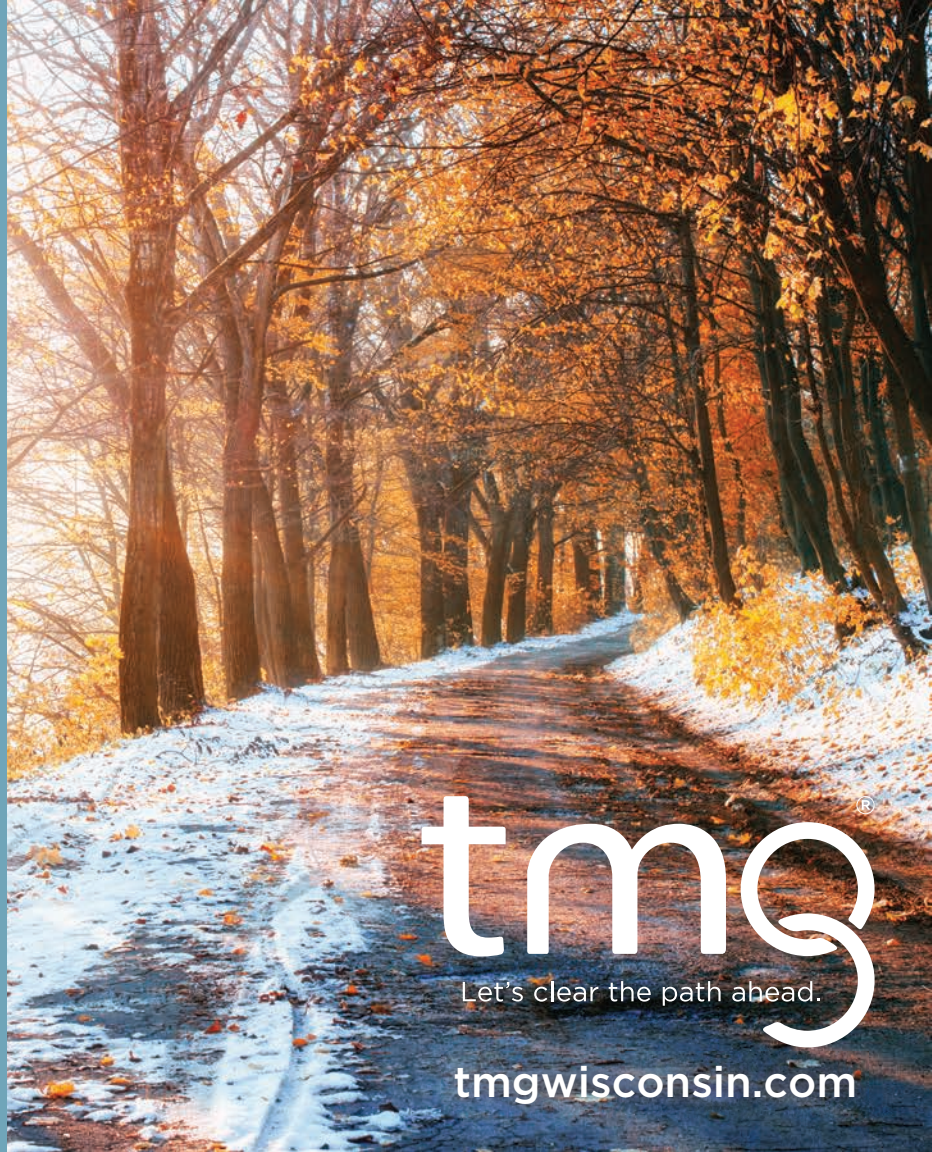


THE PATH AHEAD

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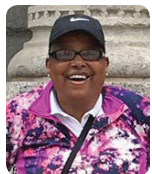
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AN AWARD-WINNING YEAR!



2017 was a great year for TMG and the self-direction advocates we partner with. We were thrilled to learn that several of these dedicated partners had won state and national awards, and we wanted to congratulate them once again.

2017 AWARD WINNERS



Cindy Bentley
National Self-Direction
Award for Outstanding
Involvement in
Self-Direction

Cindy is a champion of self-direction. She is the Executive Director of People First, a statewide self-advocacy organization for people with disabilities. She is also a member of many Wisconsin advisory boards on disabilities, an author, an international Special Olympics athlete and a public speaker.



John Mezydlo
National Self-Direction
Award for Excellence
in Information
& Assistance

John, a TMG IRIS Consultant, is a team player who is passionate about finding solutions for the people he supports. Along with this award, he also was recognized by Governor Scott Walker with a Letter of Commendation for his work in making self-direction accessible for others. John is also the proud new father of Jordyn (left) and Elly (right).



Delores Sallis
Disability Rights
Wisconsin Heart
Award

Delores is the founder of “Parent University” – a resource for several hundred families in Milwaukee who have children with long-term care needs. Delores, mother to Albert (above), says her “goal is to help families gain independence and make them aware of all the opportunities and services available to them.”

“ Thank you all for working so hard to make self-direction a reality! ”

- Amie Goldman, President of TMG



Jason and Julie Endres
Disability Rights
Wisconsin Courage
Award

Jason and Julie are known throughout Wisconsin as leaders of the disability advocacy community. They teach through example and selflessly give their time and talent to help improve the lives of others.



Save IRIS
Disability Rights
Wisconsin Wisdom
Award

Save IRIS, founded by Nancy Gapinski (left), Julie Burish (center) and Marion Holmberg (right), is a passionate all-volunteer group that continues to inform and shape public policy by advocating for self-direction in Wisconsin's long-term care system.



Sue Urban
Wisconsin
Self-Determination
Conference
DieHard Award

Sue, TMG's Senior Director of Clinical Services, is a champion for supporting people who take control of their personal care services. Her steadfast advocacy helps people live their best possible lives.



DAN'S STORY: SHARING HIS PASSION THROUGH PAINTING

Twenty-two years ago, if you had told Dan Lindenberg that one day he would be a great painter, he probably would have laughed. Dan had never painted before, and he was more interested in exploring the great outdoors than creating art. But when Dan, then in his early 30s, started art therapy following a brain injury to help with his significant short-term memory loss, he found a life-changing new passion and an unexpected talent.

At first, Dan, who lives in West Allis in Southeastern Wisconsin, didn't think art therapy would be helpful, and he almost quit after his first class. Thankfully, though, his sister Linda encouraged him to keep going. Dan slowly started to enjoy painting and the classes, and soon was creating beautiful animal and nature paintings.

"Since that time I've gotten pretty good at painting," says Dan. "It's my pastime and hobby, and I enjoy it."

Today Dan, now in his 50s and enrolled in the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency, participates in a weekly art therapy class, which is supported with his IRIS budget. Linda calls him a painting machine, and says painting and art therapy have been huge outlets for her brother. Through his weekly art therapy class, Dan gets out in the community and connects with fellow artists. Like other artists, he uses his home studio to stay productive and keep his days meaningful.



Linda also says that painting has improved Dan's depression and his memory because painting is something he loves and can do on a routine basis. In fact, even though Dan struggles to remember most new things, he never forgets that his art therapy class is on

Wednesdays, or the things he has painted.

"If I were to ask him what happened in world news this year, I doubt he would remember, but he remembers the details of his paintings," says Linda.

MEET CHASE: THE ARTIST WHO LOVES TRAINS

Of course, Dan doesn't keep all of his paintings to himself; he paints pictures to give as gifts to friends and family. His artwork has also been displayed publicly, including at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee and Donna Lexa Art Center in West Milwaukee. Sharing his paintings gives him purpose and joy, and is his way of giving back to his community and the people he cares about.

“Everybody’s house is filled with my pictures now, and I don’t know what to do with my new paintings,” jokes Dan.

Thanks to an art therapy class he almost didn't take, Dan leads a creative and self-directed life that's filled with passion, pride and art.

Chase Davis is a 23-year-old artist from Merrill, who loves to draw trains, planes and semi-trucks. As a person enrolled in the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency who has autism, drawing is both soothing to Chase and a way to express his passion for vehicles. With help from his mom, Julie, Chase has started his own business. He creates cards with his art, which he then sells. In the past, he has donated money he made from selling the cards to his high school class so that others could enjoy field trips and other activities that were important to him.

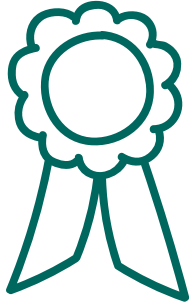
“[Drawing is Chase’s] purpose in life,” says Julie. “He likes to sit down and he’ll show you his pictures. If you say ‘good job,’ he’ll say ‘I’m a good drawer.’”

Sharing his art is how he connects with people, and that has made him quite popular around town. Julie says that more people in the community know Chase than know her because, among other reasons, they love his drawings. His work and his story have also been published in his local newspaper and in a train magazine.

Thanks to art, Chase is connecting to his community and spending his days doing what he loves. It's very clear that he takes pride in his work. For Chase, that's best summed up by one of his favorite things to say: **“I’m just livin’ the dream!”**



AND THE WINNER IS...



In the last issue of *The Path Ahead*, we asked people who are enrolled in the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency to send us their favorite original artwork and photographs. Many talented artists sent in amazing works of art, and it was a tough choice picking out our winners. However, we are very pleased to announce the **2017 TMG Art Contest Winners: Kerry Lang for Best 3-D Art; Nick Bursh and Mary Uedelhofen for Best Picture/Painting and Nicholas Markofski for Best Photograph. Congratulations!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest. We loved seeing your art! To see all of the artwork submitted, visit: www.tmgwisconsin.com/art-contest-2017.



Best 3-D Art

Kerry Lang
Wausau, WI



Best Picture/Painting

Nick Bursh
Fontana, WI



Best Picture/Painting

Mary Uedelhofen
Washburn, WI



Best Photograph

Nicholas Markofski
Schofield, WI

ART RESOURCES

Creating art means different things to different people. For some, it's a way to heal. For others, it's a business that earns money. And for many people, it is a way to powerfully express themselves. Because art is such an important part of peoples' lives, there are organizations that help artists with disabilities share their artwork with the public and others that support people through art therapy. Here are a few ways that art therapy and art resources can help people who enjoy making art.



Visual Art Resources

Visual art therapy provides adults a place to learn about art and create drawings, paintings, sculptures and other work, as well as help them build community and strengthen their creative thinking. There are also visual art organizations that showcase and sell artwork created specifically by people with disabilities.



Music Resources

Music therapy is a fantastic way to explore your musical side while expressing your feelings, managing your stress and improving your communication skills. Music is also effective in helping people with dementia maintain memory. In fact, there are dementia chorus groups designed specifically for their needs.



Performance Art Resources

Performance art - such as dance, theater and live storytelling - is a great way to explore the joy of movement or to share your story in creative ways. Performance art therapy and adaptive/inclusive performance art organizations can help you build confidence and learn new ways to express yourself.



Please visit our website at www.tmgwisconsin.com/TMG-Art-Resources to see some of the organizations that offer art therapy and art resources in Wisconsin. If you know of additional resources in your community that we should add to our art resources page, please contact Jennifer Brown, Communications Specialist, at jdbrown@tmgwisconsin.com.



one south pinckney street, suite 320
madison, wisconsin 53703
(844) 864-8987
IRISinfo@tmgwisconsin.com
tmgwisconsin.com

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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 website at tmgwisconsin.com for more information.



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



For information about the TMG
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