The mission of the Western Michigan University Center for Disability Services is to help people who because of age, illness or disability need assistance to live life fully. Through our community living, care coordination, skill building and aging services, our goal is to support a person’s intellectual and physical functioning and independence by minimizing the negative impact of age or disability on their life, and assisting them to remain living at home and participating in their community. CDS also provides WMU students with an opportunity for innovative learning and discovery in the field of aging and disabilities through internships, volunteering and employment.

Our vision is to provide high quality supports and services and to help all people be active members of their community and achieve the highest quality of life possible.

Our values:

- All people are valued members of society.
- All people have the right to make choices affecting their lives.
- People who receive our services are unique individuals who should be cherished, treated with sincere understanding and respect, and provided with lifelong learning opportunities.

Over the past year, we have accomplished some of our long standing goals at CDS. We purchased a permanent home for our Senior Day Program and implemented three evidence based cognitive exercise programs that are now offered to the public.

CDS enhances student experiences by providing personal growth opportunities through internships, practicum, volunteering and employment. Students come from various disciplines across campus including nursing, occupational therapy, family studies, psychology, exercise science, music therapy, art therapy, aviation, education and engineering.
177,764 Total hours of direct service

91% of participants would recommend our services

92% of participants met goals at CDS throughout the year

104 student employees

247 people served

$484,604 paid out for student wages

23% of individuals served at WMU Senior Day Services are Veterans

Hosted 63 intern and practicum students from WMU

91% of participants who are more independent because of our services

51% of consumers sold their artwork this year at community events

3 evidence-based cognitive exercise programs

96% of participants report a better quality of life because of CDS