The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need.

The Whole Family Project

How does a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or nonverbal due to other conditions such as Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy or childhood Apraxia learn to communicate?

Sign language skills can provide a much needed solution and help families better communicate with their children. The Whole Family Project provides free sign language instruction to families who have a child living in the home with a hearing or speech disability who would benefit learning visual communication. Only infants and children up to 12 years are eligible for this program.

As with spoken language, the introduction of sign language is done through the parents as first teachers. The earlier the intervention, the better the outcome. Parents are taught signs they will need as their child grows, always staying ahead of the curve. The Whole Family Project encourages anyone who regularly engages with the child be involved in the language sessions, which meet once a week for a minimum of 4 months.









The Goal of The Whole Family Project

Through individualized instruction in sign language, The Whole Family Project seeks to increase the ability of families to communicate with their children who are deaf or nonverbal, while increasing their knowledge and understanding of deafness, the deaf community and available options for their children.

How Does It Work?

The Whole Family Project provides each family with their own qualified tutor. These tutors will tailor the lessons to meet the unique communication needs of each family.

The Whole Family Project employs tutors with a wide variety of sign language experience and backgrounds. Tutors may be interpreters, family members of a deaf individual, or deaf themselves.

For more information contact:
Jacob Marshall
Whole Family Project Specialist
816.627.2233 or
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Mission Statement

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 Statement

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

Core Values

The core values will influence how we interact with each other, guide how we go about our work and fulfill our mission.

- Respect
- Integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Committed
- Collaboration

Who We Serve

- People with disabilities
- Parents, spouses, siblings and significant others of people with disabilities
- Schools
- Businesses
- Local government agencies
- Volunteer organizations
- Hospitals, health organizations and the medical community
- Civic organizations
- Churches/religious organizations
- Veterans
- Any individual or organization seeking assistance

Programs

- Independent Living Services
- Personal Assistant Services
- Employment Services
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- The Whole Family Project
- Mental Health Services
- Transition Services
- Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

Support Groups

Through peer groups there is a full exchange of brainstorming, problem solving, and sharing of concerns, successes, and ways to address issues. Peer groups meet 1-2 times a month.
Visit our website for more information about each of these groups, meeting dates, locations and contact information for each facilitator.

Community Outreach

The Whole Person provides education on disability etiquette, including reasonable accommodations and accepted social interaction, as well as why disability awareness is important. Visit our website to arrange a presentation for your company or organization.

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To learn more about TWP, visit thewholeperson.org

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United Way