

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Letter from Board President, Rick O'Neal
- 3 Public Policy
- 4 Faces of TWP
- 5 Event Calendar
- 6 Outreach/Development
- 7 Events and Programs
- 8 Contact Information

Remembering Candice Minear

Strong. Determined. Driven. Fearless. Outspoken. Organized. Competitive. Unapologetic. All words that Candice's co-workers used to describe her. When asked what she liked most about Candice, TWP CEO, Julie DeJean responded, "Her 'drop the mic' moments – and she had many. Most recently, Candice was educating a room full of freshmen Missouri state legislators about The Whole Person and 'disability awareness' when she had one of these moments. Candice talked about her own experiences to show the legislators how a person with a disability can come out the other side and lead an independent life as a productive member of their community. When she concluded her spiel there was not a sound in the room." Greg Razor, new Missouri State Representative for the 25th District, posted this on his Facebook page: "She was so full of life and passion, and will be missed dearly."

Candice began her career at TWP on December 9, 2013 as a Disability Rights Advocate (DRA). Determined to use her life experiences to champion independent living for people with disabilities, she fought for a more inclusive and accessible Kansas City community. All who worked with her knew that whenever she observed an ADA compliance or accessibility problem, she wasted no words and no time in doing something about it. She continued this fight even as her career path changed. Following her DRA position, Candice moved into a new role with The Whole Person as an



KC Revolution, the hometown Quad Rugby team, honored their teammate Candice Minear by including her empty chair in the first quarter of their game at the Cowtown Classic Rugby Tournament the weekend of January 20-21.

Independent Living Advocate (ILA) in the Youth and Adult Support Services department. She led Youth Transition classes in high schools, provided resources, and worked one-on-one with students on their independent living skills as they transitioned out of high school and into adulthood.

In March of last year, Candice accepted the position of Development and Community Relations Specialist, and she didn't miss a beat. It was as if the role had been created just for her. Members of the Marketing Team are called upon for everything from radio and television interviews to educating and speaking to the public on any number of topics from Disability

Awareness to "People First Language." They are also the ones who pop popcorn for special events, secure and pick up auction items, and coordinate staff activities like a "Pie In Your Face" game with the managers. Candice did it all, and if she couldn't do it by herself, the team came together to get the job done. Lea Klepees, Kelly Grooms and Candice all started in Resource Development the same week and they fit in quickly.

Candice was that person on the team who anticipated the department's needs at every turn, who regularly volunteered for extra duties and events. She embodied the TWP mission of living and working
Continued on page 3

MISSION

The Whole Person connects people with disabilities to the resources they need by supporting independent choice and advocating for positive change in the community.

VISION

The Whole Person envisions a fully accessible community where opportunities and choices are not limited by disability.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick O'Neal, President

Genny Manly-Klocek,
Vice President

Debbie Housh, Secretary
James Geary

Marcia Klostermann

Joseph Matovu

Mike McCord

Ben McLean

Patrick Pruitt

Tony Waterhouse-Leal



An accessible PDF, screen reader compatible file, is available in the newsletter archive on our website.

From the Board

I have served on the board of The Whole Person for over five years now. I like that name, The Whole Person, because it embodies what the organization stands for. Not the partial person, but the whole person.

You see, as a child I was placed in special education classes, having come to the United States from Jamaica. Even though Jamaicans speak English, it is what was called a "broken" English. Needless to say, I had the "privilege" of riding on the "short bus" that was used to transport kids with disabilities. Funny, at the time I had no idea there was a stigma associated with this bus because I was just glad to be riding and not walking a half a mile to school.

It wasn't until 8th grade, when a kind teacher took me under her wing and chose not to exclude me just because my language skills were different from the other kids. Instead, she included me. I will never forget the day I took some sort of aptitude exam, and apparently my score was so high the teacher administering this exam assumed I had cheated. So I had to take the exam again, but this time in a room all by myself. Well you're not going to believe what happened – my score was higher the second time.

You see, I wasn't supposed have taken this exam because I was in "special ed" and I rode the "short bus." But someone looked beyond the surface and embraced my differences to see the true me, The Whole Me.

Imagine if this teacher had not seen me for who I really was. Imagine that she simply saw my apparent disability but not Me. Where would I be today? I don't know, but I don't think I would be writing this article.



It's funny how life can land us in certain places, only to reveal to us later that it's exactly where we needed to be.

The Whole Person is such an organization, paving the way to give clarity to the world that we should look not only on someone's external challenges, but fully embrace them as a person. It is an organization that I am very pleased to be a part of and will continue to support in the future.

I thank all the employees, from top to bottom, who dedicate themselves to making the world a better place by showing the community the value of embracing differences, by demonstrating the value of accepting each other without judgment, by helping to remove obstacles, and by simply showing we are all human in the end and we all have so much to add to society.

Keep up the great work The Whole Person, because the world is watching.

Rick O'Neal, TWP Board President

TWP Programs and Services

- Independent Living Services
- Consumer Directed Services
- Employment Services
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)
- Mental Health Services
- Transition Services
- The Whole Family Project
- Blindness Low Vision Experience
- Youth and Adult Services

Candice Minear

Continued from page 1

as independently as one can. Just this past December, Candice was selected as the winner of the Millennial Falcon Award by her peers for going the extra mile, and then some. She often said that she did not want to be anyone's inspiration – though she was. As evidenced by the many messages left on her Facebook page, she was a mentor and big sister to many people from colleagues to peer support group participants.

Candice recently joined the Recreation Council of Greater Kansas City and SocialHeart as a board member, and she represented TWP on many committees and organizations throughout the community. Through it all, she displayed exemplary customer service, inside and outside the organization.

One more thing we want you to know about Candice – she was an athlete and

loved to compete. She participated on many adaptive sports teams, but her first love was her KC Revolution Quad Rugby Team. She often said she was slow and that the only real role she had on the team was to make them look good – and that she did. She had a huge desire for more accessible fields and other places where adaptive sports can be played. TWP promises to continue to make this a priority in her memory.

Candice Minear's presence at The Whole Person was everything. She put a face to our mission and she will be greatly missed. In her own words, from the TWP video that we will keep forever, she declares: "I am Candice Minear and I am a Whole Person."

We will continue your work, Candice. We are so happy that you found your calling and we thank you for your service. Your fingerprints are forever on all those lives you have touched in your time at The Whole Person.



Candice was passionate about Kansas City sports teams. She loved the Royals and helped many in the disability community attend games.

Public Policy

On March 15, The Whole Person will again participate with the Missouri Disability Rights Legislative Day (DRLD). TWP consumers, including our Consumer Advocacy Group, will participate in a rally at the Missouri State Capitol along with other consumer and community advocates. Invited speakers include Governor Eric Greitens and Lt. Governor Mike Parson, along with other governmental officials and self-advocates for independent living. The theme for the DRLD this year is: "We Choose Inclusion!"

TWP is honored to co-sponsor this event with other disability-focused organizations across the state, including other centers for independent living such as Paraquad in St. Louis and Southwest Center for Independent Living in Springfield. Additional sponsors include groups such as People First of Missouri, the Governor's Council on Disability, the Missouri Council of the Blind, and the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

TWP is proud to partner with EITAS again this year to be sure that consumer advocates with a wide variety of disabilities have an opportunity to speak with representatives and senators from their districts, along with legislative staff, to address disability rights in the community and pending legislation regarding disability concerns. TWP staff are also working to ensure youth participation in this event in order to encourage their lifelong love of advocacy and education.



The group from TWP that traveled to Jefferson City in March 2016.

ART EXHIBITION

EXPRESSIONS

SHOWCASING ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES



7th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition

Opening Night - Friday, April 7
6:00 to 10:00 pm

Kansas City Young Audiences Auditorium
3732 Main St., Kansas City, MO

Music • Dance Performances
Silent Auction • Refreshments

The Expressions Art Series is a
free event hosted by The Whole Person.

The Exhibition provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to show their art in a professional setting, and celebrates the artists' abilities and unique talents, while adding diversity to the Kansas City arts community.

Learn more at www.thewholeperson.org

2017 FACES OF TWP



1. Rick O'Neal, Board President and Julie DeJean, TWP CEO attend the holiday open house. **2.** The CDS Staff got together for a group shot at the holidays. Front Row (L to R) Tristan, Adam, Anthony, Allycia, Beverly, and Aaron; Back Row (L to R) Scott V., Jason, Jim, Angie, Sarah, Alfredo, Sheryl, Barb, Wendy, Scott Q. and Deniece. **3.** Judy Grainger (left) and Laura Mueth led the Legislative Education Project Training at TWP in January. **4.** Kelly, Lea, Laura and Carla grab lunch at Chipotle to raise money for TWP. **5.** Aisha and Lisa greeted guests at the holiday open house. **6.** Heather Schouten accompanies carolers at the holiday open house.

2017 FACES OF TWP



7. TWP was a sponsor at the 2017 Cowtown Classic Wheelchair Rugby tournament. **8.** Whitney Dixon, Spay and Neuter KC; Erin Brown, Ability KC; and Kelsie Minear helped organize the event. **9.** James Heinen wears red lipstick in honor of fellow KC Revolution teammate Candice Minear who passed away on January 1. **10.** Candice's chair took a place of honor at the event. **11.** Members of KC Revolution, the hometown team, prepare to compete.

EVENT CALENDAR

For specific locations and times of the events listed, visit our calendar at thewholeperson.org.

MARCH 8 & 22:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

MARCH 9:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

MARCH 9: MAY 18 (THURSDAYS):

Community American Sign Language Classes at TWP

MARCH 14:

Life With Spinal Cord Injuries or Related Disabilities (SCI/D) at MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital

MARCH 28:

Consumer Advocacy Group

APRIL 4:

Deaf Peer Social and Support Group

APRIL 6:

SCI/D at The Whole Person

APRIL 12 & 26:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

APRIL 13:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

APRIL 25:

Consumer Advocacy Group

MAY 10 & 24:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

MAY 11:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

MAY 18:

SCI/D at Greater Kansas City Spinal Cord Injury Association

MAY 23:

Consumer Advocacy Group

MAY 29:

TWP Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER AT RAISING CANE'S!

March 16
11am-8pm
4040 Mill St, KCMO
(this location only)

Mention the Fundraiser at the Register and Cane's will donate 15% of your sale to The Whole Person!

TWP 101 TUESDAYS

Learn the "basics" about The Whole Person.

FREE box lunch.

Building tours at 11:45 am.

Session ends promptly at 1:00 pm.

RSVP by the Friday before each month's session/luncheon to:

Lea Klepees, 816-659-9403, or
lklepees@thewholeperson.org

CLASS IS IN SESSION ON THESE 2017 DATES:

- March 28
- April 25
- May 23
- June 27
- July 25
- August 22
- September 26
- October 24
- November 28

Intern Spotlight: Aubrey Smith

Aubrey Smith, a sophomore at Cristo Rey Kansas City, is not your average teenager. Along with school work and soccer, she also works part time and interns at The Whole Person.

Aubrey was instrumental in helping us complete our annual consumer phone survey reaching out to over 200 of our consumers. Aubrey also volunteered her time at our Holiday Open House, helping our consumers decorate holiday cookies. She has been a wonderful asset to TWP as she continues to learn more about the organization and people with disabilities by working alongside staff members in several departments. Her hard work and contagious smile make her a joy to have in the office.

"When I first started working at The Whole Person, I was shy. I like that Ms. Kelly and the staff made me feel welcome and comfortable. They take time to explain things to me so that I understand them clearly. I am learning so much," said Aubrey when asked why she liked working at TWP.

In recognition of her hard work, Aubrey Smith was awarded the "Employee of the Month" award at Cristo Rey. Cristo Rey Kansas City provides college preparatory education to urban young people who live in communities with limited educational opportunities. The schools utilize a Corporate Work Study Program to help cover tuition costs, while at the same time giving students real-world job experience, greater self-confidence, and an increased sense of the relevance of their education.



Make a Change

TWP's ongoing fundraising program, *Change for Change*, is an easy way to give back to the organization. We are offering piggy banks with the TWP logo that can be kept on work desks, in office lunch rooms or lobbies, or at home – it's a handy and fun way to clear coins out of purses, pockets and car cup holders. The change adds up! With an estimated \$10 billion in coins currently sitting idly in drawers, purses and cars throughout the country, The Whole Person hopes to put a small portion of this spare change to good use for Missourians and Kansans with disabilities.

We invite individuals, organizations, and businesses to participate. "I believe that the piggy bank has helped raise awareness in the community [of The Whole Person] as well as among the partners your organization has throughout the city. It allows us to discuss what you all do at your place, as well as how some of your clients could hopefully come and rent a studio or do a gallery showing in our space. It helps bridge the connection and allows for more advocacy for both organizations," said Korey Childs of The Arts Asylum.

Your loose change can make a difference in the life of someone in your community with a disability. Participating is simple – pick up a piggy bank, collect change, and plan to empty your bank at The Whole Person every couple of months. It's that easy! To get a piggy bank of your own contact Lea Klepees at 816-659-9403 or Lklepees@thewholeperson.org



Terri Goddard and Kelly Grooms from The Whole Person congratulate Aubrey (center) on her Employee of the Month award in January at Cristo Rey.

TWP Merchandise

Show your TWP support and pride by purchasing an item from our TWP Marketplace. There you'll find coffee mugs (\$4), T-shirts (\$10), tote bags (\$4), a cookbook featuring delicious recipes from our staff (\$10), and much more! Visit the TWP Marketplace display in the lobby to see all of the items we have for sale.



Making a Big Difference in the Life of a Small Child

Scarlet has been working with Kathy Schnorenberg, a tutor for The Whole Family Project, since Scarlet began experiencing communication delays related to Down syndrome at the age of six months. Kathy recognized Scarlet's need to use sign language in her everyday environment outside the home, so Kathy planned creative ways to have sign language training sessions that would be relevant to Scarlet's needs – for example at a "Meet the Teachers Night" at Scarlet's school.

To prepare for the evening, Kathy visited the school in advance and took photographs of the classrooms, Scarlet's teachers, and even the big red rug used for story-time in one of the classrooms. Preceding the big night, Kathy printed the photos, labeled them, and practiced identifying the classrooms, teachers and rug in sign language with Scarlet and her family.

When the family arrived at the school, Scarlet made a bee-line for the big red rug, sat down "crisscross-apple-sauce," flashed a big smile, and signed SCHOOL. She knew where she was and also what she was expected to do, because she had seen and practiced with the picture of the rug that Kathy had provided the previous week. Scarlet proceeded to lead her parents and tutor on a tour of the school while identifying several landmarks along the way, and identified each of her teachers by signing TEACHER.



The Whole Family tutor Kathy Schnorenberg (left) holds picture cards that she uses when teaching Scarlet (right) to communicate in sign language.



The combined efforts of Scarlet, the family, and the tutor allowed her to communicate with the world around her and to feel included in what was happening in her life. Scarlet's mother exclaimed, "Scarlet's ability to communicate [in sign language] has been monumental in her development! Now there is less frustration in communicating everyday things" related to Scarlet's daily routine. "The Whole Family Project prepares Scarlet for school and her next steps in life."

Planting Independence

Yard maintenance can be difficult for people with disabilities to manage. This is an excellent opportunity for our volunteers to give back, be outdoors, and build a stronger community through their service to those with disabilities. If you would like to volunteer or would like to add your home to the list of those being considered for yard work, contact Kelly Grooms at kgrooms@thewholeperson.org or visit us on the web at www.thewholeperson.org and download an application. See more details in ad on this page.



Planting Independence One Yard at a Time!

**Saturday, April 22
8:00 am - Noon**

Location: A TWP consumer's home in one of several pre-selected areas

The Whole Person is partnering with volunteer groups to perform low to moderate risk activities such as mowing, raking, weeding, and planting at the homes of the people who receive our services. (Excluded activities are lifting over 50 lbs, cutting down tree limbs or handling or removing any hazardous material.)

ATTENTION TWP CONSUMERS!

Would you like some assistance in sprucing up your yard this Spring? TWP Volunteers are providing assistance with general yard clean-up on Saturday, April 22, for people participating in any TWP program, service or support group. You must own your own home, or have permission from the property owner. **Contact your TWP Independent Living Specialist ASAP to sign up!**

VOLUNTEER GROUPS NEEDED!!

Planting Independence is an excellent volunteer opportunity for individuals, families, clubs, schools, scouts, organizations, and businesses who are looking for an activity to give back, be outdoors, and serve individuals in our community that live with disabilities. **Please contact Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232 (or email to kgrooms@thewholeperson.org) by March 31 if your group would like to provide support with our "Planting Independence" initiative. More details will be shared.**

Learn more at www.thewholeperson.org

*Connecting people with disabilities
to the resources they need.*

3710 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
thewholeperson.org

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Signing up for our email list is a great way to stay connected to TWP. Visit thewholeperson.org to sign up.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

For media inquiries, interviews or statements, please contact:
Terri Goddard
Resource Development Manager
816-627-2220
tgoddard@thewholeperson.org

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**Contributions from Individuals,
Honorariums and Memorials**

**Corporation and Foundation Gifts
Planned Giving**

For more information on planned giving, contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager at tgoddard@thewholeperson.org, or call 816-627-2220.



JULY JUBILEE
CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE!

SAVE THE DATES!
Saturday, July 29 and Monday, July 31
2-day celebration of the 27th ADA Anniversary
Saturday, July 29 • 7:00am-1:00pm
All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast by Chris Cakes and a Makers Fair and Flea Market.
Monday July 31 • 10:00am-2:00pm
Party in our parking lot with a live band, speakers, food, vendors and a whole lot of fun!
Sponsorship opportunities available!
Contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220, tgoddard@thewholeperson.org.
Learn more at www.thewholeperson.org



The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives



NIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE GALA

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, September 15
The Gallery Event Space
61 E 14th St, KCMO

The inaugural Night of Independence Gala will honor individuals and organizations that are working to further The Whole Person's mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently.

The evening will feature dinner, dancing, an auction, and balloon pop.

Tickets will be available for purchase at thewholeperson.org
Sponsorship opportunities available
Contact Terri Goddard, at 816-627-2220, tgoddard@thewholeperson.org.