



APRIL is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of long time IL leader and advocate Tim Sheehan early this month. Tim was a steadfast supporter of APRIL and our youth movement. He served on the APRIL Board for many, many years. Tim began his APRIL Board service when he was elected to an At Large seat back in 2009 at the APRIL Conference in Puerto Rico. He served 2 full terms in that seat before being elected Board President in 2013 at the APRIL Conference in Tulsa, OK. Tim was dedicated to the IL Movement and served as a dependable, unwavering advocate. Tim was a brilliant guy. The more time you spent with him, the more you learned about his truly exceptional life experiences. Tim had a larger-than-life personality and was an amazing storyteller. A long-time journalist before finding his way to Independent Living, he was a wealth of information and gave generously of his time. His leadership in APRIL was invaluable.

Tim was Executive Director at the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin (CILWW), now Compass IL, for 20 years. Tim first

served on the Board of Directors at CILWW and then left the board to become Assistant Director in 1998. Tim was promoted to Executive Director by the board in 2001 and served in that role until his retirement in 2021. Tim helped to make the center what it is today and was instrumental in expanding both the Independent Living and Personal Assistant Services programs and starting the New Freedom Transportation Program.

In the 20 years Tim was Executive Director at CILWW, he served on numerous State and National committees and councils advocating for people with disabilities. He was the Region 5 representative for the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) for several years. On the state level, Tim served two terms on the Statewide Independent Living Council, served as Chair of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC) twice, and other councils and committees advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

Tim will be missed terribly. He leaves a legacy of leadership, friendship, and generosity. He was authentic and genuine, and his loss leaves a gaping hole in our hearts. His memory and contributions will live on. We at APRIL consider ourselves incredibly lucky and blessed to have known him!