



Helping people with disabilities and people who are aging **live independently** in Northwest Missouri.

August 2017



Solar Eclipse Event!
There are still spots open for our solar eclipse fundraiser. Reserve your spot today! Learn more: meril.org/solar-eclipse



Advocacy update from the CEO

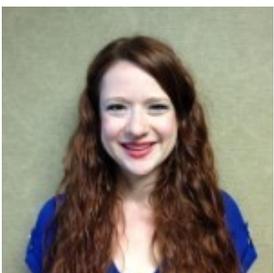
Recently, two landmark laws that greatly assist people with disabilities celebrated anniversaries: The ADA recently celebrated its 27th anniversary and the Social Security Amendments Act of 1965, which created Medicaid, had its 52nd birthday.

These critical laws became reality through a combination of direct action and civil disobedience, legislative work, media presence and common sense explanations that society is better off when we include everyone. After all, no one group, ethnicity, political party, rural/urban resident, etc. is immune from disability and at any time could need the civil rights protections that the ADA gives or the health care that Medicaid provides.

On the federal level, there has been an effort to severely curtail Medicaid through potential funding cuts and block grants to the states. If you have been watching the news in the last month, many disability rights activists protested against in U.S. Senators' offices the very real threats of these cuts – and these protestors are the real heroes in our movement because they were able to show and convince Congress not to pass the most recent attack on Medicaid.

Medicaid is a “pro-life” issue, and is an essential tool that allows people to live at home. It is imperative that it remain and I applaud those that made sure Congress knew how valuable Medicaid is for many persons with disabilities. Advocacy: One of the five core services, and arguably the most important, works!

- Rob Honan, CEO



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Update

Hello! I just wanted to give everyone a quick update on services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am still working for MERIL on an as-needed basis for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Silent Lunches have been put on hold until the fall.

If you have a personal need, please contact me for an appointment. I am offering office hours on some Sundays and possibly on weekdays. Please text or email to schedule ahead of time: 816-785-5963 or angieb@meril.org. I am also available to take VP calls at 816-396-0738.

- Angie Barba, IL Specialist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Thank you! And Help Needed!

The CDS and In-Home programs are vital to people who wish to live an independent lifestyle since they allow individuals to stay in their own homes and maintain dignity, independence, and be a part of the community.

The vast majority of us would prefer to be in our own homes and in charge of our own lives. In order to successfully live in the community, we all need assistance of some kind.

For those on the CDS and In-Home programs, personal care attendants, nurses, and attendants are all an essential part of the equation. Without these valuable workers, the options for community living would not be as plentiful.

We are always looking for those “unsung heroes” – those attendants and caregivers who want to make a difference. If you or someone you know is interested in helping out, we are hiring for flexible hours for the over 350 CDS and In-Home participants.

Please call us at 816-279-8558 for more information.

Newsletter alert: Keep your eye out for a “Featured Attendant” of the month which will be in a future newsletter.