, through advocacy and education, for individuals with all disabilities and ages, to actively access their communities, maximize their independence, and connect with the resources and funding available to them.

Options New Accessible Garden!

Options began construction of an Accessible Garden at our facility late last year. This project is in collaboration with the NWTC Horticulture Program and the Green Bay Botanical Garden. The garden design was the project of a student in NWTC’s Horticulture Class. He researched “accessible gardens” for people with all types of disabilities. Some of the features include: wheelchair accessible garden beds; vertical gardens for individuals with difficulty getting down to garden level; scented flowers and herbs as well as a water fountain for people with vision loss; an array of various adaptive garden tools, and more. It will be a unique garden showplace for everyone.

Students from the NWTC Horticulture Classes will have the opportunity to use the garden as a learning tool and the Botanical Gardens and Options can use it for classes and programs for community participants. As the schedule allows it will also be available to the public for gatherings, events and meetings.

Plants give us oxygen for the lungs and for the soul. ~Linda Solegato ~

Volunteers working hard to get the garden ready.
**Did you know...** *Options for Independent Living has a Medicaid Personal Care Program?*

*Options* offers a Personal Care Program for people with PHYSICAL disabilities who are: Medicaid beneficiaries, require personal care services, and have identified an individual to provide personal care.

The program is consumer directed and includes personal care assistance with: bathing, dressing/undressing, prosthetics, grooming, eating, mobility in home, toileting, transferring, and incidental services (laundry, light housekeeping, meal prep). The consumer must agree to responsibly use personal care services and have back-up support available as needed. *Options* does not provide emergency or back-up personal care services.

Consumers utilizing *Options* Personal Care Program must have chosen an individual who they are interested in hiring. The Personal Care Worker (PCW) candidate must be at least 18 years old and, ideally, be trained in the skill(s) necessary to provide cares to the consumer. The PCW can not be a parent/guardian of a minor child or a spouse.

If you have a referral or would like more information on *Options* Personal Care Program please contact Maia Xiong, HR Manager/Personal Care Coordinator, at (920) 490-8270 ext. 114 or toll-free at 888-465-1515, ext. 114 or e-mail at maiax@optionsil.org.

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**Options is Awarded HOME Funding For Home Accessibility Rehab/Repair**

*Options* for Independent Living, Inc. has once again received federal funding through the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing to administer the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME Program). The HOME Loan Program provides deferred no-payment and no interest loans to low or moderate income persons with a disability and the elderly for the purpose of making accessibility improvements and general home improvements or repairs to their single family home. The loan must be paid back when the property is sold, transferred, or ceases to be the borrower’s principal place of residence.

Types of projects include (but not limited to) ramps construction, bathroom, kitchen and bedroom modifications, and general housing rehabilitation and repairs. The counties served by this program include Brown (outside Green Bay City limits), Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties. For more information contact Steve LaFrombois, HOME Program Coordinator at toll-free at (888) 465-1515 extension 122.
Sign-up for the Fall 2013 Start-up of Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YiPPE) Transition Training

YiPPE, Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment, is a weekend leadership development opportunity for youth with disabilities ages 15 – 22 and their parents to learn about the transition process. The youth participants learn how to make decisions for themselves throughout the transition process; prepare for work and/or college; and learn more about self determination. Youth (ages 15-20) and their parent(s), foster parent(s), or grandparent(s), are eligible for this program. Youth must be receiving special education services. Those who have attended a Transition PIP are not eligible to attend.


Registration: Online at http://wspeidatasystem.com/pip/register or contact JoAnn Senzig, CESA 5 at 608-745-5422. Registration deadline is September 14, 2013. Space is limited to 25 families. Cost is $950 per student, which covers meals, overnight accommodations, and resources for all five weekends. For information on funding options, contact: Martha DeYoung, WSPEI State Training Coordinator at 608-745-5435 or email at deyoungm@cesa5.org.

Options Grassroots Advocacy Groups meet in Green Bay and Sheboygan

Through funding from the Independent Living Council of Wisconsin, Options hosts two grassroots advocacy groups who meet monthly in Green Bay and Sheboygan.

Routes for Change - This Brown County group has been looking into the excessive illegal use of accessible parking spaces. The group is working with the Green Bay traffic division and brainstorming on how best to get this done. Routes for Change meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Options for Independent Living in Green Bay.

Disability Action Advocacy Network (D.A.A.N) – This Sheboygan County group has been working on employment barriers and police response to persons with disabilities, especially those with a hearing loss. D.A.A.N meets the third Wednesday of each month, downtown Sheboygan at 806 North Eight Street.

If you want to get involved and make a difference in your community, please contact Options for Independent Living toll-free at 888-465-1515. Advocacy can and does create positive change!
Wisconsin WisLoan Program

WisLoan is a state-wide alternative loan program helping Wisconsin’s residents with a disability to purchase assistive technology that assists them in living more independently and productively. Any Wisconsin resident with a disability over the age of 18 in need of assistive technology or home modifications is eligible to apply for a loan.

Some examples of assistive technology include wheelchairs, hearing aids, CCTV’s, and vehicles with modifications. In addition, loans have been approved for home modifications such as ramp construction and roll-in showers. Loan amounts range from $500.00 to $50,000.00, but the actual loan amount will depend on the items purchased and your ability to repay.

Current interest rate on a WisLoan is 6.5%. If you have bad credit, including bankruptcy, your application will still be considered. The focus is on the ability to make monthly payments to pay back the loan. Reasons for bad credit are taken into consideration. For more information or to apply for WisLoan call Options at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 888-465-1515.

WisLoan is a federally-funded project of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation, and a cooperative service of the WI Dept. of Health and Family Services, IndependenceFirst, and BMO Harris Bank.

Telework Loan Program

The Wisconsin Telework program is a statewide, alternative loan program that allows Wisconsin 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. Loan the funds can be used to purchase equipment, training to use equipment, extended warranties, and cost of maintenance and repairs.

You can apply for the amount you need, but actual loan amounts will depend on the item purchased and your ability to repay the loan. The interest rate is 6.5%. Term length depends on the amount of the loan and the item purchased. For more information contact the staff at Options for Independent Living at (888) 465-1515 (V/TTY) or 490-0500 (Voice) or 490-0600 (TTY).

This program is made possible through a grant from Rehabilitative Services Administration and authorized by section (303)b of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and implemented by subsequent program regulation 34 C F R Part 373. The Department of Workforce Development-Division of Rehabilitation received the grant and provides programmatic and fiscal oversight. IndependenceFirst, a community based and consumer-controlled independent living center based in Milwaukee, administers the program in partnership with BMO Harris Bank and WI Independent Living Centers.
Peer Mentor Training held in Sturgeon Bay on May 1st

By Tom Hoatlin

The Christopher Reeve Foundation's Peer and Family Support Program (PFSP) came to Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin on May 1, 2013. The program seeks individuals living with paralysis, their family members and caregivers who are thriving and living successful lives to become peer mentor candidates. The candidates are screened and then move on to working through online modules followed by an assessment. Once the pre-training has taken place the candidates attend a free one day onsite peer mentor training. After the training the candidates become certified peer mentors for the Reeve Foundation. They then are matched up with people who are new to or struggling with paralysis. The ideal matches are similar in disability, age, gender, ethnicity, etc.

The objective of the PFSP is to match mentors who have been there and done that and can offer support, solutions, resources and friendship to their clients. Tom Hoatlin is the Midwest Regional Coordinator of the program and conducted the training with Steve Coleman, VP of the PFSP. Hoatlin remarked, "this Wisconsin training was awesome as we had representation from all of our intended candidates; people living with paralysis, family members, caregivers and several professionals from Options for Independence in Green Bay."

“Many thanks to the Murrock family and the staff at Options for spreading the word and helping recruit 16 candidates,” Hoatlin added. The training was held at the historic Lodge at Leatham Smith and owner Paul and his staff were gracious hosts and did a fantastic job of accommodating the group. To get involved and for more information contact: Tom Hoatlin at 248-505-6789 or at: midwestrc@christopherreeve.org.
**Accessible Travel Information**

**WI State Parks** - WI State Parks have many accessible camping alternatives for the camper with a disability. There are accessible campsites, accessible cabins, and rustic cabins for person with disabilities. If you are able to camp, most parks have accessible camping sites, picnic areas, park offices and toilet/shower facilities. The accessible cabins are like small cottages and contain beds, a bathroom, cooking area, etc. inside the cabin. Rustic Cabins have a bed and bunks, but do not contain an inside bathroom. Also the cooking area is the outside pit area. These are for individuals wanting a more tent like experience. For those who are not able to tent camp the following accessible cabins/cottages are available:

Mirror Lake State Park in Baraboo (608) 254-2333, Buckhorn State Park in Necedah (608) 565-2789; Kettle Moraine State Forest in Eagle (262) 254-2333; Potowatami State Park in Sturgeon Bay (920) 746-2890; High Cliff in Sherwood (920) 989-1106; Kohler-Andrea in Sheboygan (920) 451-4080; Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kansasville (262) 878-5600.

Rustic Cabins are located at: Blue Mound State Park in Blue Mound (608) 437-5711; Copper Falls State Park in Mellen (920) 492-5836.

**Note:** Also available at some sites are adaptive kayaks, beach wheelchairs, and sit-skis.

Reservations for cabins fill quickly each year. For more information on the accessible camp sites, cabins, and adaptive equipment you can call your local WI Department of Natural Resources or the State of DNR toll-free at (888) 936-7463. You can also check out their website “Open the Outdoors” at [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/openoutdoors/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/openoutdoors/).

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### Accessible Bed and Breakfasts

- **Welcome HOME**  
  Located in Newburg  
  For information or reservations:  
  Call (262) 675-2525  
  www.welcomehomebb.com

- **The Feathered Star**  
  Located in Egg Harbor  
  2 rooms have roll-in showers  
  For information or reservations:  
  Call toll-free (877)743-4066  
  www.featheredstar.com

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### Accessible Tours Travel Planners

- **Abel Trek Tours**  
  Reedsburg WI  
  (800) 205-6713  
  (608) 524-8302  
  www.abletrektours.com
Accessible Travel Information continued...

Lodges/Resorts

**Pine Forest Lodge**  
Mercer, WI  
(715) 476-2241  
http://pineforestlodge.com/

**Sunrise Lodge**  
Land O'Lakes, WI  
(800) 221-9689  
(715) 547-3684  
www.sunriselodge.com

**Sunset Pines Resort**  
Willard, WI  
(715) 267-6989  
www.sunsetpinesresort.com

**Please note, Options staff have toured the Bed and Breakfast’s listed and they are very accessible for individuals who use wheelchairs. We have not toured the resorts or lodges nor have we worked with any of the travel planners. It is best to call and make sure the type of access you require will be provided.**

Options 5th Annual Daytona 500 Party Fundraiser was a Success!

Our 5th Annual Daytona 500 Party Fundraiser was a great success again this year! Attendance was over 200, the race went on as scheduled, and everyone had a good time. Options Board of Directors and staff would like to thank our Sponsors and all those who donated items for our Silent Auction and raffles. The success of the event means success for all the individuals with disabilities we serve.

Our many thanks to everyone!
For Sale Items

Vehicles/Vans/Accessories

**Bruno Scooter Lift** $400  Bruno ASL 400 Scooter Lift Jr.  Was $1200 new. 6 years old. Contact Gary Meunier at 920-794-7885 (Two Rivers)

**Excel Scooter Lift by VMT** Like new, used about 3 months. Best Offer. It is at a small business location. Contact Susie, Henry or Bill at 920-434-9099. Please call between 8 am - 5 pm. (Green Bay area)

**Hand Controls** $250 or best offer. Left handed hand controls. Push down for gas, push forward for brake. 10 years old. Contact Jesse Pontzloff at 920-621-8053 (Green Bay area)

Mobility Aids

**Standard Walker-Adult 5” Swivel Wheels** #300 capacity Gently Used: $40.00 Original price: $160. Please contact Shelly at (920) 498-0710 8 a.m.-9 p.m. (Green Bay area)

**Cosco Walker** $40 - 4 wheel walker with seat and basket. Gently used, very good condition. Please contact Shelly at (920) 498-0710 8 a.m.-9 p.m. (Green Bay area)

**Quickie GTX Manual Wheelchair** Asking $200.00 Contact Judy at 920-336-5682 (Green Bay area)

**Rascal Power Chair** New power chair, 300# capacity, two sets of foot rest (one regular and one elevated), seat belt and charger. Gary at 920-468-6938 $1500 or best offer (Green Bay area)

Beds and Accessories

**Full size automatic hospital bed with mattress**—About one year old. Best Offer Contact Wanda at 920-361-3815 evenings (Berlin area).

**Gel Foam Mattress** for Twin Bed  Medline Industries gel foam overlay pad for twin bed. $25 Paul 920-883-1372 (Green Bay Area)
For Sale Items Cont…

Miscellaneous Items

**Transfer (tub) bench 400# limit**  Never Used: Asking $40.00  Contact Shelly at 920-498-0710  8 a.m.-9 p.m.  Original price: $106.00  (Green Bay area)

**CCTV**  - $650.00 or reasonable offer  Atlas 610, 2003 model, 21” screen.  Contact Alana at 920-423-3167.  (Green Bay area)

**Frog legs/shock absorbing caster forks 5” soft roll aluminum wheels**, fits a Quickie.  Contact Bruce at 920-660-6600.  (Fox Valley)

**1 Pair Magic wheels/ 2 gear manual wheels**  $1,100.00 or reasonable offer.  Geared hub, hill holding ability, down hill control, used less than 2 years, quad knobs  -  Contact Bruce at 920-660-6600.  (Fox Valley)

**Hand Cycle**  -$1,000  -3 wheel 7 speed, completely adjustable to fit any size person.  Has 27” wheels, 10 yrs old, very good condition.  Contact Jesse Pontzloff at 920-621-8053.  (Green Bay area)

**Battery Powered Invacare 450 Hoyer Lift**  - $2,000- Holds 500 lb. Battery and charger, flat pad.  Contact Lory at 920-621-4459.  (Green Bay area)

**Battery Powered Reliant Invacare Hoyer Lift**—450lbs capacity  - Never used.  Asking $1,000 or best offer.  Contact Eleanor at 920-544-0302.  (Green Bay Area)

**Harmar Mobility Alpine Stair Glide**— 2012, very new, rarely used.  14’ track.  350lbs. capacity.  Waupaca elevators will install.  Asking $1500 or best offer.  Contact Mark at 920-445-7446.  (Appleton Area)

Other Used Medical Equipment Resources

IndependenceFirst Mobility Store (Wheelchair Recycling Program)  Used medical equipment.  **Contact:** Greater Milwaukee Area—414-988-5333 or Madison—608-243-1785  **Website:**  www.wrp.org.

**UsedHME.com:** a free listing service where people can buy, sell, or donate "Used Home Medical Equipment". We are zip code driven so usedHME.com is local for everyone. Equipment that can be found: mobility scooters, power chairs, stair lifts, lift chairs, wheelchair accessible vans and much more.
Don’t Forget to Visit Options Website

Check out Options website at www.optionsil.com. The website is updated frequently and features information on Options services, area events, helpful links, and assistive technology for sale. We hope you will find our website informative, up to date, and easy to use.

Visit us at: www.optionsil.com

Staff Directory

Main Office—Green Bay
555 Country Club Road
Toll Free 1-888-465-1515
Fax 920-490-0700
TTY 920-490-0600

STAFF DIRECTORY
To reach staff directly, Call (920) 490-8270, then the Extension below:

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**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, June 18th**, *Options* is having an “Aide Appreciation Day,” 10 am – 2 am at *Options* to say thank you to all our Personal Care workers. No need to RSVP…simply stop by. Please contact Maia, *Options* Personal Care Program Coordinator, 888-465-1515, ext. 114 with any questions.

**Tuesday, June 25th, 7 pm**, please watch ABC’s Extreme Weight Loss Addition. Watch host and trainer Chris Powell work with a local consumer with a disability to realize his goal of extreme weight loss.

**Saturday, August 17th, Green Bay Area Wheelchair Wash and Safety Check**, at *Options*, 9 am—11:30 am. Stop by and get your wheelchairs and scooters cleaned and inspected for free. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 617, Independent Mobility Plus, and *Options* for Independent Living. For more information contact *Options* at 888-465-1515.