

THE PATH AHEAD

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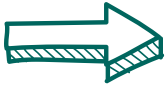
Let's clear the path ahead.

tmgwisconsin.com

2016 IN REVIEW

Looking back at 2016, it is apparent that self-direction is alive and well in Wisconsin! The TMG IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA) has continued to grow throughout the year, and we are proud to partner with nearly 14,000 people around the state.

TMG already provides IRIS Consultant (IC) services in every county where IRIS is available. In 2017, we will welcome new people in Vilas, Oneida, Florence, Forest, Taylor, and Adams counties, as the IRIS program continues to expand statewide.



FUN FACT:

If all of the people enrolled in the TMG ICA and all of the TMG staff came together in one place, that group would fill over 80% of the Kohl Center in Madison and about 28 airplanes!

SEASONAL TIPS



IS YOUR HOUSE READY FOR WINTER?

Before you settle in for the winter months, prep your home for the cold. By doing a few simple things, you could prevent damage to your home and ensure your safety.

Heat your home safely. Check your thermostat to be sure the house is properly heated. If you use a space heater, turn it off when you leave and never place it close to anything that could catch fire, such as curtains or papers.

Check your detectors. Make sure your carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are working properly and replace old batteries.

Maintain your water pipes. Extreme cold can cause water pipes to freeze or burst. Keep your home heated at all times and leave your water faucets slightly open during extreme cold so they can drip continuously.

Clean your chimney. If you plan to heat your home with a wood-burning fireplace, be sure to have your chimney cleaned and inspected first.



IS YOUR CAR READY FOR WINTER?

Road conditions are often bad in the winter months. Before you travel, be sure you have these things with you:

- Cell phone and portable charger
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water and snack foods
- Extra hats, coats, mittens and blankets
- Road salt or sand
- Battery booster cables
- First aid kit
- Tool kit
- Road maps



ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

Dress warm. Before leaving the house, be sure to dress in warm layers.

Eat and drink safely. Eating well-balanced meals will help you stay warm. Avoid drinking alcohol outdoors as it can make it difficult to monitor and control your body temperature.

Watch out for frostbite. When you're outside, keep your skin covered. If your skin turns red, blue or white, or becomes painful, head indoors to warm up!

Walk carefully and prevent falls. Walk slowly and be aware when getting out of vehicles. Watch for wet floors coming in and out of buildings.



NEED ASSISTANCE MEETING YOUR WINTER NEEDS?

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) supports Wisconsin households to meet the challenges that can come with a cold winter. Services are provided locally through community organizations.

In addition to regular heating and electric assistance, specialized services include:

- Emergency fuel assistance.
- Counseling for energy conservation and energy budgets.
- Pro-active copayment plans.
- Targeted outreach services.
- Emergency furnace repair and replacement.

For more information and help, call WHEAP at 1-866-HEATWIS (1-866-432-8947).

Help with other winter needs can be found by calling the United Way Information Resource Hotline at 211.



MEET FAYE KUFAHL, TMG ICA'S LONGEST TENURED IRIS CONSULTANT

In 2009, Faye Kufahl joined TMG as an IRIS Consultant (IC). A visit with one of the earliest TMG IRIS Participants, Jordan Hoff, began with a simple conversation and the right attitude. **“We talked about self-direction before we even had the words for it,”** said Faye. “It was exciting for me to help someone maintain their independence.”

For Jordan, that conversation and Faye’s support changed the direction of his path in life. **“Faye has been instrumental in helping Jordan to create the life he wants and providing the support he needs. We feel so fortunate to have her on our team!”** said Jordan’s mother, Jody. Through self-direction, Jordan has been able to gain independence and become employed. Jordan now works at Stein’s Garden & Home and after all these years, their relationship continues with Faye as his IC.

Faye explains that she has learned something from each of her relationships with people enrolled in TMG’s IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA), Jordan included. **“I’m able to use those lessons to continue to improve what I do,”** said Faye. **“I picked up a phrase from my IRIS Consultant Supervisor, Camie Wood: ‘Moving forward.’ It’s been a part of the way I think and work ever since.”**

With this mantra, a determined attitude and a willingness to learn, Faye has built valuable relationships and provided much-needed support to many.

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Faye partners with a group of 40 diverse people enrolled in the TMG ICA. In her role as an IC, Faye works to understand each person’s individual story, culture and lifestyle. Since much of her work as an IC happens with people in their homes, the trust and respect they have for Faye is very important to a stable and balanced partnership.

Throughout the years, Faye has helped mentor her fellow IC team members. TMG’s focus on ongoing learning encourages teams to share their experiences with one another, and shapes how work is done within the TMG ICA. Today, more than 330 TMG ICs work hard to remain engaged in learning and provide quality service and support, just as Faye has since the beginning.

For Faye, it comes naturally. **“I feel like the IC job is a glove over my hand,”** said Faye. **“I am an IC at heart. I truly feel that is the core of me.”**

Faye says that though she is approaching 65, she has no plans to slow down. The work and the people she partners with keep her going.

“The love that I get from these people is amazing,” commented Faye. **“I can’t help but get bonded. I’m that kind of person.”**

With the new year approaching, TMG will continue ‘moving forward’ by building on the foundation that Faye and many others helped lay to create partnerships that clear the path ahead.

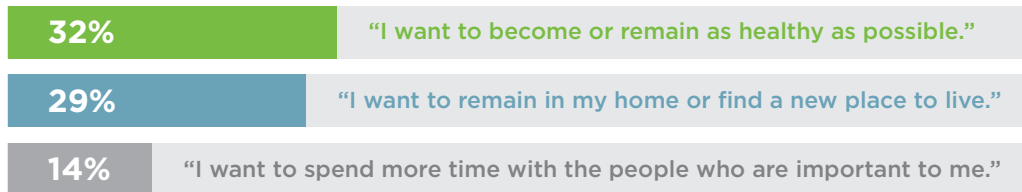
YOUR INPUT MAKES TMG BETTER

A core principle of self-directing is making your choices known. Your voice is your greatest asset as you self-direct your services and supports for an empowered, independent life.

Your voice is also a powerful tool in helping all of us at TMG become better partners for you. This year, we began asking people who are new to the IRIS program to take a short survey about three months after enrolling in IRIS.

We are already learning from those surveys and hearing great information about individuals' early experiences with TMG, their feelings about self-directing, and relationships with their IRIS Consultants.

We also asked new IRIS Participants about their long-term goals.
So far, their top three answers are:



We look forward to hearing more from people beginning their journey of self-directing with TMG as a partner. We are also excited to launch an Annual Survey in January 2017. This survey will provide people an opportunity to share ongoing information that can create better experiences and opportunities.

We hope you'll consider taking a few minutes to participate. We promise to use your feedback to continue improving everyone's experience with the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency!



2017 WISCONSIN TRANSITION CONFERENCE

February 9-10, 2017

Kalahari Resort and Convention
Center - Wisconsin Dells, WI

Sessions will be appropriate for beginning, intermediate and advanced level learners. Participants have the opportunity to attend sessions and visit the Exhibit Hall to learn more about transition services and products, meet entrepreneurs with disabilities and network during breaks. For more information or to register, visit: www.edevents.org/conferences/29/wisconsin-transition-conference-2017.

2016 SD CONFERENCE COUNT ME IN

More than 600 people gathered at the 9th Annual Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference, November 8-10 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. The event had a "Count Me In" theme and each learning session was presented in partnership with a self-advocate.

TMG employees participated in the event as planning committee members, event supports and attendees. They enjoyed the opportunity to learn alongside the individuals with whom they partner and their families. TMG staff also partnered to host learning sessions related to Community Building using Person-Centered Thinking, and Building Social Networks Using Social Media.



◀ TMG ICA Operations and Quality Team Members (from left): Molly Bandt, Yer May Yang, Jami Jaeggi and Nancy Vodak

(from left): Carol Sickler, ▶
Dave Verban, Kandace Stott



DESTINATION WISCONSIN

Being an active part of local communities in Wisconsin is an important part of the fabric that builds quality lives. TMG staff support individuals using our service each day in identifying ways to contribute to their community.

In addition, many TMG employees took this belief a step further by taking personal action throughout Wisconsin. In 2016, Madison office staff worked to support a food drive, that not only encouraged our staff to participate, but our Madison office building neighbors as well. The Fall TMG Regional Staff Meetings included efforts to raise funds for local United Ways to be used to support local community efforts. In addition, some staff accessed a newly added employee benefit that supports volunteering time at local organizations. These activities included volunteering at local food pantries, senior centers, veteran's events, homeless shelters, community non-profits and camps for kids. (See graphic below for more information).

TMG Employees Active in Communities

44%	Food Pantry	11%	Poverty
14%	Youth Education	6%	Homeless
11%	Senior Centers	3%	Veterans
11%	Disability		



ONLINE DIRECTORY

Below is a list of websites that we'd like to share with you, as we have found them to be helpful resources. If you'd like to learn more about resources in Wisconsin, please visit our website at:

www.tmgwisconsin.com/tmg-news-and-notes/partner-links

Disability Rights Wisconsin

www.disabilityrightswi.org

Disability Rights Wisconsin helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunities through advocacy and legal expertise.

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR)

www.gwaar.org

GWAAR is committed to supporting the successful delivery of aging programs and services in 70 counties and 11 tribes in Wisconsin.

InControl Wisconsin

www.incontrolwi.org

InControl Wisconsin partners with individuals and families, advocacy groups, government agencies and many other community partners to promote Self-Determination and Self-Directed Supports.

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WPDD)

www.wi-bpdd.org

WPDD was established to advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, foster inclusive communities, and improve the disability service system.

Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA)

www.wihealthyaging.org

WIHA was launched in 2010 to help the state's citizens live healthier lives through evidence-based prevention programs.



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WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

At the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA), we value the fact that our employees live and work in communities all around Wisconsin. Our Area Associate Directors provide local leadership for our IRIS Consultant Teams throughout the state. If you have questions about TMG and the services we provide, please visit our TMG website at www.tmgwisconsin.com for more information.



Questions about IRIS,
call: **1-800-223-6048**



For information about TMG
IRIS Consultant Agency, visit:
www.tmgwisconsin.com