

1996 2016

O Z A R K
INDEPENDENT
L I V I N G

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary!

THE PIPELINE

The newsletter from OIL

Volume 20,
Issue 4

Fourth Quarter
2016



OIL Celebrated our "20th on the 20th"

With an Open House- Anniversary Event

OIL extends a big thank you to those who stopped by to celebrate our anniversary celebration on Oct. 20. Food, friends, a live remote and great music combined for a pleasant afternoon.

Established in 1996, OIL is the only Center for Independent Living in south-central Missouri, and we introduced the

first Consumer Directed Services program in the area.

We are happy to have served the communities in Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozarks, Shannon, Texas and Wright Counties for two decades and look forward to many more years as your Center for Independent Living and trusted Consumer Directed Services provider!

ADDRESS:
Office Square
109 Aid Avenue
West Plains, MO 65775

PHONE:
417-256-8714
417-257-0038
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1-888-440-7500

FAX: 417-257-2380

FACEBOOK:
O.I.L Ozark
Independent Living

WEBSITE:
www.ozarkcil.com

E-MAIL:
info@ozarkcil.com

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday
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



THE WEST PLAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of OIL's 20th anniversary. In this photo Chamber Ambassadors Molly Williamson, left, and Shirley Butler hold the ribbon as OIL Executive Director Cindy Moore prepares to snip it. A crowd of local officials, community members, OIL staffers and friends gathered at the event to celebrate the occasion. (Photo courtesy Chamber of Commerce.)



More from MOORE

By Executive Director
Cindy Moore

Did you come to our **20th anniversary** event? If so, you saw the very large crowd, the beautiful refreshment table and the sweet sounds of the Renee Woods Trio! Many consumers came as the office wanted this year to be a big THANK YOU to not only the communities we serve but also the **consumers** in those communities. What a day!

We've moved past that and are now looking forward to the next period of time ahead of us. This office will continue to offer **CHOICE, CONTROL and CHANGE for people with disabilities**; it all begins here at YOUR **Center for Independent Living**. And remember, if you have family or friends in another county of MO, there is a Center serving that county. Call this office for the contact information or Google it 'Centers for Independent Living in MO.'

We love our Ozark neighbors! This newsletter will come out just before the traditional fall and winter holidays. Be careful, be kind and remember our friend Mark Twain who said "Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow"!

Regards,
Cindy



From left: Tom Rowley, Dave Moore and Renee Wood are the "Renee Wood Trio." They provided live music for the Open House, and it was the perfect accompaniment for the afternoon.

20th Anniversary Images

By Newsletter Editor
Terry Hampton

At our anniversary celebration, I snapped quite a few pictures. Including visitors, board members and staff, there were probably close to 150 people who wandered in and out during the two-hour event. I didn't get pictures of everyone, but some of the ones I took are shared elsewhere in the newsletter.

The photo below has a coincidence associated with it. I'll get to that, but first I'll tell you that one of the things we did was have a drawing for door prizes. The winners were: Marilyn Burgess (who won a mum); Ila Sloan (a centerpiece); and Linda Deatherage, Mary Jo McManus, Veta Briscoe and Joyce Christopher (who each won umbrellas).

We drew the names at the end of the day and no one had to be present to win. I didn't know until I looked through my pictures that I had accidentally taken a picture of three future door prize winners as they came in the door. I wonder what the odds are of that happening?

We appreciate everyone who stopped by to celebrate with us. There are lots of nice folks in the communities we serve, including the three ladies shown below.



From left: Mary Jo McManus, Veta Briscoe and Joyce Christopher. They visited our Open House – not together, they just were in the entry way at the same time – but they all ended up winning door prizes.

Staffer Spotlight

In the last issue of The Pipeline we introduced a new feature, "Staffer Spotlight," to highlight a different staff member in each issue. We're going in order according to length of time employed at OIL. Last time was Cindy Moore who has been with OIL since it was founded 20 years ago. This time the spotlight is on...

PAT PARMER ATTENDANT SPECIALIST

Pat was born in Tracy, California, but grew up outside of Modesto, California.

She says, "In 1979 I moved to a farm outside of West Plains with my parents and five-year-old daughter. I still live there today. My daughter grew up, went into the Air Force, got married and I now have three grandsons, ages 15, 13 and 9. My interests revolve around my farm. I no longer have any cattle, but I still have my horse, two dogs and my cats. I also do genealogy."

Pat started working at OIL in 2002. "It has been quite an adventure. The first nine years I was a CDS Coordinator and Eligibility Specialist. Shannon County was my territory. I met a lot of wonderful and interesting people in those years. In 2011, I became the Attendant Specialist, and since then my focus has been helping consumers hire the attendants of their choice."

As the staffer who has been at OIL longer than anyone other than Cindy, Pat says, "The past few years have been an incredible ride, and I hope that the next few years will be just as interesting."

During this time of Thanksgiving, we are grateful for our consumers and friends. As the only Center for Independent Living in south-central Missouri, OIL introduced the first Consumer Directed Services program in the seven-county area of Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas and Wright.

Ozark Independent Living is still YOUR trusted source for Consumer Directed Services, and we're looking forward to many more years of service to the community.

INCLUSION WORKS was the theme for Disability Awareness Month in October



**Inclusion Works
for Opportunity**

While OIL and many others throughout the country celebrate October as awareness month for all with disabilities, there is an emphasis on the important role disability plays in workforce diversity, so October is also designated as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy.

"By fostering a culture that embraces individual differences, including disabilities, businesses profit by having a wider variety of tools to confront challenges," said Jennifer Sheehy, deputy assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy. **"Our nation's most successful companies proudly make inclusion a core value. They know that inclusion works. It works for workers, it works for employers, it works for opportunity, and it works for innovation."**

NDEAM celebrates the skills and talents workers with disabilities bring to our workplaces. Its history dates back to 1945, when Congress declared the first week in October each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was dropped to acknowledge individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, the federal legislature expanded the week to a month and changed the name to NDEAM.



Celebrating 20 Years of Service...



1 - Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation District Supervisor Venae Emerick and OIL CDS Assistant Manager Lori Cox and CDS Manager Jaime Grider.

2 - OIL Independent Living (IL) Specialist Tellcy Osborn and IL Manager Kathy Bauer.

3 - OIL Data Manager Samantha Adams, Roseanne Riley (former OIL employee) and OIL Office Manager Shelley Surface.

4 - OIL Board member Scott O'Neal, West Plains Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Shirley Butler, West Plains Mayor Jack Pahlmann and OIL Attendant Specialist Pat Parmer.

... at our Anniversary Open House event!



Front, from left: Former OIL Board member Charles Kimberlin, community member David Christopher and Joyce Christopher with Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. In back: OIL staffers Ashley Strazdas and Telly Osborn.



OIL Executive Director Cindy Moore and Mike Newton.



Former OIL staffer Paula Sharp visits with Steve Forsythe.



Above, from left: Jaime Grider, OIL Board member Scott Schneider, West Plains Mayor Jack Pahlmann, OIL staffers Telly Osborn, Pat Parmer (head turned), Audrey Thomas, Amanda Foster, Kyli McNew, Janet James, Debbie Holland & OIL Board Member Jane Kramer.



Above: OIL Data Specialists Pam Johnson and Donna Nale listen to Jennifer Williams tell about her job at Couch Schools.

At right: Harlin Hutchison with Ozark Radio News. He was the DJ for the live remote.

At far right: Radio journalist Petra Socolovsky, Washington, DC, listens to the Renee Wood Trio. Petra stopped by while in town to do a story for Swedish Radio about the current political climate in the Ozarks.





At our Open House we unveiled a project near and dear to our hearts, featuring four long-time OIL consumers. Four large (26 x 40) color photo canvases now adorn our board room with quotes from (clockwise from upper left): Steve Forsythe, Judith Rowlett, Clifford Steelman and Jennifer Williams.

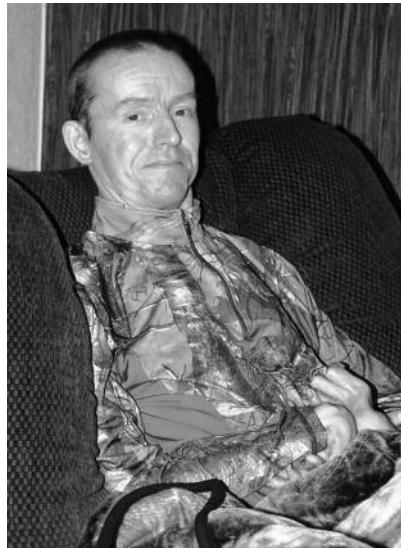
At left are black and white images of each photo and below are the quotes which accompany them:

Steve: “It’s very important to me to live in my own home and be a help to my community.”

Judith: “OIL and the CDS Program allows me to stay at home and be independent to live the life that I want to live.”

Jennifer: “I am very thankful for Ozark Independent Living. Before, I had different home-care workers coming in, but now my mom is able to help me, and there’s no one who can take care of you better than your mom.”

Clifford: “Ozark Independent Living has been a blessing. It has allowed me to remain an active part of my family.”



The Ozark Independent Living Board of Directors

The OIL Board of Directors at the Open House, from left:

- Scott Schneider
- Jane Kramer
- Gwen Jackson
- Debra Mayers
- Executive Director Cindy Moore
- Eryn Walters
- Scott O’Neal



Events & items to note...

Fall Prevention Awareness

West Plains Senior Center, 416 E. Main St.,
Wednesday, January 18, 10:30 a.m.

Did you know, according to the CDC, one-third of seniors 65 and over fall each year, and if you've fallen once, your chance of falling again **DOUBLES**. Join Ozark Independent Living at the West Plains Senior Center for a Fall Prevention Awareness presentation. We will take the time to discuss the important facts about falling, what can happen to you after a fall, what conditions make you more likely to fall, your fall risk and some ways to prevent falls, including some simple exercises that you can perform in the comfort of your own home. **Free and open to all of any age.**

An additional workshop has been scheduled for April 12, 2017.



OIL had an entry in the West Plains Downtown Revitalization annual Scarecrow contest. Our scarecrow may have lost his head, but we haven't - not even after 20 years!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

OIL will be **CLOSED** on the following days:

November 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving

December 26 through January 2

for the Christmas and New Year holidays



Christine Haynes, Winona, shared her artwork at OIL's Veteran's Commemoration Ceremony held at the West Plains Library. At the event, 25 people heard guest speakers Mayor Jack Pahlmann; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lee with Mo. National Guard; Lesa Bauer, the Regent with Ozarks Spring Chapter of The Daughters of The American Revolution; and Ronald Evins with The Disabled American Veterans. A "Missing Soldiers Table" was displayed in memory of the POW/MIA and deceased veterans. A time of fellowship and refreshments were provided at the end of the presentation.

OUR WALL CALENDARS are now in. Stop by and get one, or our consumers can request one from their coordinators.

"MEET & GREETs"

We are about to wrap up our visits for 2016. We'll see you again starting next spring.

Next is: Dec. 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Winona Senior Center, 212 Sapper St., 573-325-4636.

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**OIL HAS ZERO
TOLERANCE FOR
FRAUD, WASTE AND
ABUSE!**

**People Caring
About People**

**Do your part
RECYCLE!**

Like "O.I.L Ozark Independent Living" on Facebook!

When you like and share items from our page, you stay informed and it helps us grow our web presence.

If you would like to remove your name from this mailing list or would like to sign up for our email list, please contact OIL newsletter editor Terry Hampton by phone at 417-257-0038 or toll free/TDD 888-440-7500 or via email newsletter@ozarkcil.com.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about Consumer Directed Services or any of the other services offered by OIL, please give us a call or clip this form and drop in the mail to: OIL, 109 Aid Avenue, West Plains, MO 65775.

Check all that apply:

- Add to the Pipeline newsletter mailing list
- Contact for more information about Consumer Directed Services
- Contact for more information about Independent Living Services

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays

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Peace on Earth

The next issue of the Pipeline should be arriving at your door after the first of the year. Our hope is that 2017 brings good things your way and that there is peace which rests on you and yours.