



Center for Independent Living
Empowering People With Disabilities Since 1990!

Name: Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises & Services

Designation: 501 (c)(3)

Federal ID: #41-1616061

Classification: Persons with Disabilities

Southern Minnesota Independent Living Enterprises & Services (SMILES) is a private non-profit community based Center for Independent Living (CIL), whose mission is to provide a wide array of services to assist individuals with disabilities to live independently, pursue meaningful goals, and have the same opportunities and choices as all persons.



SMILES was incorporated in October 1989, and began providing services in January 1990. All of SMILES services are designed to meet the specific needs of people with all types of disabilities.

Services offered by SMILES, to assist in the self-determination efforts of people with disabilities include:

- ♥ **Information & Referral:** SMILES maintains a comprehensive informational data base available to consumers on accessible housing, transportation, employment opportunities, interpreters for people with hearing impairments, readers for people with visual impairments, along with other pertinent disability related information and services.
- ♥ **Independent Living Skills Training:** SMILES provides training to assist people with disabilities gain skills that would enable them to live more independently. Examples include: how to use various transportation systems, managing a personal budget, learning home management skills, learning personal care skills, learning socialization skills, learning personal safety skills etc.
- ♥ **Peer Counseling:** SMILES offers a program where a person with a disability can work with other persons with disabilities who are already living independently in the community. The objective is to explore options and solve problems that sometimes occur, for example: making adjustments to a newly acquired disability, experiencing changes in living arrangements, or learning to use community services more effectively.
- ♥ **Advocacy:** SMILES provides two kinds of advocacy 1) consumer advocacy: which involves staff working with people with disabilities to obtain necessary support services and 2) community advocacy: initiating activities to make changes in the community that make it easier for all persons with disabilities to live independently.
- ♥ **Other:** SMILES also offers a number of other services based on the needs of consumers such as assistive technology, adaptive recreation, community education, the residential ramp project and PCA Choice.

SMILES began providing services in 1990, benefitting over 1300 people per year.

To learn more about SMILES or would like to schedule a visit contact Alan Augustin at 507-345-7139 V/TTY or visit our web site www.smilescil.org

Mankato
709 S. Front Street, Suite 7
Mankato, Minnesota 56001-3804
Voice & TTY 507-345-7139
Fax 507-345-8429
Toll Free 1-888-676-6498

New Ulm
1618 S. Broadway
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073-3756
Voice & Fax 507-354-7106

Fairmont
820 Winnebago Ave., Suite 1
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031-3619
Voice & Fax 507-235-3488

Waseca
505 S. State Street, Suite 6
Waseca, Minnesota 56093-3072
Voice & Fax 507-833-1339

e-mail: smiles@smilescil.org




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Web: www.smilescil.org