



## Home Is Where The Heart Is

Feeling powerless or helpless is one of the worst feelings a person can experience. Being unable to do simple things like talk on the telephone, dress oneself, go for a stroll, open a door or take a shower creates a terrible feeling of helplessness for individuals. Most people take those simple things for granted and do them without thinking; a person with disabilities, depending on the severity and type of disability they have, not only has to think about those things, but they have to plan for them and ask for help to accomplish them. Not much is easy for people who can't see, hear, or who spend their lives in a wheelchair. But, there is hope and help available to the disabled in Franklin County.

Heartland Independent Living Center is a non-profit, non-residential organization that has been serving individuals with disabilities living in east central Missouri since 2002. They "seek to empower people with disabilities by helping them live independently in their own homes with dignity and security." (Heartland ILC website) Heartland offers a large number of programs and services, including home modifications, ramps, adaptive equipment, adaptive telephone/internet, dental services, and the core service of nursing home transition, advocacy, information and referral, independent living skills training, and peer support all without cost to the consumer.

Funding from FCAUW primarily provides for ramps and other home modifications. While Heartland offers services in 11 Missouri counties, they primarily serve Gasconade, Maries and Franklin County. Last year, 585 people in Franklin County received help from Heartland Independent Living Center. Twelve ramp and home modification projects were completed with United Way grant funds. This year five home modification projects have been completed. "The difference," says Pat Chambers, Heartland ILC Executive Director, "is that two primary groups of faith-based volunteers who were building the projects were older, retired folks, and because of age and health concerns, both groups are just not able to help anymore. As a result, we are having to pay qualified carpenters/contractors to complete the projects. That is a considerable expense on top of the cost of the materials needed for each project."

Heartland is also a major participant in the Franklin County Dental Network, which is also funded by FCAUW. Heartland is the only independent living center out of 22 in Missouri that has a dental assistance program for their consumers. In the past 12 months, Heartland has been able to provide dental care to 59 residents with funds provided through the Dental Network and additional money raised from fundraising events and earmarked for the dental program.

"Heartland is very proud to be a long-time agency for the Franklin County United Way. We are extremely appreciative of the financial support which we receive. United Way support allows us to support the disability community in East-Central Missouri." Pat Chambers

## Thought for the Day

*"Be Helpful.  
When you see  
a person  
without a smile,  
give them yours."*

- Zig Ziglar

## Agency Tours

The spring agency tours are right around the corner on June 11 starting at 8:30 a.m. We will be touring the new FCTC/Oats building, the Union Senior Center, and Lutheran Family & Children's Services.

For details or to RSVP, call the Franklin County Area United Way office at 636-239-1018.

## United With You

Thank you for being a part of the Franklin County Area United Way. The goal of our newsletter is to show how your donations improve lives in Franklin County every day. Please let us know if you have any ideas for helping us share the newsletter.



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