

# THE PATH AHEAD

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

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- 2 Celebrating Ten Years in IRIS
- 3 Call for TMG Citizen Advisory Council Members
- 4 Sharing Their Experiences
- 7 Your Meeting Place Fall Events
- 7 Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference
- 8 We're Here to Help!

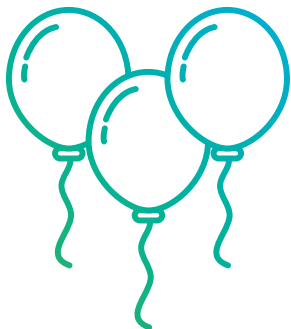
CELEBRATING  
**10 YEARS**  
IN IRIS!

**tmg**<sup>®</sup>

Let's clear the path ahead.

[tmgwisconsin.com](http://tmgwisconsin.com)

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN IRIS



Ten years ago, TMG had the opportunity to help change the way Wisconsin thinks about long-term services and supports. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) was planning to start a new Medicaid program called IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct), and chose TMG to become the state's first IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA). We knew that IRIS could change people's lives, so we rolled up our sleeves and got to work!

On July 1, 2008, the first day of the IRIS program, the TMG ICA opened its doors in 14 counties across the state. By the end of the year, 127 people were enrolled. Over the last 10 years, we've watched the TMG ICA and the IRIS program grow into something amazing. Today, TMG serves more than 14,500 people enrolled in IRIS from all 72 Wisconsin counties.

As we look to the future of supporting people who have chosen the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency, we're excited to learn how we can make self-direction better. One of the ways we plan to do this is by starting TMG Citizen Advisory Councils in 2019. These councils will be made up of people from different parts of the state who are enrolled in the TMG ICA. The councils are a way for people to share their thoughts with us about the quality of our services

and how we can improve. You are the experts in self-direction, and we hope to learn from the councils how we can better support you in self-direction. The first councils will be starting in Milwaukee and Appleton in spring of next year. To find out more, go to [tmgwisconsin.com/council](https://tmgwisconsin.com/council).

The TMG ICA is the organization it is today because you continue to support it and advocate for self-direction.

**By choosing to live self-determined lives every day, you make TMG and IRIS stronger. We are humbled by your passion and your efforts to make sure that self-direction continues to grow across the state.**

# CALL FOR TMG CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

So, thank you for putting your trust in TMG over the years, and for letting us go on this journey with you. While TMG is no longer the only ICA, we are honored to partner with more than 80 percent of people in IRIS. You are the reason that we're passionate about the work that we do at TMG, and we look forward to many more years of partnering with you as we *clear the path ahead!*

*Shanna Jensen*

TMG Senior Director of IRIS  
Consultation Services



**What is a TMG Citizen Advisory Council?** A Citizen Advisory Council is a group of people who use the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA). These individuals will provide feedback and suggestions about how TMG can best support people using our ICA.

**Where will the councils be?** In 2019, TMG will be starting with one council in Northeast Wisconsin (meeting in Appleton) and another council in Southeast Wisconsin (meeting in Milwaukee). We hope to offer more councils in other parts of the state in the future.

**How often will they meet?** Councils will meet two times per year for half day (four hour) meetings. Council members may also be asked to work on council projects between meetings.

**How long is someone on a council?** Council members will serve two or three-year terms.

**Interested in applying or finding out more?** Applications for the Northeast and Southeast TMG Citizen Advisory Councils will be accepted online from September 10, 2018 to November 30, 2018. Go to [tmgwisconsin.com/council](http://tmgwisconsin.com/council) or contact Patti Becker, Manager of Community Partnerships, at [pbecker@tmgwisconsin.com](mailto:pbecker@tmgwisconsin.com) or 608-210-3704. All applicants will be notified by January 31, 2019.

# SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE



TMG has been fortunate to partner with thousands of inspiring people over the past 10 years. We wanted to share the thoughts of a few individuals about what TMG and IRIS mean to them.

**We are honored by their kind words. Thank you!**



**Alleah Adix**  
*Eau Claire*

**“I set my own schedule every day.** I have a job, I volunteer, I go swimming and I make my own artwork. My staff helps me at home and at my job. They take me to where I want to go in my community. I like picking out my own staff. My best people. This is important to me!”



**Princess Brown**  
*Milwaukee*

**“[With IRIS,] you hire people you trust and you tell them how to do it your way. I really do appreciate all the help [from TMG and IRIS] and that I am not alone.”**



**Martha Chambers**  
*Milwaukee*

**“I am able to choose the best way to be independent. The IRIS program is amazing because it gives you the ability to live your life** with the supports that you need. And TMG will be there to guide you in making the best decisions.”



**Danielle Thoe and her mom Shaun Thoe**  
*Waupaca*

**“IRIS helps us open up Danielle’s world.** She recently completed Partners in Policymaking. Due to her pageants and cheerleading experience, we have found that Danielle has a voice. We want to make sure that other people think about breaking the glass ceiling of what people with disabilities are capable of and how our world is a better world when we all interact.”



**Pao Lee and his uncle  
Fue Xiong**  
*Appleton*

“IRIS is a very good program. We have found the support is excellent. Our consultant is always there to help. Pao is much more safe and secure since coming to live with his uncle and family. **He gets to [be] with people in his own family and culture.** It is nice to know that we are in control, since we know how to take care of Pao.”



**Austin Pena**  
*Pell Lake*

“I get out a lot more [with IRIS]. **You’ll really like it better** than other long-term care options, and you get a consultant to help you all the time, when you need it.”



**Suzie Radtke and her  
mom Bonnie Radtke**  
*Kaukauna*

“Suzie now has a lifestyle suited for her. Suzie’s TMG IRIS Consultant and Self-Directed Personal Care (SDPC) nurse are phenomenal. They are always there to help us with any concerns we have, and **they help support us in the decisions we make.**”



**Traveain Finley**  
*Milwaukee*

“IRIS helps me with what I need and gives me a better outlook on life. [This has] allowed me to start my own DJ service. IRIS has helped me in so many different ways. **I feel successful.** I am able to get the things I need and have employees that I’m comfortable with. **I feel safer** because I have familiar faces around me.”



**Sofia Walz-Chojnacki**  
*Wauwatosa*

“Community is my life. Since being in IRIS, I have participated more in my community. **I do well at my job** and I recently got a raise. I am able to volunteer and give back to my community. Being able to self-direct allows me to think and be in control of what I may want in my future. **IRIS is awesome!**”



**My Xiong Yang**  
*Appleton*

“IRIS has allowed me to stay active and do the things that I like. The most important thing is that **I am able to stay in my home with family.** Because of this, I am still able to control what I want to do. My family knows what I like and don’t like.”



The TMG ICA has partnered with more than 24,000 people over the course of the last 10 years since the IRIS program began.

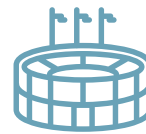
If this number of people came together in one place, that group would:



fill the community of  
**Muskego, WI**



fill **67**  
**airplanes**



fill over  
**half of Miller Park**



fill **337**  
**school buses**



# YOUR MEETING PLACE FALL EVENTS

If you live near Racine or Oshkosh, be sure to stop by one of our open house events. There, you can meet other people enrolled in the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency, discover community resources, join a listening session to share your thoughts about how TMG can help make self-direction better for you, and attend a Future Planning 101 Session presented by The Arc Wisconsin. Future Planning supports a person with an intellectual or developmental disability to lead a good life as independently as possible, particularly after a parent or caregiver is no longer able to provide support.

You won't want to miss these fun-filled community open houses!

## Your Meeting Place at Festival Hall

September 26, 2018 | Open House 3-6 p.m.  
*Festival Hall - Racine Civic Centre - Racine, WI*

## Your Meeting Place Oshkosh

October 24, 2018 | Open House 3-6 p.m.  
*UW Oshkosh Alumni Center - Oshkosh, WI*

Check out [tmgwisconsin.com/events](http://tmgwisconsin.com/events) for more information about these open house events. We hope to see you there!

# WISCONSIN SELF-DETERMINATION CONFERENCE



**October 29-31, 2018**

***Kalahari Resort - Wisconsin Dells, WI***

Join TMG this October at the Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference, the largest self-direction gathering in the state! The theme of this year's event is Self-Determination: What Is Your Superpower? This conference is a great place to meet other self-advocates, learn about resources and tools to help you live a self-determined life, and celebrate all the amazing things that make a great life possible. TMG is proud to sponsor this conference.

Learn more and register by October 12, 2018 at [wi-bpdd.org/index.php/wisconsin-self-determination-conference](http://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/wisconsin-self-determination-conference).



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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 TMG IRIS Consultant Teams throughout the state. If you have questions about TMG and the services we provide, please contact us at [info@tmgwisconsin.com](mailto:info@tmgwisconsin.com).



For information about the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency, visit: [tmgwisconsin.com](http://tmgwisconsin.com) or [facebook.com/TMGWisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/TMGWisconsin).

Or call our toll-free number: **(844) 864-8987**.