

Centerpoint

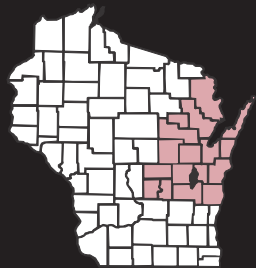
Taking Control of Tomorrow

SUMMER ISSUE 2026

Serving 17 counties in
Northeast Wisconsin
and the Fox Valley

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A publication of:

Options
Empowering everyday independence

optionsil.org 

From the Director

First, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our two major winter development activities: the Non-Gala Gala on December 31 and Give Big Green Bay on February 25 and 26. Together, these events raised nearly \$50,000 for Options. A significant portion of the funds will support our Community Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program and help update technology at the Options Showcase Model Home. Both efforts will make a meaningful difference in the lives of people with disabilities throughout our service area. Thank you again for your generous support of Options.

Options wrapped up a busy winter and spring and is now looking ahead to an exciting summer. As we reflect on the past several months, one highlight was Independent Living Days in Madison.

Several members of the Options team participated in a day of training before heading to the Capitol to meet with legislators. It was a valuable opportunity to share updates on issues impacting the disability community and to help keep these important conversations moving forward.

The events we have hosted since our last newsletter have also been incredibly successful. Our Sensory Santa event was especially meaningful, and it was wonderful to see the joy and connection it brought to the families who attended. In early May, we hosted a wheelchair wash in the Fox Valley that welcomed a record number of participants. Events like these are only possible because of the support of our community partners. We are especially grateful to The Wandering Table for providing food and to NuMotion for assisting with wheelchair safety checks. Their

continued on page 2

support helped make the day both enjoyable and impactful.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities this summer will bring. On July 23, we will host an open house celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act featuring community resources along with activities for attendees to enjoy. We also hope you will join us for a Green Bay Rockers game on August 5. Please mark your calendars—we would love to see you there as we continue celebrating the strong community that supports the work of Options.

On the personnel side, we are excited to share a few updates within the organization. Stacie Scheibe was promoted to Director of Independent Living Services, and Autumn Nordall was promoted to Director of Advocacy and Outreach. Both Stacie and Autumn bring tremendous talent, passion, and leadership to their roles, and we are excited to see them continue to grow with Options. In March, we also welcomed Kristina Zubic to the team as our new Assistive Technology staff member, and we are thrilled to have her on board.

Thank you for your continued support of Options and the individuals and families we serve. We are grateful to be part of such a strong and caring community!

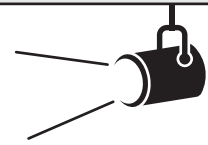


Josh Theis

Executive Director
josht@optionsil.org
920-393-1045

A Big Thank You!

Options would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported our Non-Gala Gala on December 31 and Give Big Green Bay on February 25–26. The funds raised will help support updates to our Showcase Model Home and Office complex, as well as our general operations. We will be showcasing some of the updates on our Facebook page in the coming months. We are deeply grateful for the incredible support shown through both of these important fundraisers. Every contribution—whether \$5 or \$500—makes a meaningful difference and helps us continue providing exceptional services to people with disabilities throughout our 17-county service area. Thank you again for your generosity and support.



Consumer Highlights:

- Options Youth Transition Coordinator worked with a young adult who has been receiving services through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) since 2018. The consumer struggles with literacy and, for over a year, had been trying to find assistance through countless low cost/non-profit agencies, programs and systems to no avail. Because her low literacy levels are a barrier to jobs/employment she is interested in but cannot otherwise access, she submitted a request with DVR to provide funding for literacy assistance from paid programs...which was denied.

With the help of Options staff, she appealed this decision and proceeded through the process of informal review, mediation and lastly the impartial hearing with an Administrative Law Judge. Due to outstanding factors, this consumer even represented herself during the hearing, at which she ultimately won her case! DVR's denial of funding for literacy services was conclusively REVERSED.

Options staff continue to work with this consumer to provide peer support and additional advocacy as all parties work together to implement these new services.

- Consumer worked with Options IL Coordinator Supervisor to appeal a Lakeland MCO decision for a barrier free shower in his home. Lakeland had requested an assessment for the barrier free shower, but in the interim, Lakeland had consumer's family purchase a portable shower to use until an assessment was completed. The family purchased the portable shower.

After assessment was completed, Lakeland denied the shower stating the portable shower was meeting his needs. Despite the fact it took consumer's wife over an hour to set the shower up each time and another hour to take it down, along with cleaning up, and consumer had to shower in his kitchen!

After almost a year of advocating and appealing Lakeland's negative decisions to acquire the barrier free shower in his home, the State Administrative Law judge found for the consumer stating Lakeland would need to fund the barrier free shower for consumer.

Want to Get Involved in Legislative Advocacy? It's easy, join Act Now!

Do you want your voice to be heard, but feel your voice alone would not be enough? Join *Options'* legislative advocacy network, **Act Now!** Individuals in the network receive legislative alerts and updates on issues impacting people with disabilities. When an alert or update is received, everyone on the network is encouraged to pursue the issue by contacting their area legislators, therefore combining your voice with many! Act Now alerts are delivered through email.

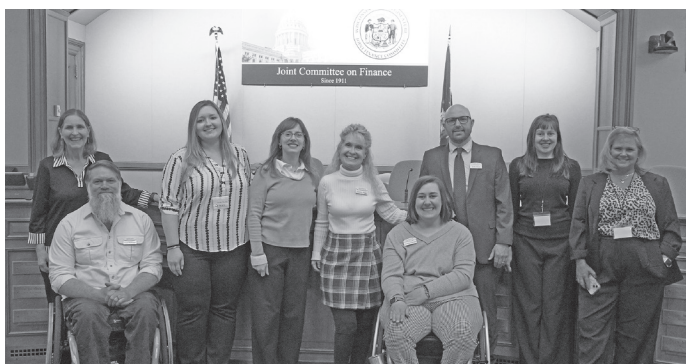
Contacting your legislators about issues that may affect you, or someone you know, is important. Your legislators want to hear firsthand how legislation being considered can impact your life positively or negatively. It helps in their decision making. Joining **Act Now** will assist you in those efforts. This network will educate you on the issues and help you to advocate more effectively. The more people in the network, the greater the impact.

If you are interested in joining Act Now, you can sign-up on our website or contact Autumn Nordall at Options (920) 393-1035 or 920-490-0500 or autumn@optionsil.org.

Options Staff headed to Madison for IL Days

March 25th and 26th, Options staff participated in IL days down in Madison with staff from other Independent Living Centers across the state. On the 25th staff participated in training offered to enhance their abilities to provide consumer services. On the 26th, staff headed to the Capitol to meet with legislators and their staffers from Options 17 county services area, to discuss issues and concerns for people with disabilities in our state.

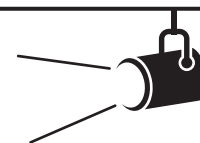
The two-day event was a valuable investment for Options staff, offering meaningful opportunities to connect with other independent living professionals from across the state, along with legislators and their staff. Pictured are staff in the Joint Finance meeting room and also around a table with legislators and their staffers.



Options Adaptive Adventures Program

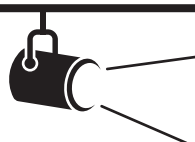
Did you know Options started an adaptive recreation-type equipment program named Adaptive Adventures, where you can check out adaptive equipment for free! Options has a Track chair, a Terrain Hopper, a Firefly attachment for a manual wheelchair to become like an E-bike, an E-Trike, a hand cycle trike, a Huckleberry Hiker Cart, and a few other adaptive recreation type equipment. If you would like to learn more about the recreational equipment available and how you or someone you know can experience being outdoors and active once again, please contact Options at 920-490-0500 and ask for Dave.

Adaptive Adventures Success Story!



Bryan utilized Options Track Chair this winter. He had a great time ice fishing. He was happy to be able to traverse the ice and visit with others fishing around him on the lake, along with being very happy to be able to go to the tip ups. He was able to fish in different areas while using the track chair and not be stuck in the truck or in one spot!

New Options Staff Spotlight

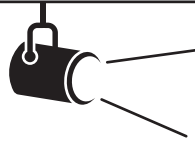


Hi, my name is Leah Banker and I will be the new PAS RN for Options. I'm excited for this new journey and area of nursing. I come from a background of care/case management for the last 5 years. I did home health as well as care management at a local MCO.

I recently went back to school to complete my Bachelor's degree. I live in Greenville and have 3 kids.

I have 2 girls aged 13 and 11 and a son who is 9. They are very involved in sports, so they keep me very busy. Some of my strengths as a nurse include that I am easy to talk to and take to change easily. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.





New Options Staff Spotlight

Hi, my name is Kristina Zubic, I am the new Assistive Technology Specialist at Options. I'm new to Options and to Green Bay, but not to assistive technology – since 2019 I've been helping people find solutions to challenges of daily living, and funding to offset the costs of those solutions. Most of my past work at HEAR Wisconsin in Milwaukee focused on technology for hearing loss and combined hearing/vision loss, with some mobility- and speech-related tech because we worked with the state's TEPP program.



I'm filling the gaps in my knowledge as quickly as I can. My former duties included working with the assistive technology specialists at the eight ILCs in our state, including my predecessor at Options, Calvin Richtig. When I told him I was looking to move to Green Bay to be with my partner and his family, Calvin recommended me for his job!

My life is now full of kids and pets, and when I'm not working, you'll often find me outdoors. We like to spend time in our yard or in one of the parks, and we recently became members of the Botanical Garden. In fall and winter, I spend a lot of time rinkside – all the kids play hockey!

Be Ready to Vote in 2026! DVC Fact Sheets

Please make sure you are registered to vote, and be aware of where you can vote in your area. Click this link for information from the Disability Vote Coalition (DVC) and to check if there is transportation to the poll for you, <https://disabilityvote.org/> Remember, voting is a right! Please exercise your right to vote!

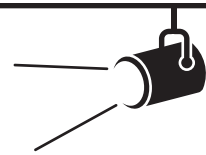
- **August 11, 2026: Fall Partisan primary**
- **November 3, 2026: Fall General Election**

To check if you're registered to vote, register to vote, request an absentee ballot, find out what will be on your ballot, and more, visit: www.myvote.wi.gov.



Options LEND Program

Options LEND Program is available for people who have temporary or long-term need for durable medical equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs, bath benches, etc. Options takes in donated durable medical equipment that is in good working condition and clean. Then, gives it back to those who need it in our community. **We do not take items:** with electrical cords, power wheelchairs, lift chairs, medical supplies, or hospital beds. Options LEND closet is open **9 to 11:30 am and 12:30 – 3 pm Monday through Friday**. For any questions contact Roxanne at Options at 920-393-1054.



LEND Program Consumer Highlights:

- The use of the walker gave me the confidence and security I needed to walk indoors and outdoors during the winter while I recovered from hip surgery. So grateful for this lending program.
- Thank you! We have used and borrowed several items now and previously from the ADRC. It was always been very helpful!! Thank You for providing this very important service to our community!
- It is so nice to be able to use items that are not covered by insurance. Everyone is so nice and helpful.
- So grateful for the use of the equipment I borrowed; am having hip surgery. It will make my healing less stressful. Thank you for this great program. Deeply appreciated.
- Helped me tremendously- I could not stand due to disability and was in the hospital for 80 days. When I came home the shower tub transfer bench helped me bathe independently.

You Are Invited!



Questions? Contact us:
920-490-0500
optionsil.org

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facebook.com/optionsil.greenbay

CELEBRATE THE ADA'S
36TH ANNIVERSARY
Join Us for an Open House Celebration

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

36

Celebrate
with us!

Options
Empowering everyday independence

Honoring access,
advocacy, and independence!

Featuring:

- Caricatures by Joey are back!
- Showcase home tours
- Assistive Technology demonstrations
- Adaptive Recreation demonstrations for all abilities (yes – you know you want to try one!)
- Snacks & Refreshments
- Community connection



We hope to celebrate with you!

Date: July 23rd, 2026

Time: 4 pm – 6 pm

Location: Options for Independent Living
555 Country Club Road
Green Bay, WI 54131

Access, inclusion, and community make life better for everyone.

Join us as we celebrate the anniversary of the ADA with a special open house filled with tours, demonstrations, and opportunities to connect.

Whether you've worked with Options, partnered with us, or simply want to learn more, we would love to welcome you.

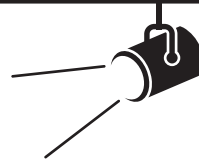
Come see how accessibility opens doors for all of us – no matter our age or ability.

Warmly,
The Options Team

Tech Closet News

Options has Assistive Technology (AT) Specialists who can assess an individual with a disability to determine the role assistive technology can play in achieving greater independence. For more information on assistive technology that can help you reach your goal of independence, contact Options at 920-490-0500.

Assistive technology is partially supported by the WisTech, Assistive Technology Program. Telecommunication partially is funded by the Universal Service Fund (USF.)



WisTech Consumer Highlight:

- Consumer is a 94 year old woman with a severe hearing loss. She lives alone and realized she needed an amplified phone to be able to talk to her callers. Options staff worked with consumer to pick out the amplified phone that would work best for her, along with additional handheld units she could place throughout her home in her den, bedroom and basement. The phones were ordered and Options staff set them up in her home.

She was once again able to independently converse with her callers. She was also no longer able to hear her doorbell ring when she was not in her kitchen. Options staff also worked with consumer to attain an amplified doorbell that would be hardwired into her current doorbell system and would ring throughout her home announcing she had someone at her door. As a result, consumer could once again feel safe in her home and not miss those who came to her door and rang the doorbell.

What is the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP)?

TEPP helps people with disabilities buy equipment they need to use basic telephone services. TEPP requires an applicant:

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or mobility or motion impaired.
- Be in need of special equipment to use the telephone in the home or when traveling (like a TTY, amplification, visual alert system, etc.).

There is no age or income limit, but an individual can only get a TEPP voucher once every three years for the same type of disability. For more information on the TEPP program, contact Kristina Zubic at 920-393-1037.

TEPP is paid for by the Wisconsin Universal Service Fund (USF) established by the Public Service Commission. Money is collected from Wisconsin telephone service providers to fund the USF.



Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Summer Event Green Bay Rockers Game!

Join us on Wednesday, August 5 at 6:15 p.m. for a fun evening at the Green Bay Rockers game! This special event supports Options, and tickets purchased through Options are just \$15. Each ticket includes a Rockers baseball hat, and Options will receive \$7 from every ticket sold. Invite your family and friends and come enjoy a great night out while supporting a good cause!

If you would like to purchase tickets from Options, please call Jennifer Lardinois at 920-393-1032 or email at jenniferl@optionsil.org.

Hope to see you at the Game!!!

Options Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash a Success!

Options hosted the Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash again this year on May 8th, 2026 at the John Fischer Manor in Appleton. Over 45 wheelchairs were washed and inspected for safety. Over 110 people were in attendance throughout the day. Options adaptive Recreational equipment was spotlighted and many consumers tried out the various devices, from the Track chair to the Bowhead trike. Free lunch was provided by the “Wandering Table” and Scam bingo by APD and Singo bingo by Senior Solutions were enjoyed by all! Valley Transit provided a “bus experience” which allowed consumers to ride the bus at no charge with a travel trainer and tour the transit center.

It was a great day which would not have been as successful without all the wonderful sponsors...big Thank Yous go out to all: NuMotion, Easter Seals, Making the Ride Happen, Wandering Table, Valley Transit and Lutheran Social Services.

Options’ Personal Assistance Program for Those on Medicaid

Options’ Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Program empowers people & families with disabilities to manage their in-home cares, including the selection of their Care Worker so that they can maintain a strong relationship with them and remain involved in the daily life of their family.

Certified to provide services through Medicaid and to sub-contract services through IRIS, Options’ PAS program has been helping adults in need of in-home care for years.

Benefits of Using Options for Personal Care Services:

- Options is not a Staffing Agency. Individuals can have family or friends provide care.
- Options can provide training for new Care Workers.
- A Case Manager will provide supervision of the Care Worker and coordinate service needs.
- Benefits include Health, Dental & Vision insurance as well as Retirement Savings Accounts for full-time Care Workers (30+ hrs./week.)

For More Information contact: Jennifer Lardinois – CLTS Case Manager / Care Coordinator. jenniferL@optionsil.org. 920-680-8438.

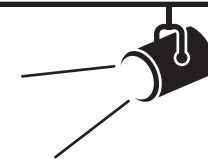
Wisconsin WisLoan Program

WisLoan is a statewide alternative loan program helping Wisconsin residents with a disability 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, Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV's), and vehicles with modifications, or the modifications necessary to make a vehicle accessible.

For more information or to apply for WisLoan call Options at 920-490-0500.

WisLoan is a federally funded project of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation, and a cooperative service of the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services and IndependenceFirst.



WisLoan Consumer Highlight:

- Options staff worked with a consumer who uses a wheelchair and lives independently in his own home, and was looking to remove a barrier. A manual garage door was preventing him from coming and going as he pleased. Consumer already had a lift to get him from his house to his garage, yet doors to the outside had become the issue. Consumer was relying on other people to open and close his garage door so he could come and go, but it was always based upon someone else's availability.

Options staff suggested a WisLoan to help pay for a new automatic garage door. Consumer agreed and applied for the Wisloan with assistance from Options IL Coordinator, Becky Bookter.

- A retired disabled Veteran contacted Options and met with an independent living skills coordinator to complete a Wisloan application for a modified vehicle. Upon thorough review by the Wisloan Committee, the request was approved. Consumer purchased lift equipped modified vehicle and has been able to safely drive himself to his medical appointments and perform errands independently. This retired veteran shared a note of gratitude that he and his wife have even, "gone back to places and have seen people I haven't seen in years. Thank You!"

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, e.g. work on the road or at a telework center.

Loan funds can be used to purchase equipment, training to use equipment, extended warranties, and cost of maintenance and repairs. For more information, contact the staff at Options for Independent Living at 920-490-0500.



This program is made possible through a grant from Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) 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.

IndependenceFirst, an independent living center based in Milwaukee, administers the program in partnership with Wisconsin Independent Living Centers.

Options Home & Vehicle Accessibility Assessment Program

Options offers home and vehicle assessment services for consumers on long term care program, i.e., Family Care, IRIS, Children's Long Term Care Waiver program. It is a Fee for Service program that one of the WI long term care programs can purchase for you. For more information contact Options at 920-490-0500.

Benefits Buzz -

Effective May 1, 2026, Wisconsin will increase its state SSI payments by 10%. That means if your current state SSI payment is \$83.78 per month, it will increase to \$92.16 per month. A state SSI payment of \$179.77 per month will increase to about \$197.75 per month. They will include SSI-Exceptional Expense (SSI-E) payments in the increase. You can contact Karin Zuleger at Options, 920-393-1039, for more details.

CenterPoint is Green!

Just like reusing durable medical equipment through our LEND Program, Options tries to be environmentally friendly everywhere. Therefore, we would like your help. Options publishes CenterPoint two-three times a year. We mail out approximately 2,000 editions each time. CenterPoint is now available in electronic form, PDF and Word text formats, through Options' website at www.optionsil.org. You can also sign up to receive the newsletter via email. Go to Options website home page, scroll down and click the Newsletter Sign-up tab on the bottom left. Once you sign up, you will receive the newsletter via email with a PDF and a Word Text attachment. Then let us know you will be receiving the newsletter via electronic format and no longer want one mailed to you. Help us to not only save the cost of paper, printing and postage, but to be more environmentally friendly. Sign up today! Thank you!



Mark Your Calendar!
Upcoming Celebration

Celebrate the 36th Anniversary of the ADA at Options Open House

To celebrate the 36th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you are cordially invited to Options Open House on Thursday, July 23, 2026 from 4 - 6 pm. Join us to celebrate the ADA and the impact this monumental legislation had on people with disabilities in our nation. There will be tours of Options Model Showcase Accessible Home, adaptive recreational equipment demos, assistive technology demos, Caricatures by Joey, snacks and beverages. Come and see what Options is all about...Hope to see you there!!

**GREEN BAY
OFFICE**555 Country Club Road, Green Bay, WI 54307
Front Desk 920-490-0500

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RN-Personal Care Program	Leah Banker	920-393-1056	leahb@optionsil.org
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LEND Lead	Roxanne Kiefert	920-393-1054	roxannek@optionsil.org
Office and Grant Compliance Manager	Sandy Popp	920-393-1043	sandyp@optionsil.org
Certified Peer Specialist (available virtually or phone only)	Dave Zanon	920-680-1889	davez@optionsil.org

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Green Bay WI 54307-1967

Return Service Requested

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.

Visit us on our website or Facebook!

Website: www.optionsil.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/optionsil.greenbay/>

Upcoming Dates!



Celebrate 36th Anniversary of the ADA at Options
Thursday, July 23rd

*see pages 8 & 14 for details

Wednesday
August 5th

at 6:15 p.m.

Green Bay Rockers game!

*see page 10 for details



Counties Served

Brown
Calumet
Door
Fond du Lac
Green Lake
Kewaunee
Manitowoc
Marinette
Marquette

Menominee
Oconto
Outagamie
Shawano
Sheboygan
Waupaca
Waushara
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