



The Whole Person

People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

Winter 2012 Newsletter

Volume 36

The Whole Person assists people with disabilities to live independently and encourages change within the community to expand opportunities for independent living.

The healthier you are, the more you are able to do.

For the general population, participation in health promotion and wellness programs has been shown to improve quality of life and overall health, reduce medical care costs and lower mortality rates. Living Well With A Disability (LWD) is a health promotion and wellness workshop facilitated by The Whole Person and designed by researchers at The University of Montana Rural Institute on Disabilities and the University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living in collaboration with centers for independent living and their consumers.

Participants discover how their lifestyle affects their disability, how meaningful life goals can help them develop healthy living habits and how healthy living habits create new possibilities for their lives.

"After participating in Living Well, I now know that I can solve problems. I am not so overwhelmed when life just happens," says a young adult who recently graduated from the program. Faye Skidmore, Director of Mental Health Services for The Whole Person, shares, *"The best day of the week is the day I facilitate the Living Well class. You see their (participants') growth each week, and smile knowing you are affecting lives in a positive way. Through peer mentoring, students form relationships with one another and help*



Recent LWD graduates

each other with solutions to the issues they are facing. You see them envision this new way of life for themselves... and that is what we hope for."

Parent and guardians can have a hard time "letting go" because their vision of independence is oftentimes different from their young adult's/person's. Parental participation is encouraged so that they can understand the goal-setting and problem-solving skills their young adult/person is developing.

Students move to a maintenance group upon graduation that meets once a month participating in topical discussions to help them continue healthy living habits. Depression, isolation, social anxiety, health and

communication issues are kept in check by supporting and updating one another on their goals, successes and struggles.

Through the course, Shaquille, a recent graduate of LWD, learned more about himself and how to overcome obstacles. *"It is a good program,"* says Shaquille, *"It opens you up to different viewpoints and has helped me discover new activities that I enjoy."* Yesenia, another recent graduate shared, *"The best part of LWD was finding people like me with similar disabilities in situations I can relate to. It is hard to find people who I can REALLY relate to."*

For more information, or to sign up for the next course, contact Faye Skidmore at 913.262.1294, or send an email to fskidmore@thewholeperson.org.

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Upcoming Events:

KC CakeFest

March 3-4, 2012

Kansas City Convention Center

Mike Elder and Black Sheep Custom Cakes present a cake and sugar art show and exposition with live TV-style cake challenges featuring the nation's biggest cake stars. Join us for family activities, celebrities, cake decorating classes, contests and more. Proceeds benefit The Whole Person.

Expressions Art Show

May 4, 2012

The Jones Gallery

1717 Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri

Expressions is a First Fridays art show featuring the work of artists with disabilities. Join us for live entertainment, raffle prizes, wine and cheese and an opportunity to meet local artists. This event is free and open to the public with a private reception for sponsors and donors.

Celebration Awards Luncheon

August 17, 2012

Hyatt Regency Crown Center Ballroom

The Celebration Awards Luncheon raises funds for The Whole Person while recognizing community advocates helping to further our mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently.

TWP Support Groups:

LGBT Social Support Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

4501 Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri

For more information, contact

Shelley Rogers at 913.262.1294

or email srogers@thewholeperson.org

Living Well - Mental Health Peer Group

Group meets on Wednesday evenings

twice a month. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

The Whole Person, 7301 Mission Road, Suite 133, Prairie Village, Kansas

For more information, contact

Faye Skidmore at 913.262.1294

or email fskidmore@thewholeperson.org

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"Exciting Growth"

Reflections from David Robinson, TWP Chief Executive Officer

As I get settled into my 15th year with The Whole Person (TWP), I am astonished at the changes we have undergone. Although we have experienced growth throughout the last 14 years, never has it been more marked than in 2011.

In 2011, TWP served 2,130 people with disabilities—over 400 more than we served in 2010 and 10 times the number we served in 1997! In addition, we provided information and referral to 2,239 people with disabilities and their families. Much of our growth has come as a result of expanded program offerings, as well as increased outreach efforts to let people know about our services. Included in these numbers are the more than 400 individuals who received assistance from our Employment Services staff and the 11 people we assisted in transitioning from nursing facilities into homes of their own.

Our mission includes community change activities to make our communities accessible to all people with disabilities. Our staff has been instrumental in calling city governments (and others) to task for not complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A significant increase in the number of audible traffic signals is just one result of their efforts.

One of the prevailing problems among centers for independent living throughout the United States is that most people still do not know what we are all about—even after more than 30 years. TWP's marketing department has taken the lead in showing the community who we are, what our mission is, and how our services benefit both the community and all people with disabilities. As a result, many people with disabilities have contacted TWP for services who had not heard about us before.

We are thrilled with our addition of five successful fundraising and public awareness events this past year. We now have four times the number of donors we had in the previous year, due to our new fundraising efforts! We are very grateful to our donors for their generosity and for supporting our mission.

In 2011, TWP was fortunate to acquire the Goodenow Textile Building at 3710 Main St. in midtown Kansas City. Our dream is to renovate the building's 38,000 square feet into a universally designed office and community space. Construction is underway and we hope to show our community that even a historic building can be renovated to be accessible to all people with disabilities.

By year's end, our Board of Directors had become increasingly diverse with many new members. They bring new talents and experiences to promote our mission. I know the Board of Directors will join me in expressing our gratitude and excitement for the growth and support to come in 2012!

KYEA and the Ability to Serve Project

Located in Topeka, Kansas, the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) serves youths with disabilities all across the state. The KYEA mission is to educate, mentor and support youths with disabilities to be contributing members of their community. They are currently working on a project with the Kansas Volunteer Commission called "Ability to Serve" which encourages people with disabilities to volunteer, and encourages agencies to recruit people with disabilities as volunteers. Have you ever been told that because you have a disability you are unable to positively impact your community? You can change the lives of others, change perceptions and improve your skills by volunteering. Call your local volunteer center or KYEA at 866.577.5932 today for help finding the best use of your abilities for your community. Visit kanserve.org online and explore your ability to SERVE!





Chief Executive Officer David C. Robinson welcomes the crowd at the Construction Kickoff event.



Artist's rendering of new TWP building.



Mayor Sly James spoke about the new facility's contribution to Kansas City.

The Whole Person Begins Universal Design Renovation of Historic Kansas City Building

Community Expresses Excitement for Unique Project

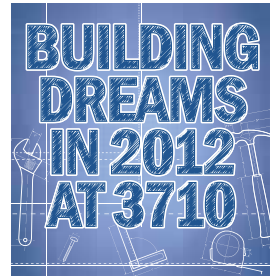
On July 26th, The Whole Person held a public reception to celebrate the beginning of renovation of our new facility, the historic Goodenow Textile building at 3710 Main, Kansas City, MO.

Nearly 125 guests attended the outdoor event which included remarks by Mayor Sly James; Jim Sangster, President, UMB Bank; Peter Sloan, 360 Architecture; Richard Wetzel, Centric Projects; and Diane Burnette, Main Street Corridor Development Corporation.

Speakers and guests of the event expressed excitement for The Whole Person to begin renovating the historic building following universal design principals, making it accessible to people with or without disabilities. This project is the first of its kind in the Kansas City area.

Mayor Sly James shared the enthusiasm, *"This building is going to be absolutely amazing when it is finished."* He continued, *"Revitalizing the area is essential not just to this corridor but to this city... I hope that you fully and completely utilize the building and pass on the spirit that comes with being in a new building, serving those who need to be served, and being served with honor and dignity in a great building, in a great location, in a great city."*

"We are thrilled to be on the cutting edge of developing a building that is entirely accessible to anyone who approaches it." - Richard Wetzel, Centric Projects



Diane Burnette of MainCor, Richard Wetzel of Centric Projects, and Peter Sloan of 360 Architects were among the partners hammering in ceremonial nails to begin construction on TWP's new location.



"If it weren't for The Whole Person, I'm not sure where we would have turned. This program has allowed my daughter to continue her rehabilitation in a stable atmosphere and familiar environment that has allowed her to achieve her goals." – Frances L. Boyer, Mother of Ashley Boyer, Consumer Directed Services participant

Be a Part of the Celebration!

The Whole Person (TWP) provides a full range of services for people with disabilities including: Personal Assistance Services, Deinstitutionalization, Employment Services, Independent Living Skills Training, Deaf Services, Individual Advocacy, Peer Counseling, Telecommunications Access Program, Youth Programs, Information and Referral Services, Accessibility Compliance and more.

We ask you to consider a gift to help TWP assist people with disabilities to live independently and encourage change within the community to expand opportunities for independent living. An envelope has been enclosed for your convenience or you may choose to donate securely online at thewholeperson.org. You can also provide support through planned and deferred gifts such as bequests from wills and estates, or by establishing a charitable gift annuity. For more information, please contact Christi Campos at 816.561.0304, ccampos@thewholeperson.org.

Your gifts of cash and other financial assets help us to provide services at no cost for all people with disabilities and their families. Thank you for being a part of The Whole Person!



**A CAKE SHOW LIKE
NO OTHER!**

**Purchase tickets or learn more at
KCCakeFest.com**

20+ Celebrity Cake Artists

Vendors and Exhibitors

Cake Demonstrations and Classes

Cake Expo • Open Cake Competitions

Three Live! TV-Style Cake Challenges

Cupcake Chuck • Cake Dive • Cupcake Flights

**Featuring KC CakeFest's own HouseBand
"RUMBLEJETTS"**

"TWP is so fortunate, grateful, and proud of this special partnership with our friends from KC CakeFest!"

- David C. Robinson, Chief Executive Officer

BE A PART OF KC CAKEFEST

**You can be a part of the cake show
that everyone is talking about!**



Mike Elder, KC CakeFest
Creator and owner of
Black Sheep Custom
Cakes.

Would you like to be a part of a new exciting cake and sugar art show like you've never seen? Then join us for KC CakeFest, a cake show with all proceeds supporting The Whole Person.

On **March 3-4, 2012 at the Kansas City Convention Center**, KC CakeFest will feature competitions, vendors, a Youth Battle, even a *Guinness Book of World Records* attempt, as well as **over a dozen cake-world celebrities** in demos, classes and three TV-style Live Cake Battles.

If you've ever wanted to know what it would be like to see your favorite celebrity cake artists in action...here's your chance!

Celebrity cake artists and judges include:

- **Mike Elder** - KC CakeFest Founder and three-time undefeated champion of TLC's "Ultimate Cake Off"
- **Tony "Tone Tone" Albanese** - TLC's "Cake Boss"
- **Leigh Grode** - Judge of TLC's "Ultimate Cake Off"
- **Debbie Goard** - "Food Network Challenge" and Returning Cake Battle Champion
- **Dana Hebert** - Winner of TLC's "The Next Great Baker"
- **Bob Brougham** - TLC's "Ultimate Cake Off"
- **Yve Rojas** - Seen on CBS's "Survivor - Nicaragua"

KC CakeFest's expo area and vendor booths are free to visit! Tickets to attend the Kid's Cake Battle are \$10.00 each (kids 16 and under free). Tickets for the Live Celebrity Cake Battles are \$40.00 each (kids 7 and under free).

KC CakeFest expects over 3,000 visitors and media coverage from both local and national sources. **This is an opportunity that you don't want to miss!**

Opportunities are still available for sponsors, vendors, and more. **Benefit from exposure, name recognition and other perks while aligning your organization with a worthy cause.**

Remember, all event proceeds will help The Whole Person provide services at no cost for people with disabilities and their families. KC CakeFest is about great people coming together for a great cause, and we hope you will join us! **Purchase tickets or learn more at www.KCCakeFest.com.**

MLB Umpire Steve Palermo Speaks at Celebration Awards Luncheon

Celebrating the independence gained by persons with disabilities who have been impacted by the services we provide.

On August 19th, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center, The Whole Person presented the 1st Annual Celebration Awards Luncheon, recognizing four individuals and businesses who are working to further The Whole Person's mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently.

Award recipients included: Assurant Employee Benefits, Corporate Award; Jeff Stockham, Walgreens, Individual Award; Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, Civic Leader Award; Jean Bailey Smith, The Paul H. Levy Founders Award.

"We wanted to use this luncheon not only to thank the people who are helping us meet our mission, but also to recognize some of Kansas City's biggest advocates for people with disabilities."

- David Robinson
Chief Executive Officer

Fox 4 Anchor Phil Witt served as emcee for the event. The Luncheon's Keynote Speaker was MLB Umpire Steve Palermo, with Debbie Palermo as event Chair. Guests were moved by Palermo's personal story detailing his experience of being left paralyzed below the waist after being struck by a mugger's bullet. After being told he would never walk again, Palermo is now able to walk using a cane and a brace.

The Whole Person was proud to present the first Civic Leader Award to Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II. During his years as Mayor of Kansas City, Congressman Cleaver passionately worked to make several accessibility improvements throughout the city a reality. In his acceptance speech, Cleaver named himself "The Official Lobbyist for The Whole Person." Congressman Cleaver now continues to support legislation to insure the rights of persons with disabilities on Capital Hill.

The Celebration Awards Luncheon was sponsored by 360 Architecture and Centric Projects and helped raise funds for TWP to renovate our new location and expand services.



Push to make crosswalks safer

TWP organized a vigil that turned heads as drivers passed through the intersection of 31st and Main during a rush hour last September. TWP organized the vigil in honor of Chip Bloch who had a visual disability and died a month earlier trying to cross the intersection on his way to work. On the day of the rally, the crosswalk signs beeped to alert those who can't see when it is safe to cross. On the day Bloch crossed, the crosswalks were silent. The retrofit for an audible crosswalk was on the city's next-up list, just two weeks shy of being installed.



Fox 4 Anchor Phil Witt with Debbie and Steve Palermo.



The Whole Person Board of Directors with honored guests.



Over 270 guests attended the luncheon.

"Like Us" on Facebook



Connect with The Whole Person on Facebook and stay up-to-date on what we are doing! Read local stories, learn about events, workshops, support groups, articles of interest on disability issues and seminars in the Kansas City area. Join our community online and connect with us!

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Thank You Donors!

We would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations for their generous donations to The Whole Person in 2011. Thanks to increased support from friends like you, TWP has grown over the past year. This growth has allowed TWP to provide more services for people with disabilities, promoting empowerment, independence, self-reliance and integration into the community.

360 Architecture	Dana Chatlin	Grundfos Pumps Corporation	Joseph Marvil	Faye C. Skidmore
A.C. Printing Co., Inc.	Deborah L. Churchill	H&R Block	Joseph Marvil, Jr.	Dan Smith
Bert and Diane Aaron	Dena Clemens	Susie Haake	Joseph L. Matovu	Staley and Sallie Snook
Absolute Access	Gabrielle Collins	Tyreice Haggins	Barbara McHenry	Anthony Sotton
Wanda Rose Adkins	Commerce Bank	Hallmark Corporate Foundation	Meers Advertising	Beth Springgate
AFLAC	Communiversity	Kim Hanrahan	Metzler Brothers Insurance	St. Patrick Parish
Alliant Techsystems, Inc.	Computer Automation	Sarah Hansen	Microsoft Matching Gifts Program	Nancy Stafford
Lake City Ammunition Division	Contract Furnishings	Harry's Country Club	Donna Miller	Starlight Theatre
Rueben Alonso	Ida Mae Cooper	Tarah Hawkins	Jordan Mills	Thomas Stevens
Alphapointe	Alan Corbet	Heartland Combined Federal Campaign	Debra Mishler	Vivian Strand
Americo Life, Inc.	Megan Corlew	Heritage Companies	Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Sheila Styron
Anonymous Donor	Paul Cormaci	Susan Herrin	Erika Moody	Adena Sukaromya
Another Day, Inc.	Crane Family Missions	Steven Holcomb	Dale Mort	Summit Bank of Kansas City
Laura Armato Tyler	Sheryl Cross	Leslie Holt	Kathleen Neil	Susan Richards Johnson and Associates, Inc.
Patricia Arrighi	Regina Culver	Sean Houlihan	Erik Nelson	Heather Swanson
Art of Pizza	Melba Curls	Amy Hughes	Ed O'Malley	H. Lon Swearingen
Associated Audiologists	Monica L. Davis	Husch Blackwell LLP	O'Malley Insurance	Dennis Sweeny
Assurant Employee Benefits	Heather Davison	IronStone Bank	Old Navy	Thomas Sweeny
Jean Bailey Smith and Stephen Smith	Katy Dodd	Kirk Isenhour	Carla Oppenheimer	Elizabeth Swope
Ballet Conservatory of Independence	Jessica Eckert	Dr. Paul Jones	Steve and Debbie Palermo	Tom Terry
Carol Barker	Edwin and Janice Eilert	James Johnson	Paula Panarisi	The Jones Gallery
Malinda Barnett	Marsha Elbasani	Jennifer Johnson	Paul Denzer and Sue Bernstein Fund	The Rehabilitation Institute
Deborah D. Bass	Brian Ellefson	Kansas City Renaissance Festival	Grant R. Peters	The Uptown UMB
Marcy Baumgartner	Alice Ellison	Kansas City Royals	Amy Pieper	UMKC Institute for Human Development
Kenny Beall	Sheila England	Kansas City Star	Steve Pittman	United Access
George and Andrea Beard	Michael Engle	Shawn M. Keller	Heidi and Mike Pollmann	United Cerebral Palsy
Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Inc.	Mischa Epps	Kacee Kellum	Amy Powell	United Way of Greater Kansas City
Ronald L. Bibbs	Barbara Evans	Wallace Kilbourne	Mr. Lee Pulse	Timothy Urban
Tracy Bishop	Chuck Evans	Sara Krajewski	Purses by the Dutchess	Scott Vroegindewey
Barry Bloom	Evans Enterprises	Janice Kroenke	Kevin Quinn	Walgreens
BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas City	Renea Feagin	Kimberly Krueger	Christine Read	Stacey Webb
Michael Bone	Fibromyalgia Coalition International	KU Research and Training Center on Independent Living	Jessie Jill Reyes	Debbi Wedel
N. Diane Boone	Elaine Forrest	Phillip Kudart	Susan Richards Johnson	Elizabeth Wheeler
Alice Brackney	Francis Family Foundation	Lorell LaBoube	Christine Robinson	Mike and Suzie Wiley
Delois Brewer	Don Fredal	Chuck Lavery	David C. Robinson	Alethea Williams
Brandi Brody	Christine Friarson	Ashley Lee	Teresa Ronan	Christy Wineland
Rachelle Bryson	Dr. Kenneth Frick and Dr. Mary E. Kaz	Sally R. Lee	Tim P. Sandusky	Jenny Wolff
Bonnie J. Burgdorf	Paulie Friend	Robert Lemire	Rick Schladweiler	Jean-Paul Wong
Steven Byers	Amy Gaier	Henry Leonard	Carolyn Schowengerdt	Marjorie Yates
Christi Campos	JoAnn Glenn	Martha MacCracken	Dale and Karen Schulte	Zvia Zadock
Clinton and Rebecca Carter	Donna Goeckler	Eugene Mackey	Screenland	Bradley K. Zinn
Christa Cavanaugh	Greater Horizons, c/o Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	Mary Pat Mahoney	Monique Scritchfield	
Centric Projects	Greater Northland Jr. Chamber of Commerce	Virginia Mangler-Bower	ServiceMark Telecom	
Melissa Cernech	Susan Greathouse	Edward and Deanna Markley	John Sharp	
	Lynette and Dennis Gregg		Lisa Shinn	
			Tristan Sherman	
			Wendy Shields	

Volunteers Make Cast 'N Blast a Success

Accessible Outdoor Sporting Event at James A. Reed Wildlife Area

On September 9th, TWP held the annual "Cast 'N Blast" outdoor sports event for people with disabilities. Volunteers from Assurant Employee Benefits, Walgreens and the Missouri Department of Conservation were on hand to assist with fishing, archery and air rifle target shooting. From baiting hooks to serving lunch, these dedicated volunteers ensured that TWP's consumers were able to enjoy a day of accessible outdoor recreation.

"TWP works to promote self-empowerment, independence, and integration into the community for people with disabilities," says David Robinson, Chief Executive Officer of The Whole Person. "We thank our volunteers for helping us put these principles into action with events like Cast 'N Blast."

But Cast 'N Blast is not the only event that TWP's volunteers contribute to. In 2011, over 45 volunteers contributed nearly 1,600 hours of service to TWP, equaling a value of \$28,727. Volunteers help expand services, offset financial limitations, serve as morale boosters and allow staff to attend to daily responsibilities. And because nearly 75% of TWP's volunteers have a disability, these volunteers enhance TWP's presence in the community, becoming advocates and ambassadors for independent living.



Consumer enjoying fishing at Cast 'N Blast!



Staff from Assurant Employee Benefits and Walgreens volunteered at the event.



Consumers enjoyed archery and air rifle target shooting.



VOLUNTEERS ★ MAKE THE ★ DIFFERENCE

Be a Part of the Heart of The Whole Person!

The Whole Person believes that by providing volunteer services we are able to make lasting changes for persons with disabilities and the communities where we all live. Many creative and flexible ways exist to volunteer; you can volunteer as a family, a group, a club or as an individual. Volunteers can also work from a remote site such as their homes or while they are away at school.

Here are a few ways where we need your help:

- Help with yard care or snow removal*
- Volunteer to build ramps at homes of people with disabilities*
- Help with filing or updating resources
- Join one of our event committees
- Help tutor math or English*
- Help us with our outreach by participating in health and advocacy fairs

*denotes background check required

TWP Vehicles Turning Heads

The Whole Person received a lot of attention with our award-winning commercial, our fabulous First Fridays Art Show, the construction kickoff at 3710 Main, and our Celebration Awards Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency last year, but daily, many eyes have learned about us simply by sitting at a stoplight. Our existing bus and vans were given a makeover when we "wrapped them" with TWP-branded graphics featuring silhouette images of a couple of our staff members. Visibility is important to any organization, and recent polls show that 90% of travellers notice graphics on wrapped vehicles, and 75% of consumers form impressions about an organization based on their fleet graphics. These vehicle wraps were the perfect way to get the word about TWP to the community in an unconventional way. Look for us around town!



Become a TWP Volunteer!

We would love to have you join us as a volunteer! For more information or questions, contact:

Mary Pat Mahoney 816-561-0304
mmahoney@thewholeperson.org
or at thewholeperson.org

Volunteer Vision Statement

Volunteers provide support for the people we serve, other volunteers, and staff by utilizing their leadership skills, talents and passion for the work and advancement of The Whole Person.

3420 Broadway, Suite 105
Kansas City, MO 64111
thewholeperson.org

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

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About TWP

The Whole Person is a Center for Independent Living founded in 1978. We are a private, nonresidential, nonprofit corporation providing a full range of community-based services for people with disabilities.

Board of Directors:

President - Brian Ellefson
Vice President - Joe Marvil
Secretary - Joann Davis
Treasurer - Venkata Vadlamani
Jim Atwater
Jim Barnes
Kirk Goodman
Steve Hurst
Chuck Lavery
Theresa Mayfield
Rick O'Neal
Dan Smith
Timothy L. Urban

Chief Executive Officer

David C. Robinson

*Providing services at no charge
for all people with disabilities.*

thewholeperson.org
info@thewholeperson.org

LOCATIONS:

Kansas City, MO
3420 Broadway, Suite 105
Kansas City, MO 64111
816.561.0304
fax 816.753.8163

Gladstone, MO
310 NW Englewood Rd., Ste. 200
Gladstone, MO 64118
816.561.0304
fax 816.413.8707

Prairie Village, KS
7301 Mission Rd., Suite 135
Prairie Village, KS 66208
913.262.1294
fax 913.262.2392

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SHOW
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OTHER!**

MARCH 3-4, 2012
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Kansas City, MO**
— All proceeds go to —

 **The Whole Person**
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

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KC CakeFest!**
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to get involved!