

TWP CONNECTS

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 20

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 2020 Elections at TWP
- 3 Virtual Gatsby Gala
- 4 2020 at TWP
- 5 Volunteering at TWP
- 6 Catering and Employment Abilities
- 7 Adaptive Sports
- 8 Contact Information

Your #GivingCan Change Lives

We know that this has been a tough year for everyone. Like many small businesses, many area non-profits have had to close their doors when people need them the most. We realize that we are all in this together and that you may not be able to make your usual year-end donations in these uncertain times. While we need your support now, more than ever, we empathize with what is happening in our community and in our world.

Did you know that donors can deduct more of their charitable donations than ever before? But only for the rest of 2020!

For more information on the Cares Act go to:
<https://amplifinp.com/blog/cares-act/>

While COVID-19 turned the world upside down in March of 2020, The Whole Person kept right on going. All essential services continued. TWP continued to meet the needs of our consumers, many of whom are among the most at risk, by providing meal boxes, cleaning supplies, transportation, emergency housing, and many other services. The need is still there and will only increase in the coming months.

Your **#givingcan** help us fulfill our mission, keep up with operational needs and meet the ever-changing needs of people with disabilities in our community. There are many ways that you can help.

- Volunteer
(thewholeperson.org/volunteer)

- Join our monthly giving program – Advocates of Honor
(thewholeperson.org/honor)
- Make a one-time year-end contribution and get an even bigger tax deduction this year.
(thewholeperson.org/donate
thewholeperson.org/givingcan)

We know this year has been tough, which is why we want you to know that every gift, no matter how large or small, is appreciated and put to good use. Our year-end campaign is vital during a normal year – this year the stakes are even higher and we ask you to consider The Whole Person if you can make a gift this year. Kansas City is a better place because of people like you who support organizations like TWP. Our services are essential for the more than 2,000 people we serve.



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

Carla Oppenheimer, *President*

Marcia Klostermann, *Vice President*

Mike McCord, *Secretary*

Chris Albright, *Treasurer*

CJ Charbonneau

Don Harkins

Ash Jain

DaRon McGee

Michael Nava

Patricia Stillwell



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

2020 Election Season at TWP

Record numbers of voters turned out across the nation to make their voices heard during the 2020 election season. Election activities at The Whole Person have been no different.

The pandemic created unique opportunities for innovative solutions to help voters continue to exercise their right to vote. In order to ensure access for everyone, The Whole Person became a central poll for Kansas City residents in Jackson County this year.

Between the August primary and November general elections, we safely offered free rides to the polls, notarized 55 ballots, and provided space for THOUSANDS of people to cast their votes.

Some voted for the first time in their lives. And many, who probably never would have heard of The Whole Person otherwise, eagerly learned about the services we provide and how they assist people with disabilities to live with dignity in the community.

It is important to vote because city, state, and federal laws determine the accessibility of public spaces, transportation,



healthcare, education and so much more that impacts our day-to-day lives.

Great news! You do not have to wait until the next election to be involved in your democracy. We offer a peer support group that meets year-round, where you can learn about how government works, communicate with elected officials and advocate for positive change in your community.

The Consumer Advocacy Group meets virtually every fourth Tuesday of the month. Contact Kendra Burgess, Public Policy Coordinator, at 816-627-2204 or kburgess@thewholeperson.org to join.

Kendra Burgess, *Public Policy Coordinator*



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
- Benefits Enrollment Center
- Kansas Resident Services
- Transition Services
- The Whole Family Project
- Blindness Low Vision Experience
- Youth and Adult Services
- Adaptive Sports
- Legal Services

TWP's VIRTUAL Gatsby Gala

The Night of Independence Awards Gala is The Whole Person's largest fundraiser each year and supports the vast number of programs and services we provide for people with disabilities in the Kansas City area. This year's theme was Gatsby Gala, but like many other things this year, change was necessary.

The health and safety of our supporters is always our number one priority, so due to concerns about the impact of COVID-19, we pivoted the format of this year's event to be a Virtual Gala. A lot of time and love went into making this event a fun and memorable occasion that still brought people together, and we were able to share some of TWP's successes and consumer stories from 2020. Many people hosted smaller house parties and TWP offered wonderful Party Pack options prepared by TWP

Catering and Chef Tiffany Bohm-Taff. This year's Gala committee was led by Co-Chairs John Miller and Jordan Ward, and CJ and Scott Charbonneau served as the 2020 Honorary Chairs. Many thanks to the committee and our chairs for all their hard work in making this event happen this year.

All in all, a Roaring Good Time was had by all. Thank you to all of the sponsors who stuck with us in a very tough year and thanks to all of our ticket buyers, auction donors and bidders. YOU helped us raise in excess of \$87,000! Special thanks to Utopia Entertainment, who produced our event and our new videos, and to Raising Paddles, our wonderful auctioneering company. Your guidance and support was a key factor in our success.



(Top) Virtual Gatsby Gala House party hosted by CEO Julie DeJean (left) and attended by Teri Jones, Michele Brown and Linda Sherman.
(Bottom Left) Since we could not meet in person, videos played an important part of the event. Many of the videos were shot in the TWP Community Room.
(Bottom Right) Volunteer of the Year award winner Poppy Di Candeloro at a home party during the virtual Gala.

2020 Night of Independence Award Winners

Paul Titterington
Individual Award

Mobility First
Corporation/Organization Award

Poppy Di Candeloro
Volunteer of the Year

UMB Bank
Corporate Volunteer Group
of the Year

Support from:



CJ & SCOTT
CHARBONNEAU



Miller-Mellor
Association

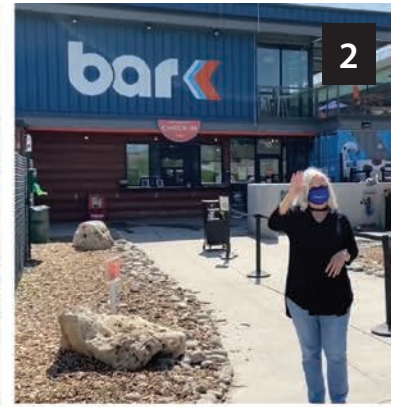


Buttonwood
Financial Group

Crema



2020 AT TWP



1. The TWP Getting Social Peer Group visited the Kansas City Zoo in October. **2.** Micki hosted an event for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals at Bar K during Deaf and Hard of Hearing Month. **3.** Evelyn in our Kansas office stands by the PPE that was offered to consumers during the pandemic. **4.** TWP staff took a socially distanced photo in support of our Night of Independence Virtual Gala that was held in September. **5.** A group of TWP employees called "The Lunch Bunch" made 250 sandwiches for the KC Heroes picnic. **6.** Mark installed the new washer and dryer at TWP to help educate consumers on the important skill of doing laundry. **7.** Sporting Kansas City players teamed up with The Whole Person and Mobility First to give kids a chance to play soccer at Sporting KC's Soccer For All Abilities Clinic. **8.** Micki teaches an ASL class at TWP.

VOLUNTEERING WITH TWP



The Whole Person held our annual Planting Independence event on October 3. Photos 1-6 show some of the many volunteers who made this day possible! **1.** Worcester and Numotion combined forces at a house. **2.** Westlake Ace Hardware participated with three groups. This group tamed a wild fence. **3.** UMB teamed up to clean 2 yards. **4.** This group was led by Ability KC. **5.** Students from Liberty North High School and employees from TWP cleaned a backyard. **6.** The Junior League of Kansas City got in on the event. **7.** The Centurions came to TWP on a Friday to help clean up OUR yard! **8.** The Aviation Institute of Maintenance gave free oil changes for consumers and caregivers.

EVENT CALENDAR

Due to the Coronavirus orders, our event calendar changes frequently. For specific locations and times of the events listed, visit our calendar at thewholeperson.org.

DEC. 1, 15:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

DEC 2, 9, 16

KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

DEC. 10:

Brain Injury Support Group

DEC. 22

Virtual Consumer Advocacy Group

DEC, 24, 25, 31, JAN. 1:

TWP Office Closed for holidays

TWP 101 TUESDAYS MISSOURI OFFICE

Learn the basics about The Whole Person (who we are, what we do, who we serve, and how you can help). Attend in-person or via Zoom.

Building tour begins at 11:45 am. **FREE box lunch provided for those attending in person.** Session ends promptly at 1:00 pm.

Please RSVP by the Friday before each month's session/luncheon at thewholeperson.org/TWP101.

For more information, contact:
Terri Goddard, 816-627-2220
tgoddard@thewholeperson.org.

**CLASS IS IN SESSION
ON THESE
2021 DATES:**

- January 19
- February 16
- March 16
- April 20
- May 18
- June 15



PROGRAMS

SERVICES

The Whole Person Catering and EmployAbilities Update

The Whole Person Catering reopened its doors to the public November 10, 2020. Chef Tiffany Bohm-Taff was eager to get back into the kitchen and continue to serve our dedicated customers.

We are excited to also get our EmployAbilities program back up and running! The next group of EmployAbilities participants are set to begin in January 2021.

Last July, The Whole Person received a CARF Accreditation in "Employment Skills Training." This accreditation is a giant step closer to the EmployAbilities

program becoming state funded so more participants may enroll in the program. Upon completion of the program, participating consumers may obtain jobs in the food service industry.

There are still spots available for our next class beginning in January 2021. Contact Employment Services Manager Katie Crump at kcrump@thewholeperson.org or 816-872-1616 to reserve your spot today.

Order online at:
www.thewholepersoncatering.com



Chef Tiffany is back in the kitchen!

Mona Randolph and The Whole Person

No one would want to have polio, but catastrophes can have good endings. Here is the story of one of The Whole Person's founding members.

My wife, Mona Jean Randolph, died February 18, 2019 from long delayed effects of polio. She was in a wheelchair during the day and an iron lung at night. Summing up 82 years of a rich full life in 50 words:

1. Mona survived polio
2. She was an energetic and effective advocate for people with disabilities (see a curb cut, think of Mona)

3. She married a husband, to whom she gave great joy, and who loved her dearly in return
4. She lived independently for 46 years while continually ministering to others

How did she do that?

In 1956, when Mona was 20 years old, she had a worsening headache. Light hurt her eyes. She had trouble walking, then breathing. She was rushed to Saint Luke's hospital. It was polio. They put her in an iron lung. They saved her life. Six months later, she was able to travel to Warm Springs, Georgia, where every-

thing the medical staff knew was invested in her recovery. While she improved, she realized she would have to give up piano – a harder adjustment that realizing she would never walk again. After seven months, Mona was released to go home with a wheelchair for daytime and an iron lung for night.



*(Above) Mona Randolph.
(Bottom left) Mona in an Iron Lung.*



In 1972, Mona bought a home at 55th and Oak and graciously ministered to others. She said, "...It was sometimes hard on my nerves, but that year was good for my faith." God kept a promise to give Mona a life partner and soul mate to marry, and we cherished and nurtured each other. She helped form a local chapter of the National Paraplegic Foundation and within five years, they achieved two goals: compile and distribute a guide on accessibility to architects and obtain a city ordinance requiring curb cuts. The chapter evolved into The Whole Person. I am honored to be Mona's husband and to share some of her remarkable life's story with TWP.

–Mark Randolph

Closing Gaps in Accessible Sports

Accessible Sports of Greater Kansas City (AS-GKC.net) was initiated by TWP in 2018 with local community partners who bring unique, accessible programming to sports and recreation in the bi-state Kansas City area. Grants from the Health Forward Foundation have supported this new web-based network of community partners who also meet in person and via Zoom at quarterly Accessible Sports Regional Roundtable meetings. At each Roundtable, stakeholders address gaps in communication and collaboration as well as gaps in access to adaptive and accessible sports programs and venues for people of all ages with disabilities. Check out AS-GKC's Community Partners and their programs here! www.as-gkc.net/partners

Part of AS-GKC is an initiative called "Educate the Educators," directed by

community partner Midwest Adaptive Sports (MAS). MAS is working to increase middle and high school students' critical thinking skills as well as knowledge and awareness of people with disabilities. Last year, MAS successfully presented their workshops in 10 area school assemblies, reaching over 4,500 students in the Kansas City Area with their message of inclusion.

AS-GKC needs your help encouraging people with an interest in local adaptive and accessible sports and recreation to share their experiences via our online survey. Please let your voice be heard! If there is anyone that you feel would provide good feedback, please encourage them to take the survey.

Here is a link to take the survey on your personal device:
www.as-gkc.net/gapssurvey

TWP Adaptive Sports

TWP works toward accomplishing its mission through many avenues, including Adaptive Sports. Our Adaptive Sports Program partners with other organizations throughout the Greater Kansas City area in order to provide both competitive and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

Participating athletes will be introduced to a knowledgeable array of community leaders who are passionate about sharing their expertise within their specialized field. Our athletes not only learn how to improve their athletic skills, but also learn useful life skills through the power of teamwork.

2020 has been rough on everyone, so TWP is very excited to restart our adaptive sport programs. Here are some opportunities to look forward to in 2021!

The **KC No Coast Tennis Program** is an adaptive tennis program for adults with physical disabilities who play the game at a competitive level. The team competes throughout the Midwest Region at tournaments sanctioned by the United States Tennis Association. The skills of the team range from beginner to advanced. As

players compete in tournaments and win matches they can accumulate points, which ultimately improve their national rankings.

Tennis for All Abilities holds entry level and recreational tennis sessions. TWP teaches basic racquet techniques, mobility techniques, and the basic rules of the game. These beginner sessions are centered around having fun and improving everyone's basic skills. Sessions are not focused on actual match play but on individual goals for each athlete.

Power Soccer is the first competitive team sport designed and developed specifically for power wheelchair users. The athlete's disabilities range from quadriplegia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, and more. The game is played on a regulation-sized basketball court. Two teams of four players attack, defend, and spin-kick a 13-inch soccer ball in a game very similar to able-bodied soccer.

Please check the following websites for up-to-date information on adaptive sports: TheWholePerson.org and AS-GKC.net

Grants Roundup

Grant requests in FY 2020, which ended September 30th, brought in \$364,509 for TWP programs and services benefiting people with disabilities. Funders included the Francis Family Foundation, ArtsKC, HUD/CDBG, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, Sherman Family Foundation, PhRMA, Missouri Arts Council, Health Forward, United Way, RA Long Foundation, and Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. Additional generous COVID Relief grants were also received. TWP is grateful for all our grant funders in an especially challenging year.

Thanks to all of our 2020 Advocates of Honor

Advocates of Honor is TWP's monthly giving club. Members receive recognition on our website, in our quarterly newsletter, in our annual report and in the program for our annual Gala. Thank you to all of our 2020 Advocates of Honor.

Mrs. Tiffany Bohm-Taff
Ms. Stephanie Boykin-Brand
Ms. Laura Casselman | Ms. Kari Chester
Ms. Julie Corrigan | Ms. Judy Delphia
Mrs. Sherry Duncan | Mr. Brian Francis
Ms. Ashley Frerking | Mrs. Nadia Fry
Ms. Terri Goddard | Mrs. Karen Gridley
Ms. Briana Haines | Ms. Aida Halaoui
Ms. Jaylene Hansen | Mr. Shaun Harris
Ms. Jennifer Hertha | Ms. Doshon Hunley
Mr. Jim Johnson | Ms. Teri Jones
Mr. Christopher Josaphat | Ms. Barb King
Ms. Kim Krueger | Mr. Kerry Matson
Mr. Justin McWilliams
Mr. Samuel McWilliams
Mr. Gary Miles | Mrs. Patricia Mullen
Ms. Carla Norcott-Mahany
Mr. Charles Porter | Mr. Jason Purinton
Ms. Chekasha Ramsey
Ms. Rachel Rilinger | Mr. Mike Wiley
Ms. Shannon Springer
Mr. Thomas Sweeny | Mrs. Monique Todd
Ms. Pallavi Vikram Arcot
Ms. Alicia Wofford | Ms. Callie Yeater
For more information on how to sign up, visit us on the web at thewholeperson.org/donate or contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220.

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

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

**RECEIVE OUR
NEWSLETTER
BY EMAIL!**

Sign up at:
thewholeperson.org/newsletter



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

PRESENTATIONS:

- TWP Services
- Disability Awareness and People First Language Training
- Universal Design Building Tours at The Whole Person
- ADA Assessments

For more information on presentations for your place of business, contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager, at tgoddard@thewholeperson.org or call 816-627-2220.



EXPRESSIONS

FEATURING ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES

11th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition

Call for Artists is Open!
Deadline to apply is Jan. 30, 2021

Apply at:
www.thewholeperson.org/expressions

Opening Reception:
Friday, March 5, 2021
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Rochester Brewing & Roasting Company
2129 Washington St | KCMO 64108

www.thewholeperson.org/expressions

Local health and safety protocols observed.



Pickleball and Cornhole Tournament

Benefitting The Whole Person's
Adaptive Sports Programs

**Sunday
July 11, 2021
5-8pm**

Chicken N Pickle.
KANSAS CITY

Chicken N Pickle (NKC)
1761 Burlington St.
North Kansas City, MO