

Independent Perspective, 8.10.25

Safe Homes

## Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York independent Living (WNYIL). Our guest today is Willie Price, certified aging in place specialist and I'm your host Ernie Churchwell. Welcome to the program, Willie.

00:00:14 Speaker 2

Thank you. Thank you for having me. Glad to be here.

00:00:16 Speaker 1

I could be wrong, but I suspect in most instances this is probably the first time they've encountered an aging in place specialist.

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Who is it that you serve? And I have a feeling that it fits quite well with WNYIL's aim to get people the resources they need to live independently in their own situation. Whom do you serve?

00:00:40 Speaker 2

Actually, I'm going to give you the answer that the instructor gave me when I took the course. She said I'm going to have 73,000,000 clients by the year 2030 explaining to me because when I took the course, I am what is called a rehab specialist. I was working with some homes in the city of Buffalo.

00:00:50 Speaker 1

Whoa.

00:00:59 Speaker 2

Monitoring the rehab of those homes. A lot of those homes were seniors, which is what we're talking about, who are trying to age in place in their homes.

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But they weren't doing grab bars and rolling, all the things that would help them to age and place in their homes. So, a friend of mine told me about the Certified Aging-In-Place program, and I went and took the course. And when I told the instructor where I was taking it.

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That was her response to me. You're going to have 73,000,000 clients because there's nobody doing what I do. I am. What is called,

00:01:29

I am a caps and universal design rehab specialist. I'm the only caps and universal design rehab specialist in the country. That rehab specialist, the universal design is the other course that the instructor asked me to take because she said that way it would help me to not only help people with aging in place.

00:01:49

But it also helps me because those people who are maybe living with their sons or daughters, you know, in their homes with them.

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The home can become universal design essential so that way it's set up where it's not looking like a nursing home. So, there's areas in the home that may be set up as aging in place for the person themselves, but then the rest of the home is universal design where that person can use the home but as well as the family can continue to use the home.

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So, I am the only caps and universal design rehab specialist in the country. Who do I serve? I serve the entire country. I serve the entire and people say, well, that sounds kind of weird. But like I said, there are caps out there.

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Most of the caps that you find work in the nursing homes and in the rehab facility. So, when the person gets hurt, they go into the rehab facility and when it's time for them to go back home, that cap comes out and find out what needs to be done for them to go back home. What I do as a caps and universal design rehab specialist, I come out to homes.

00:02:50

And I explain what I go through the home with that person and show them what needs to be done so they don't have an accident that causes them to go into a nursing home.

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Make sure that their homes are set up with grab bars, rolling showers, lighting. We go through the home. OK, we're going to replace these doorknobs with lever handles. All the things that's going to help make that home more safe, secure and comfortable for them to live in. That's what I do. So. But what I found is that when I would go around, like you said, a lot of people don't know what caps is. So, when I was going around telling people I'm a caps and this is what I do.

00:03:21

Nobody knew what it was, so what I did was I started an organization called Western New York Aging in Place Council. And what we do is we work with organizations like Independent Health.

00:03:32 Speaker 2

And all the different organizations working with seniors and we do workshops where we go around, we do a workshop called making your house your home, preparing for aging in place, which is I just spoke out at the Niagara County Fair this past Saturday. And so I did that workshop and what it does is it explains what aging in place is.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

Why it's important, when you should start, how do you find funding for it and then how it helps you to stand your communities and grow age, age and place in your area, in your home, without the fear of having gone to a nursing home.

00:04:05 Speaker 1

Well, you've made this interview very easy for me. Would you believe we're just about out of time? I'm sure people will have questions. How can they reach you?

00:04:14 Speaker 2

They can reach me at [wnyaginginplace@gmail.com](mailto:wnyaginginplace@gmail.com)

00:04:22

Or you can reach me at 716-316-7776 and if they would like for us to come out and do a workshop or presentation with their group or organization or conference, contact me

because we have to do awareness. 73 million people by the year 2030 are going to need to figure out how they can stay in their homes.

00:04:41

And I can't go out and inspect 73,000,000 homes, but I can bring awareness to more people by doing workshops and presentations and making them aware of how important it is to start preparing early for aging in place.

00:04:55 Speaker 1

Thanks so much for being with us today, Willie.

00:04:57 Speaker 2

Thank you very much for having me. I appreciate you.

00:05:00 Speaker 1

It's been our pleasure. You've been listening to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of WNYIL. Our guest today has been Willie Price, certified living in place specialist. And I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.