DRA is closing out another challenging year and looking forward to a very exciting year ahead. **2022 marks the 25th Anniversary of DRA’s service to Jefferson County as a Center for Independent Living.** Stay tuned for special events and a new format for our newsletter in the coming year.

Some fun changes are already in place. Thanks to Jefferson Foundation and Logo Daddy, some of DRA’s vans are now **wrapped with the information people need to contact us for help.**

Traditionally DRA has received state funding that makes it possible to provide many of our services for free. This funding is now shrinking, but the needs we want to meet are not. In 25 years, DRA has helped thousands of individuals without charging them. Many live on very limited income and nearly all have a disability. Our desire is to continue to help without charging those who have so little.

**In 2022, DRA is looking for 250 individuals who will invest $25 each month so that together we can help low-income residents of Jefferson County with a disability.** You will provide rides to the doctor. Ramps to make a home safe again. Aide care to cook and clean and help someone stay in their home instead of a nursing home. Medical equipment that insurance will not cover. You will provide help to fill out forms for benefits and Circuit Breaker Tax Credits. Most of all, we will provide help and hope!

**Your year-end gift of any amount today will help provide all these services to those who need us most.**

Please consider setting up monthly giving from your credit card or bank account for 2022. Together we will be here to help!! May you stay safe and well as we close out 2021. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our mission is personal empowerment for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and those in need.
Barbara cared for her grandson Sheldon since he was 9 months old. A few years ago their roles reversed. When she took amiodarone to treat her heart condition, it caused her to go blind in one eye and then in both. Steroids restored very limited sight to her right eye, but she has had to face the difficult challenges of learning to live without sight.  
“I don’t know what I would do without Sheldon. He helps me with nearly everything now,” Barbara brags on him.  
Sheldon counts it a privilege to care for his grandma. “She was there for me my whole life. I am glad I can be here to help her now!”

DRA helped Barbara fill out the paperwork to qualify for the blind pension. This additional income helps a great deal to pay for food since Barbara can no longer work as a nanny for two physicians as she did before she lost her sight.  
DRA also helped get Barbara enrolled in Consumer Directed Services (CDS) for the personal care she needs so she can live at home. CDS allows Barbara to choose her own care-giver. She and Sheldon are both very glad that he can get paid to be the one to help her.  
CDS approved a list of duties that Barbara needs help with and the number of hours Sheldon works for her. DRA handles all of the payroll duties to make sure her needs are met.  
“I thank God everyday for DRA! You have been a wonderful help to me,” says Barbara.

DRA staff regularly help people fill out the paperwork for CDS and many benefit programs. We are here to help. Call us at (636) 931-7696 if you need services.

Help DRA Develop and Defend the Resources You Need

There are two ways you can help DRA serve Jefferson County. First, you can help determine what resources we still need for residents with disabilities in Jefferson County. Visit our website at www.DRA4help.org and give your responses to our 2021 Needs Survey. Use your phone to scan here to fill out the survey. Second, DRA is forming a Legislative Advocacy Team. We are looking for passionate advocates who are willing to contact legislators and even go with us to visit them in Jefferson City.  
You will need tact and persistence to help us protect the rights and benefits that individuals with disabilities and seniors need and deserve. If you want to join the team, call DRA at (636) 931-7696 for more information.
Kathy Keeps her Independence with Many DRA Services

Kathy Barlow found DRA in 2004. Since then she has connected to many of DRA’s services. Kathy is an example of someone who comes to DRA for one service and finds many others to preserve their independence.

“I was going downhill and couldn’t take care of myself,” remembers Kathy. “DRA saved me from going into a nursing home. I was used to being on my own, but I needed help. Plus, in a nursing home I couldn’t keep my cat, and she’s my support animal.”

Kathy now has a nurse who comes weekly to set up her medication. She also has an aide that comes to help her with cleaning and shopping.

“I call my aides my angels,” Kathy brags. “They are here when I need them.”

DRA transportation provides Kathy rides to essential shopping. She has also made friends at DRA Social Group events.

Over the years, Kathy has become like family to many staff at DRA. We look forward to Kathy’s hugs and her infectious laugh. Lauren, her Independent Living Specialist, helped Kathy choose a free assistive phone that was easy for her to use. She helps fill out Kathy’s annual Circuit Breaker Tax Credit form. Lauren also helped Kathy and her family understand how to manage her assets so she will maintain her benefits. Kathy is very happy now that her family is more involved in her life.

“I am so glad I can keep independence!”

To keep our community safe, DRA will NOT be hosting our Annual Holiday Open House.

We still want to see you and wish you Happy Holidays! So instead, DRA Staff will give gifts of cheer to each person that drives thru our

Community Christmas by Car

We invite you to drive by our Festus Office
130 Brandon Wallace Way
Tuesday, December 21
between 10 am and 3 pm

Drive thru this year to receive a Holiday gift from DRA!
Disability Resource Association

130 Brandon Wallace Way
Festus, MO 63028
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: (636) 931-7696
TTY: (636) 937-9016
Fax: (636) 931-4863

Visit our Website!
www.DRA4help.org

Your Year-end Gift will Help Karen, Jack, Dennis and Others

Your year-end gift provides many vital services to Kathy, Barbara and Sheldon, and many others free of charge!

Many others depend on us to help them live with health and dignity in their own home. For example, Karen is 71 and lives alone. She has no car or family nearby. She depends on her CDS attendant to help her with personal care. She also needs your help with home modifications and transportation to medical visits.

Jack is just 49 but has already had several back surgeries. He lives on less than $10,000 of annual Social Security Disability benefits. He needs your assistance with personal care and medical equipment loans.

At just 49, Dennis has had several strokes leading to partial paralysis. He and his mother depend on us to guide them through the process of applying for benefits and finding all the resources he now requires to support his needs.

Your year-end gift of any amount will provide these services today. Your reoccurring monthly gift will make it possible for others to live safe and healthy lives in their own home.

Choose the amount of difference you will make TODAY for those waiting for help.

- $25 can provide grab bars to make a home safe and accessible
- $50 can provide a round-trip ride for medical needs
- $250 can provide one week of in-home aide care
- $2,500 can build a ramp to make a home safe again
- $__________ Choose your own amount to make a difference!

DRA is grateful for every dollar of support!
Will you be one of 250 to give $25 monthly?