

*Empowering the lives of
individuals with disabilities*



*Advocating for a more
inclusive community for all*

Services and Disclaimers

Recreation & Arts Programming

DNWML offers a wide variety of social and recreational activities and experiences. Participants can learn new things with friends in a relaxed environment. From both virtual and in-person art programming, to Trivia Tuesday and Movie Club, and more, we offer, fun, exciting, and high-quality sports, recreation, and activities for people of all ages and abilities. See our calendar to see what's coming up!

Disclaimer(s):

- We do not provide trainers/on site safety support for the gym, funding/sponsorship to engage in personal recreation programs (I.e. someone wants to join a gym), not internet access/devices, sheltered recreation/day programming with supports
*can be subject to change given a grant opportunity (I.e tablet program)

Employment Preparation

Our employment team works with students and adults to gain skills and prepare for employment.

We work closely with agencies and employment networks to help people of all disabilities pursue employment. We encourage you to contact:

- [Michigan Rehabilitation Services](#)
- [Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons](#)

Contact our employment team to learn how you can be connected with employment resources in the community! Pre-ET's definition.

Washtenaw Office

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Monroe Office

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Disclaimer(s):

- DNWML does not provide job placement services or job coaching. We provide soft skill development to prepare someone for employment or maintaining current employment. To access these services, we typically work in collaboration with other agencies to receive authorizations from other agencies that provide employment services for people with disabilities such as Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, American Dream Employment Network
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Peer Support

Peer Support is connecting with people who share similar life experiences by listening to and supporting other people with disabilities to live self-determined, fulfilling, and empowered lives of their own choosing. With peer support, you can feel less alone in your disability experience.

At DNWML, Peer Support happens in a variety of ways to promote an inclusive community for all:

- Staff with disabilities work alongside consumers with disabilities to connect them to community resources:
 - In one-on-one sessions with staff, both the consumer and staff member gain strategies to promote personal independence and manage everyday challenges through supportive conversation.
- Social/Recreational opportunities
 - SPIRIT Club, OREO Club, Movie Club, Tuesday Trivia and Games, and more.
- Disability-specific support groups
 - Several disability-specific support groups offered at DNWML include SCI meet-up, "Your World," a support group for those who are blind or low vision, "Caring Connections," a support group for parents with disabilities", or our MS Support Group (from the 2022 CIL Impact Report).
- Peer Mentoring
 - DNWML offers one-on-one SCI Peer Mentoring.

Disclaimer(s):

- Volunteer one on one matching is not something we offer, clinical therapy individually or group, we are not a crisis intervention service or someone to call in the midst of a health emergency, however we are mandated reporters and will report cases of suspected abuse and neglect during business hours

Information and Referral

The Information and Referral team, I & R, supports consumers in getting access to the resources that their community offers. Whether it is receiving support applying for a door-to-door transportation service, accessing a walker from our loan closet, or finding out how to access emergency shelter, our team is ready with the resources you need or to use their partnerships in the community to get you connected to the tools necessary to reach your independent living goals.

Disclaimer(s):

*** This service area will have updated disclaimers coming soon**

Independent Living Skills Development

When you have a disability, all kinds of challenges create barriers to your independence. At the DNWML, our team can help you with basic life needs to help you achieve a full, meaningful, and independent life. We firmly believe in the idea that people with disabilities should have the same access to a great quality of life as everyone else.

Independent Living is the ability to make personal choices about everyday activities such as how you're going to spend your day, where you want to live, and with whom you choose to spend time. We can provide group-based and individual skill development in the following areas to promote personal independence:

- **Budgeting**
- **Time management**
- **Personal assistant management**
- **Self-advocacy**
- **Education around the basics of sexual health and relationships**
- **And more**

Disclaimer(s):

- We are not a daily support for ADL's
- We do not go into homes assisting people with tasks or skills
- We do not coordinate PA schedules or fund PA's

Training and Consulting on Disability Issues Accessibility, ADA & ADA+

Optimizing and maintaining accessibility in an office, business, or public facility can seem daunting. From a foundational understanding of compliance with the ADA to pushing well beyond the basics, getting the right information is important.

Our knowledge of accessibility is both personal, technical, and based on years of experience. We can help you move towards a more accessible and disability-friendly environment. We can support your understanding of what accessibility and the ADA mean for you. How might change improve things for everyone?

We believe that improving accessibility is not just about doing just what is mandated by the ADA, it includes the additional steps you take. We call this ADA+.

It all starts with a conversation! After that, we can coordinate walkthroughs, workshops, and ongoing consultation.

- Creating More Accessible Spaces and Places
- Digital Accessibility
- HR Practices & Accommodations

Disability Awareness Training

DAT's are programs for businesses, non-profits, university departments, college classes and any group of adults wanting to think more deeply about disability, become aware of types of disability and disability identity, and consider aspects of equity and inclusion of people with disabilities in their work and education.

Where ADA+ looks at the environment, DAT's explore the human side, our relationships, assumptions, and the ways we work together. DAT workshops can be easily structured as classic 'lunch & Learns', as longer workshops, and as staff or leadership retreats. Workshops can combine engaging experiential learning, focused discussions, formal presentations, and solution-oriented programming.

All DAT's are customized to your needs, setting, and direction. Conversations include:

- IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility
- Disability in the Workplace
- Diversity & Disability
- Planning for Disability (incorporating Disability Awareness into Strategic Planning)
- Leading with an Accessibility Mindset
- Service Animal Awareness and Guidelines
- Reporting and Writing about People with Disabilities
- Accessible Customer Service

Disability Awareness Workshops

Disability Awareness Workshops (DAW) are programs for school-age students (4th grade and up) that support an empathetic understanding of physical, developmental, and learning disabilities. At their core, DAW's are hands-on, engaging, activity-based workshops designed to support students learning how complex daily living can be for individuals with disabilities and our wide range of innovative and resourceful solutions.

Programs are facilitated by staff and volunteers with disabilities. Program options range from assembly and classroom speakers, single class workshops, to half-day all-school or all-grade programs. Since their inception, over 25,000 students have participated in these programs.

Volunteering and Training Opportunities

- Student internships with area universities in a variety of programs.
- Serving as a site for on-the-job trainings
- Hosting collaborative events, presentations, and focus groups with community organizations and members who want to offer their time and talent.

● **Moving Out of Care Facilities**

The Nursing Facility Transition Services Program, or NFT, is a Medicaid program that assists nursing facility residents that would like to explore community-based living options. Services are offered to assist in securing housing and facilitate a successful discharge to the community.

At DNWML, we think it is important that individuals be able to make informed choices and decide for themselves where they want to live. Too often, people with disabilities end up in nursing homes not because they need to be, but just because of circumstances. When that happens, they often don't have the resources or know-how to achieve an independent living arrangement in the community. Instead they feel stuck in an environment that limits their potential.

Through our Nursing Facility Transition program, we help many individuals each year successfully move out of nursing homes and achieve an independent community living arrangement.

Note: Every case is based on the individual's care and housing needs and no two transitions are the same. Needed services will be based on the individual's goals and needs.

Disclaimer(s):

- Nursing Facility Transition Program does not assist with ongoing case management for the patient, however, the patient is referred to other community service programs for the ongoing case care management.
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Youth: Academic Scholarships

DNWML invites all students with disabilities enrolling in their first or second year of college during the 2022-23 school year to apply for the **John Weir Academic Scholarship**, named in honor of one of the DNWML founders.

Eligibility

For new applicants, to be eligible for the John Weir Scholarship, you must:

- Have a significant disability of any kind – for example, physical, visual, developmental, cognitive, hearing, learning, emotional, or other;
- Live in Washtenaw, Livingston, or Monroe County, Michigan; and
- Plan to attend, be starting, or in the first two years of a 2- or 4-year college, university, or trade school program.

*A scholarship recipient is eligible for a renewal of their scholarship for an additional year if they are entering their 2nd year of a 2- or 4-year college, university, or trade school program.

Community Advocacy and Inclusion

We provide individual advocacy by offering our support alongside someone as they are facing a complex advocacy concern. We also provide community/systems advocacy via representation in community meetings and legislative events, and share information on important issues.

Disability Community Action Lab, or DCAL, is a group where like-minded community members come together to identify issues, seek out information, and take action to make a difference. We also can educate and guide individual citizens to take action on an issue they feel is important to them.

Disclaimer(s):

- We do not provide legal support or get involved in legal matters. We do not endorse a political party but spotlight legislation/policies, advocacy efforts, and issues that concern the betterment of the disability community.

