



Travis Coatney and Hope Outdoors *Consumer Directed Services Spotlight*

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FACEBOOK:

Ozark Independent
Living

WEBSITE:

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E-MAIL:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays-Fridays
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MISSION:

To empower people with
disabilities to live as full
and productive members
of society.

FIVE CORE SERVICES:

- Information/Referral
- Life Skills/Training
- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Transitioning



*Local hunter Travis Coatney recently
appeared on the Outdoor Channel.*

Mossy Oaks Productions filmed a "Hunting the Country" segment in Southwest Missouri which recently aired on the Outdoor Channel. It featured local resident Travis Coatney of Norwood in a hunt put together by Hope Outdoors for hunters with disabilities. If you missed it, here's where to find the episode: <https://vimeo.com/251189052>

Hope Outdoors is a non-denominational, Christian ministry which is based in Alabama but which helps

people from all around the country with disabilities (or who have experienced other life-altering events) to be able to hunt and fish. According to their website, "Hope Outdoors stops at nothing to restore a sense of hope in children and adults living with special needs. When the world says 'No,' we say 'Yes!' When the world says, 'can't' we find a way."

Not only did Travis participate in the televised hunt, but he recognized the importance and value of what Hope Outdoors does, and he wanted to be involved on the organizing side, helping others. So Travis and two of his friends, Chris Forrester and Chad Sullivan, have formed the Tri-county Chapter of Hope Outdoors. They are focused on Douglas, Texas and Wright as their base for finding private land owners who will let hunts be conducted on their property, but participants can be from anywhere in the country.

Their first event will be a Youth Turkey Hunt for hunters with disabilities ages 6-15, to be held April 6-8 in Norwood. They are finding corporate and local sponsors, along with hosting fund-raising events and seeking contributions to help make sure the hunters, who participate free of charge, are outfitted with everything they need, including adaptive firearms to use during the hunt. See "The Ozarks MO Youth Turkey Hunt" on Facebook page for more information about participation.

(Continued on page 3)



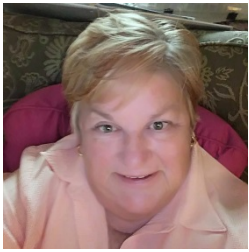
hope outdoors

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS:

Staff updates: Data Dept. (page 3)

Community: "Night to Shine" (page 4)

Event News: Turkey Hunt (page 7)



More from MOORE

By Executive Director
Cindy Moore

Legislators are back in session. Various people associated with Independent Living Centers will be in the halls of the state capitol educating our elected officials about the needs of the disabled in the seven counties OIL serves. As I have reported in the past, the funding for last year was not what we would have wished. However, this office is optimistic and we will do the best we can with what we receive for the 2018-19 year!

Plans are in the works for our annual Art Show! If you have a talent please contact the office for details. It can be anything that you enjoy.....painting, ceramics, knitting, quilting, etc. Show us your 'stuff! The actual show will be May 15-29 on the mezzanine of the West Plains Civic Center.

Our newsletter, I believe, is very comprehensive and full of great articles. Anything that you would like more of? Consumer bios? Technology and science services for the disabled? Inspirational stories? Let us know by contacting Terry in the office.

I wanted to emphasize that we have interests all over the state, and staff which follow disability news, trends etc. Just remember that no matter how busy WE are, there's always time to talk to YOU. Our only concern is the disabled population; how choice, control and change can be pivotal in lives. Between our **Independent Living Dept. and Consumer Directed Services Dept.** (in-home aides), this office has an answer for anyone dealing with disability issues – all under the **only Center for Independent Living** in this area (Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas, Douglas and Wright counties). Call or come by!

Regards,
Cindy

MAKE THE GOOD NEWS

By Newsletter Editor
Terry Hampton

Sometimes it seems as though there is more bad news than good, but I don't believe that's true. I believe the bad news gets more attention because it seems more important, and maybe sometimes it is. But most of the time, good news is more important.

We need to hear about people who are overcoming obstacles, groups who are helping others, and anyone who brings joy to life. We need to know that hope is alive and well and that people still care about other people.

This issue of The Pipeline features that kind of news. The kind of news that makes you feel good during a time when it is sometimes too easy to feel bad. From Travis Coatney in Norwood working with Hope Outdoors to Faith Assembly Church in West Plains teaming up with the Tim Tebow Foundation to host a Night to Shine Prom event, a lot of lives are being impacted in a positive way in our area and everywhere.

When we pay attention, when we look for the good, it's there to be found. And if you can't find good news, then why not make some? All of us have something we can contribute, and all of us have ways that we can help enable others to reach their potential.

It's not possible to avoid sad times and certain bad times will always be a part of life. We can't control everything that happens to us. We can only control how we react to what happens to us. And we can never go wrong by trying to make our communities better while also advocating for our elders, for those with disabilities and for anyone facing a tough time.

Let's be the change we want to see and make some good news together!



6th ANNUAL ART SHOW Featuring Artists with Disabilities

West Plains Civic Center – May 15-29
on the mezzanine during operating hours

At left is the 2017 Second Place
winner in the Youth Division

Celebrating Community Partnerships

A Special Prom Event: *A NIGHT TO SHINE!*

In February, Faith Assembly Church, West Plains, was one of more than 500 churches worldwide who hosted a Tim Tebow Foundation "Night to Shine" prom experience for area special needs individuals, ages 14 and over. OIL was happy to lend support to the event.

Marketing/Independent Living Specialist Terry Hampton attended, along with CDS coordinator Ashley Strazdas, to represent OIL. Terry snapped some photos which are shown here, and more can be found on our Facebook page on a Feb. 10 post.

About 100 people, each crowned Prom King or Queen, were able to participate in an evening of food, fun, music and other activities. Parents, guardians, other escorts and volunteers also took part. Faith Assembly is already making plans for next year, and will be looking for community support to make the event even bigger and better. Contact Pastor Jerry Heath at the church, 417-256-9214, for more information.

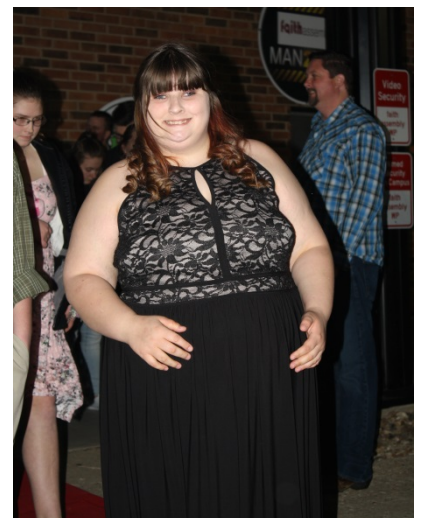
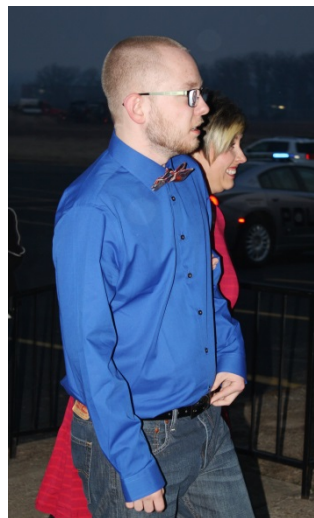
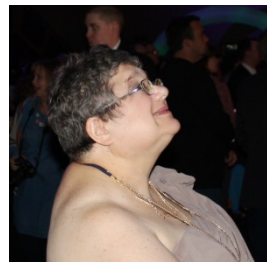
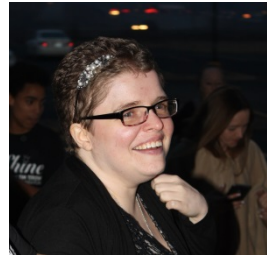
Congratulations and our thanks to Faith Assembly and the Tim Tebow Foundation for sponsoring this fun event!



For participants,
volunteers, family
members & friends,
a Night to Shine!



With phone, OIL
Board Member
Jane Kramer



(TRAVIS COATNEY - continued from page 1)

Travis hopes the page will get shared far and wide to get the word out about the event and about Hope Outdoors.

The base for the Youth Turkey Hunt will be the Union Grove "Caudle" FWB Church, 2550 Thomas RD, Norwood. Some parts of the event are open to the public, including meals at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7. Sunday morning church service on April 8 begins at 11 a.m. with a meal to follow. Travis welcomes all to attend. Call Travis, 417-686-1088, with questions or for more information. (Also see more about the event on page 7 of this newsletter.)

The group plans fishing trips, too, and their goal is to schedule special hunts during all hunting seasons. Travis said getting to make new friends and build relationships is the best part for him. "It's a ministry. We want to give someone hope who might not have a whole lot. The hunting is just a bonus."

Travis is an OIL CDS consumer who is a quadriplegic with very limited mobility of his arms and hands. He has been full-time in a wheelchair since 2010 following a vehicle accident. His full story was featured in the July-August 2014 Pipeline (formerly the Gusher). Travis has always been an athlete, and after the accident he took up fishing and hunting to continue to be as active as possible outdoors.

For a glimpse into Travis's attitude about life and his desire to help others, here's a quote from him, "Life's too short to sit around and be miserable. I look around and have so much to be thankful for."

Staff Updates

There has been some recent rearranging in the Data Dept. following the departure of Data Manager Angie Crewse who left OIL in January to take a job with the State of Missouri. Pam Johnson and Judy Murray, who have both been working at OIL several years, have stepped up to oversee the Data Dept., with each of them focusing on different areas while also becoming familiar with all aspects of the department. There are many responsibilities in the Data Dept. and always ongoing changes, so having more than one person aware of the duties of running the day-to-day details helps us serve our consumers better.

As Pam has moved up from being a Data Specialist, former OIL staffer Donna Nale has returned to work as a Data Specialist. She had previously been employed in that position for several years before leaving for a while to work for the Veterans Administration. We welcome her back!

Staffer Spotlight

JUDY MURRAY

Co-Manager Data Department

Judy Murray recently celebrated her ninth anniversary of employment at Ozark Independent Living. She also recently moved into a co-management position of the Data Department along with OIL staffer Pam Johnson. Here is a bit more about Judy:

Judy was born and raised in West Plains. She has one daughter, Janet, who has been married for 11 years to Matthew Williams from Moody. They live in Springfield and are expecting a baby girl in May. It will be Judy's first grandchild, and she is looking forward to her new role as grandmother.

Judy began employment at OIL in January 2009 as a CDS coordinator. In February of 2016 she moved into a position working half-time in the Independent Living Services Department and half-time in the Data Department. After a few months, she moved full-time into the Data Department and has been working there since then.

She keeps busy outside of work with her church and other activities. She has attended New Hope Baptist Church for many years. "There is a wonderful Sunday School Class, and I enjoy being a part of the fellowship there," Judy said. She also serves as a board member of Arts on the Avenue, a non-profit organization which owns and operates the Avenue Theatre in West Plains. Over the years, she has served as back stage director/stage manager for many plays and productions at the theatre.

As for other interests, she says, "I love to crochet and also do some knitting. I enjoy reading and cooking and also walking. I'm somewhat limited in being able to walk at the moment, but I hope to start walking more in the future and I'm looking forward to warmer weather to hopefully get out more."



**Front row,
Data
Managers:**

*Pam Johnson
Judy Murray*

**Back row,
Data
Specialists:**

*Donna Nale
Forrest Ogden
Alice McClellan*

Celebrating Community Partnerships

Night to Shine: more photos



Houston Project Provides Accessibility: Melba Performing Arts Center



About seventy-five years after the curtain went up for the first time at the Melba Theatre in downtown Houston, several organizations worked to renovate the historic building.

The theatre had been closed since the early 1980s, and special consideration was given to accommodate those with disabilities.

The project, which created the Melba Performing Arts Center, includes the original Melba building and commercial structures on each side of it. Downtown Houston Inc. led the effort. Formed in 1999, the group has led several successful projects, including the development of the Lone Star Plaza after a devastating fire and a major renovation of the former

Haney Market, which is now the Houston Visitors Center and home to the Houston Area Chamber of Commerce. Most recently it turned three empty downtown storefronts into the Lone Star Annex, which includes offices for University Extension, a community room and a commercial kitchen with walk-in cooler.

The Melba project captured the imagination of Houston residents because of the happy memories associated with the town's original movie house.

The Irwin Seat Company in Michigan designed the seating for the theatre and it has handicapped accessibility (ADA compliant) and space at the rear of the seating area for wheelchairs. Designated seating is also marked. All the openings into various rooms — including the concession stand — are extra wide.

See the website melbaperformingartscenter.com for more information, including how to make a contribution and a calendar of upcoming events.

(Story provided by Brad Gentry, President of Downtown Houston, Inc. and publisher of the Houston Herald. OIL applauds Houston Downtown, Inc. for their hard work and due diligence in making this lovely community facility accessible for all and is happy to have made a contribution toward the Melba's efforts to provide special assistive technology to audience members with hearing impairments.)

Events & items to note...

Social Media Notes

Social media is an ongoing and ever-growing part of how most of us reach out to others and communicate, and so it is with Ozark Independent Living.

Our Facebook page helps us inform our consumers and the community about events and activities and also allows us to network with other organizations to share news affecting the Disabled Community along with other informational and inspirational posts. Please like and follow Ozark Independent Living!

We also want to thank the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce for featuring OIL as one of their Facebook Businesses of the Week for February and Downtown West Plains Revitalization for featuring OIL as the Business Spotlight for February. We appreciate the recognition!

Speaking of Facebook, check out the "Hope Outdoors" Facebook page Events section to find out how to register for the upcoming Youth Spring Turkey Hunt for youth with disabilities.



WELCOME TO
hope outdoors
.ORG

About Us

Youth Spring Turkey Hunt
Norwood, MO For kids with disabilities Ages 6-15

April 6-8
Taking applications Now
www.HOPEoutdoors.org
Chris: (417) 830-6693
Travis: (417) 686-1088
Chad: (417) 576-7843

LET NOTHING STOP YOU

 **hope outdoors**

If you have or know of children who have a disability who could benefit from this free experience, contact Travis or one of the other organizers for information about the application process.



A SPORTING CHANCE - OIL is happy to support Sporting Chance as they prepare to send athletes to state competition in Branson this April. Here is Sporting Chance athlete Danny Craig, West Plains, with OIL Executive Director Cindy Moore.

SURVEY PARTICIPATION REQUEST: For air travelers who use a scooter or wheelchair full-time for mobility

A group of advocacy organizations is conducting a survey about problems with air travel for passengers with disabilities in order to set revised and updated standards for wheelchair handling, labeling, storage, airline and airline contractor training. If you use a wheelchair or scooter full-time for mobility, please take the survey at this link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/792HG6D

Newton's Agency

Call us today
417-257-0954

Visit our website at
www.newtonsagency.com

e-mail us at
newtonsagency@gmail.com

Partnering
with families
to help people
with special needs
live as productively
and independently
as possible to
reach their full
potential.

The local Hope Outdoors chapter is raffling a Remington model 870 12-gauge pump action shotgun "National Wild Turkey Federation Special" as a fundraiser for their event. Contact Travis or Chad for ticket information.

Resources

OIL does not endorse websites or attest to the accuracy of information from other sources, but sometimes we find resources on topics of interest which we pass along for your own investigation.

Be My Eyes - an app that lets you "lend your eyes to the blind"

Be My Eyes is an app that connects blind and visually impaired individuals with sighted volunteers from around the world via live video call.

How It Works

A blind person requests assistance in the Be My Eyes app. The challenge that he/she needs help with can be anything from knowing the expiration date on milk to finding lost items to navigating new surroundings, with certain activities prohibited.

A volunteer helper who speaks the same language receives a notification for help and a live video connection is established. (Time zones are taken into account so no one is disturbed at odd hours, and if one volunteer is busy, the call goes on to the next person on the list.) From the live video the volunteer can help the blind person by answering the question they need answered.

Currently there are 46,000 individuals who are blind and 603,000 volunteers in the network. Organizers invite more people to sign up and ask everyone to help spread the word.

To download the app or find out more, visit the website: <http://bemyeyes.com/>



DID YOU KNOW the Mo. Dept. of Conservation has a rod-and-reel loan program?

Check with the Mo. Dept. of Conservation for locations (call the regional office, 417-256-7161) but in our seven-county area, many public libraries are participating. Ozark and Wright Counties do not have locations listed on the MDC website, huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/fishing/get-started-fishing/rod-and-reel-loaner-locations, but there are multiple locations in other counties.

Other State Resources

One excellent source of information for assistive technology, including possible funding sources and equipment lending programs, is on the State of Missouri's website.

Included is information about "Show Me Loans," Missouri's low-interest loan program is for assistive technology devices, hearing aids, home access modifications and vehicle access.

There is a wealth of other resources listed for disability-related needs for those of all ages and for specific disabilities, including links to national

For Students with Disabilities **A SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Gary Moll Memorial Scholarship is for Missouri students with disabilities who are attending or will be enrolling in a **junior college, college, university or accredited vocational school** in the state of Missouri.

Students applying for the scholarship must be sponsored by a Missouri Center for Independent Living. Ozark Independent Living is the sponsoring center for the seven-county region of Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas and Wright. Proof of enrollment is a requirement and students will be strongly encouraged to submit one or two letters of recommendation. After students submit the required information, OIL will complete the application and submit to the Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council (MOSILC).

Applications should be in the hands of OIL no later than April 23, 2018, and we will then forward them to MOSILC's Youth Transition Committee. They will review all applications and schedule interviews by phone or other means of communication, with up to five finalists chosen. Winners will be announced in May. There is no dollar amount given in the guidelines, but two scholarships are available and typically they are in the approximate amount of \$1,000 each.

For further information, contact OIL Executive Director Cindy Moore, 417-256-8714, or via email cmoore@ozarkcil.com.

organizations which provide a variety of services: <https://at.mo.gov/information-resources-publications/funding.html>

Another state website which promotes participation and inclusion in the community is the "Disability Portal" on the Governor's Council on Disability webpage. It includes a resource directory, searchable by region and county, of the services available to Missourians with disabilities: <https://disability.mo.gov/>

If you or someone you know has a disability and you have not visited these sites, we encourage you to check them out to see what is available.