“Sandra’s call wakes me up and gets me going!”

That’s what Patricia Price has to say about her daily call from Sandra Fleck, one of Independent Living’s (ILI) Telephone Reassurance Volunteers. Sandra has been calling Patricia since 2002; and, while they have never met face-to-face, they have become good friends and shared some great conversations.

Through ILI’s Telephone Reassurance Program volunteers make regular phone calls to adults for a variety of reasons.

“Some of our clients need a ‘wake-up’ call like Patricia, but others may need reminders about medical appointments or just a friendly conversation to help reduce isolation,” explains Melissa Makela, Volunteer Services Manager.

Sandra began volunteering for the Telephone Reassurance Program due to her desire to have a positive impact in the community, but needed to do something from her home because she does not drive. Since 2002, Sandra has gathered a phone tree of six individuals with whom she speaks on a regular basis, from daily calls to Patricia to weekend or periodic check-ins for others.

“Speaking with older adults is very calming,” notes Sandra. “They speak slower than so many people in our fast-paced world and have more time to enjoy conversation.” The content of Sandra’s conversations varies from families to pets, the weather, and everything in between. She spends about 3 hours per week making calls to her “phone pals.”

The recognition that Sandra appreciates most is a simple, “I’m so glad that you called,” at the end of a conversation, but Patricia expresses much more enthusiasm about how important Sandra is to her.

“She’s fantastic! We’ve become great friends.”

If you would like to volunteer for our Telephone Reassurance Program, please call Melissa Makela, Volunteer Services Manager, at 608.274.7900 or email mmakela@independentlivinginc.org
Our Mission

Independent Living, Inc. supports adults as they manage their independence by providing a variety of care services, skilled home health care and housing options to maintain health and well-being.

From our CEO

We recently moved our headquarters after a decade on Forward Drive to our new offices on Chapel Valley Road. We had to make many decisions along the way about what to pack, what to toss, and what to shred. Our move, like most of your moves, required some serious heavy lifting along with a careful consideration of options for selecting our new space and making it our home.

Our staff also moved many things that we didn’t need to lift, pack, or file, because we take them everywhere we go. This list includes

- Our dedication, passion and enthusiasm for serving adults in Dane County,
- Our knowledge, skills, and creativity,
- Our respect and compassion for each individual,
- Our gratefulness and appreciation for our volunteers, donors, and like-minded organizations.

Enjoy this holiday season, and please stop in for a tour of our new headquarters.

Walmart Foundation

Meals on Wheels Association of America Building the Future Impact Grant

Through a $20,000 grant award from the Walmart Foundation, we’ve purchased and placed our 2011 Honda Element in service and are already seeing an impact. Our former delivery van averaged 16 mpg. Our Honda Element has been averaging 21 mpg, an increase of approximately 31%.
Stay Green ($$$) This Holiday Season

Understanding and balancing your income with your expenses is critical to remaining independent; but, the holiday season can add pressure to an already strained budget. Paula G., ILI Financial Management and Counseling Manager, stresses that, with some careful planning, you can have a joyful season without paying until the tulips bloom.

The top three words that come to mind when asked for her advice: “Budget. Budget. Budget.” Paula’s other tips:

• Make a list of people you plan to buy for and check it twice.
• Put a “not to exceed” amount next to each name and add it up. This is your budget. Stick to it!
• Remember to include shipping and handling in your budget if you are ordering over the phone or online, through the Internet. These fees can add 10 to 20% to the cost.
• Start shopping soon to compare prices and get ideas on thoughtful gifts.
• Be creative. Make your own gift cards, redeemable for dinner or popcorn and a movie at your home.

Paula helps clients take control of their spending habits on a regular basis by teaching them how to budget, developing skills and systems.

“So often in a relationship one person has had the sole responsibility of household income and expenses. If this is your first holiday season without that person, finances can be especially overwhelming.”

Contact Paula at 608.274.7900 or by email paula@independentlivinginc.org for more information.

ILI Establishes Endowment at the Madison Community Foundation

“The new Independent Living Endowment Fund, managed by the Madison Community Foundation, is especially important as the Baby Boom generation moves into retirement living, with its many opportunities and challenges,” notes Kathleen Woit, President of the Madison Community Foundation.

The ILI Board of Directors voted to use a portion of the proceeds from estate gifts to establish an endowment within the Madison Community Foundation; but, as Kathleen explains, “The endowment’s ultimate success will be dependent on the further generosity of the families and residents who take advantage of the many services offered.”

Gifts that are both big and small may be added to the Independent Living Endowment. Gifts of cash or stock may be directed to the Madison Community Foundation Endowment for Independent Living. All gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Charitable Gift Annuities are also an excellent option for donors 70 years and older. If you are interested in making gift to the Independent Living, Inc. endowment established at the Madison Community Foundation or exploring other options to meet your charitable goals, please contact Renee Reback, Fund Development Director, at 608.274.7900.
2011 United Way Days of Caring
Cogdell Spencer Erdman

The Cogdell Spencer Erdman volunteer team enthusiastically swung their hammers and paint rollers on Friday, August 26. Their hard work and effort resulted in two, new, raised-bed gardens at McKee Park Apartments and 20 freshly painted balconies at The Gardens Independent Living Community. They worked so efficiently as a team that they had extra time to drop to their knees for some old fashioned weed pulling.