



The Whole Person

People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

ANNUAL REPORT FY15/16

CONNECTIONS
THAT CHANGE LIVES.

ENGAGEMENT
THAT BUILDS COMMUNITIES.



Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need is the anchor of our work at The Whole Person.

Businesses, boards, companies and civic groups are all made stronger when the effort is made to welcome more voices to the table. The Whole Person (TWP) is integral to that process in Kansas City.



More and more, we are also connecting our community to information, resources and opportunities they need to be more diverse – more inclusive.

We are reimagining the idea of what a nonprofit can be – and reinventing our role in making our Kansas City communities more inclusive and accessible for all.

TWP programs engage volunteers and advocates to build and support the independence of our consumers. Events like our Expressions Art Exhibition are evolving to include wider audiences and create even more interaction among many different groups in an increasingly diverse Kansas City.

We will continue to amplify our role as thought leaders in the ongoing conversation about independence, inclusion and advocacy for people with disabilities in all the counties we serve.



Our 2016 Annual Report gives you a snapshot of where we are – and an inspiring look at where we're going.

Thank you for helping TWP create connections that change lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie DeJean".

Julie DeJean, *Chief Executive Officer*

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Our 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.

Our Vision

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

Core Values

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

- Respect
- Integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Committed
- Collaboration

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of The Whole Person to support our organization's mission and needs.

All members of the Board support our programs and services through committee work and financial support. In addition, at least 51% of our Board Members are people with significant disabilities and serve as role models for our consumers.

Board Members FY15/16:

Rick O'Neal, President
Jim Atwater, Vice President
Michelle Ford, Secretary
Tim Urban, Treasurer
Bob Cantin
Joseph Matovu
Jennifer Wyatt

Consumers Receiving One or More Services

2,005

Information and Referral Services

1,440

Personal Assistance Services

951

Independent Living Skills and Life Skills Training

147

Vocational Services

136

Peer Counseling Services

86

Youth Transition Services

71 Advocacy/Legal Services

46 Housing, Home Modifications & Shelter Services

25 Communication Services

15 Assistive Technology

21 Other Services (<15)

(Recreational Services, Transportation, Counseling and Related Services, Family Services, Misc. Services)

Core Services

- Information & Referral Services
- Independent Living Services
- Individual & Systems Advocacy
- Peer Support & Mentoring
- Transition Services

Other Services

- Personal Care Assistance
- Employment Services
- Blindness Low Vision Experience
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- The Whole Family Project
- Youth Services
- Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)
- In-Home Care
- Mental Health Services

Gender

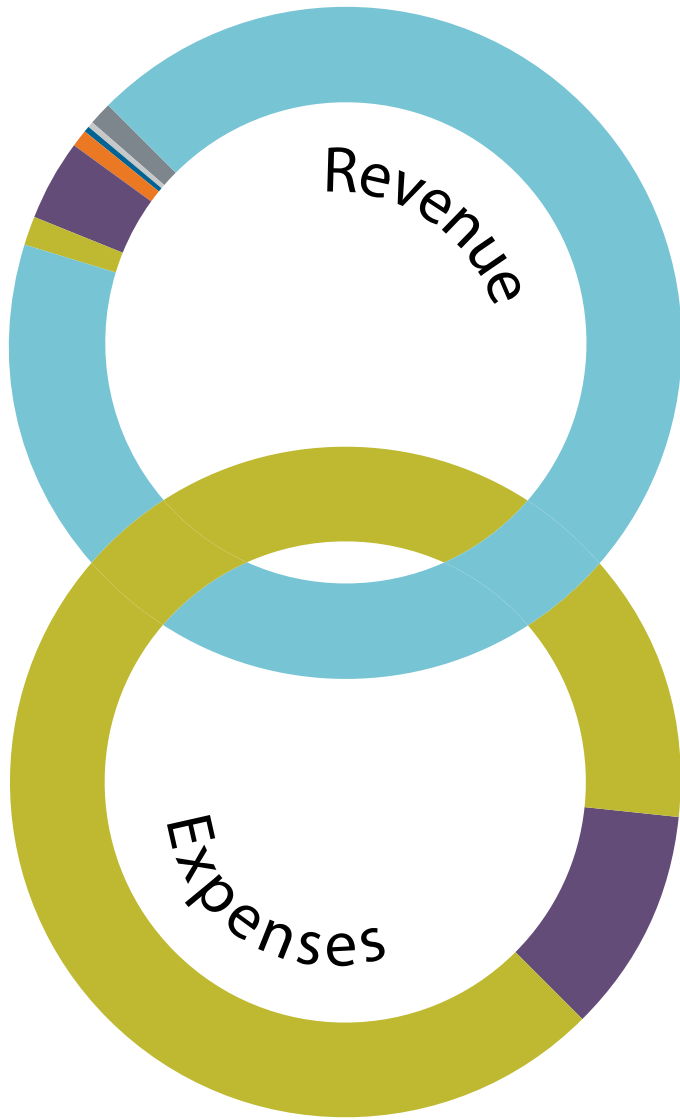
- Female 61%
- Male 39%

Total number of active Missouri and Kansas consumers served during the reporting year - 2,222



Disabilities Served

- Cognitive 11%
- Mental/Emotional 2%
- Physical 24%
- Hearing 3%
- Vision 1%
- Multiple Disabilities 54%
- Other 5%



Revenue \$27,522,844

- Government fees for services **92%**
- Government grants **1.2%**
- Other fees for services **4%**
- Individual, foundation, corporate support **.8%**
- United Way **.3%**
- Realized/unrealized gain on investments **.5%**
- Other **1%**
- Interest and dividends **.2%**
(too small to be illustrated on graph)

Expenses \$26,730,077

- Programs
- Management and general

“We all need to be involved to make the city the best it can be ... thanks to our generous volunteers, donors and advocates TWP is a touchstone for the community.”

- Julie DeJean, Chief Executive Officer

PDF version of this report may be found on our website at thewholeperson.org/report

**CONNECTIONS
THAT GIVE FREEDOM**

**CONNECTIONS
THAT OPEN UP
OPPORTUNITIES**



Connecting with Consumers

The Whole Person began a Home Modification program in 2015. Supported by grants, home modifications are physical changes made to homes to accommodate for physical obstacles people experience due to their disability. These changes enable people to stay in the home of their choice or age in place. The following is a letter from a consumer who benefited from this program.



To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 61-year-old gentleman with a disability. I have a power chair I was unable to use outside my home because I didn't have a ramp. As a result, I was virtually a homebound shut-in.

This past spring, Ron from The Whole Person came out to my home and evaluated the situation. He found that a ramp could easily be installed to fit my specific needs. Shortly after Ron's visit, a professional contractor came out and within a short time, he installed a wonderful, professionally built porch ramp that works for my needs exactly!

This new ramp has given me back the freedom to go out in public and lead an independent life. In the future, I hope TWP can help a lot of people that are or were in my situation.

I can't thank everyone at The Whole Person enough for changing my life for the better. God bless all of you.

*Sincerely yours,
Larry Goodman*



before



after

Independent living programs include:

- Personal Care Assistance
- In-Home Care
- Living Well with a Disability Workshop
- Peer Support Groups

thewholeperson.org/independent

Connecting with Youth

TWP provides services that meet the transitional, educational, and social needs of youth with disabilities. The goal is to help them learn the independent living skills needed to make a successful transition into adulthood. When teaching advocacy, we often envision how it will help the consumer in his/her job search, daily employment or with a public accessibility issue. But sometimes, the issue of advocacy to be addressed hits even closer to home; even in the home.

Steve's story

Loving caregivers and parents only want the best when caring for someone with a disability. A parent or guardian naturally feels very protective. This was the case with Steve. Steve was raised in a caring environment and as he matured, reaching out for more independence, he began feeling frustrated because, although he would voice his needs, he felt he was not really being heard. What he wanted was to advocate for himself on basic necessities such as medication and a properly fitted wheelchair.

Candice Minear, TWP Independent Living Advocate, met Steve while conducting transition classes. Working together, Candice helped identify and guide him toward his goal. In preparation, he listed immediate issues and with the help of his school counselor, decided to set up a meeting with his parents. Candice and Steve practiced scenarios and had gathered resources to present as solutions. The meeting took place and in spite of an emotional bump or two, navigation of these issues became smoother. His parents came to appreciate the maturity he displayed and hard work he put into this plan. Steve reached out for help to learn advocacy, was given the proper direction and used the proper "tools" to practice advocacy on his own.



ILA Candice Minear in the class room with Youth Transition Students .



Karen Gridley instructs teens about advocating for themselves.

Programs tailored to youth with disabilities include:

- Living Well with a Disability
- High School Youth Transition to Independence Program
- Peer Support Groups
- The Whole Family

thewholeperson.org/youth

Connecting with Volunteers

Our volunteers bring optimism and enthusiasm, while creating opportunities for our consumers to remain independent and in the community of their choice. The volunteer program seeks to build relationships and find meaningful activities while creating lasting results for the people we serve. In other words, our volunteers are the heart of our organization.

Planting Independence

Yard maintenance often poses a problem for people living with disabilities. Planting Independence, TWP's bi-annual event, helps our consumers get a handle on yardwork while avoiding unnecessary fines. It also gives individuals, families, clubs, schools and many other organizations in the Kansas City community the opportunity to volunteer outside while making a difference in the lives of their friends and neighbors with disabilities.



After learning about TWP's Planting Independence event during an outreach presentation at the MS Achievement Center, Rosemary O'Tey asked to be put on the list to have her yard cleaned. She picked up some supplies, but, found the volunteers were well prepared. On Saturday, October 22, 2016, four volunteers came with yard waste bags and other lawn care tools. Rosemary said, "They made my yard look outstanding." Among the tasks that the volunteers performed were raking, cutting small trees growing next to the house and trimming bushes.



This softball team volunteered to help a consumer tame the debris and weeds in her backyard.



Volunteers were a big help at our July Jubilee!

When people volunteer their time and share their talents, they realize immediately how they are changing lives of people with disabilities for the better and creating new possibilities. Volunteering at one of our community events or service programs is a rewarding experience that makes a difference in their lives.

thewholeperson.org/volunteer

Connecting with Partners

Collaborative partnerships are key to the success of our programs and events. Connecting with organizations and agencies throughout the city improves services for our consumers and extends our support. Through working relationships in cross-disability committees, task forces and boards, services throughout the community for people with disabilities are strengthened by providing a holistic approach to assisting consumers in gaining their independence.

Expressions

The Expressions Art Series provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to overcome barriers that may keep them from displaying their art in a professional setting, allowing them to share their perspectives and experiences with the community. The series celebrates artists' abilities and unique talents, adds diversity to the Kansas City arts community, and exposes audiences to art that otherwise might not be seen.

The series began in spring 2016 with the Expressions 5th Anniversary Retrospective, an exhibition of works by artists who have participated in Expressions since 2011.



In April, The Whole Person partnered with the Jones Gallery in the Crossroads, for a preview of the series. The full retrospective was on display at The Whole Person for the month of May before moving to the Leawood Pioneer Library for the summer. Other venues that TWP partnered with to exhibit the series included the ArtsKC Block Party and Main Street Day.

Accessibility options provided for the series include braille and large-print event programs, volunteer guides for descriptive audio tours, sign language interpreters and accessible entrances.

Funders/Supporters of Expressions

The Expressions Art Series was made possible by the generosity of the Francis Family Foundation, ArtsKC and the Missouri Arts Council.



Artist Tina Blatter visits with guests at the Expressions reception during Main Street Day.



Expressions artist Sherri Acosta with one of her paintings at the Jones Gallery.

thewholeperson.org/expressions

Connecting with Supporters

"I became a person with a disability in 1981 when the skywalks fell at the Hyatt. I had a spinal cord injury and became a quadriplegic. I worked with The Whole Person and testified before the city council and the ADA to help with access and building codes, and also worked with various constituents to do panels, sensitivity training, etc. Access is important to all parts of life so that everyone is able to do whatever they want to do in their life." - Sally Firestone, Paul H. Levy Awardee

Celebration Awards

The Whole Person invited the community to help us honor five individuals and businesses who work to further The Whole Person's mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently. The awards were presented at the 6th Annual Celebration Awards Luncheon in August 2016 at the Gallery Event Space in Kansas City's Power and Light District.



Guests were inspired by these champions and the words shared by our keynote speaker, Colonel Greg Gadson. Col. Gadson, a 26 year career Army officer, was injured from an improvised explosive device in May 2007, as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field artillery serving in Iraq. His injuries cost him both legs above the knees and normal use of his right arm and hand.

Colonel Gadson spoke at the luncheon about overcoming his injuries and dealing with aspects of depression. He noted that what helped him most was realizing that he still had responsibilities and it was built into his character to never give up on his dreams and goals. Col. Gadson challenged the audience to consider their own character and strive to be the best person they can every day despite obstacles.

The 2016 Celebration Award Winners were:

- Adam Lane
Individual Contribution Award
- Jackson County Sports Complex Authority
– Civic Leader Award
- The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Corporate/Organization Award
- Finn Bullers - Lifetime Achievement Award
- Sally Firestone – The Paul H. Levy Award



Sally Firestone receives Paul H. Levy Award from CEO Julie DeJean and Board President Rick O'Neal.



Mike Wiley, COO, with Keynote Speaker, Col. Gadson.

thewholeperson.org/gala

Connecting with Neighbors

The July Jubilee, held at The Whole Person headquarters at 37th and Main, is a community celebration observing the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush on July 26th, 1990. The event takes the opportunity to bring visitors to TWP for two days of food, games, artwork, and learning about people with disabilities and how the ADA has improved our society.

July Jubilee

The original idea for the Jubilee came about as a result of the ADA's 25th anniversary in 2015. TWP decided to take advantage of its large parking lot to host a community event for all ages. Over the course of Saturday, July 23, 2016 and the following Monday, July 25, 2016, 700 people attended the event.



While the July Jubilee honors the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the July Jubilee was crafted to honor Kansas City and the Main Street Corridor as well. The Jubilee raised awareness of The Whole Person, and shared information on our programs and services. The Jubilee promoted the neighborhood and Kansas City by including local vendors with their collectibles, books, jewelry, leather goods, toys, clothing, artwork, ceramics, and much more. Guest speakers provided the historic and educational portion of the program by speaking about the ADA and its history.

Highlights of the 2016 July Jubilee included a Chris Cakes pancake fundraiser, entertainment by the Pulse Performing Arts Center, The Golden Stars and the Conga Jim Band. Kansas City Mayor Sly James and other City officials stopped by to share a few words and visit the vendor booths.

The celebration continued on Monday, July 25th, when The Whole Person again opened up the parking lot for consumers, staff and community members to enjoy music, guest speakers, and free hot dogs, popcorn and snow cones. This event would not have been a success without the help and support from our sponsors, staff, vendors, donors and volunteers.



Kansas City Mayor Sly James with members of TWP's Deaf Support Group at the 2016 July Jubilee.



4th District Councilwoman Jolie Justus spoke to July Jubilee attendees about the importance of the ADA.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion.

thewholeperson.org/jubilee

Connecting with Employers

The Whole Person provides several different employment services for people with all types of disabilities. The primary goal of these services is to assist people by obtaining and keeping meaningful employment. We focus on finding people integrated jobs in the community and matching employers with qualified candidates to create a diverse workforce.

Johnathon's story

Johnathon wanted to start working after graduation from high school. He sought help at TWP to find the right job. When he first met one of our employment advocates, depression had gripped him so severely that he decided he was not ready for a job.

Four months later they met again and Johnathon had a new attitude and outlook. He was much happier and ready to begin his job search preparations. During an interview at Petco he exceeded all expectations and the assistant manager was ready to offer him a part-time job, but the official approval had to come from upper management. Petco was not able to offer him the job at that time, but the manager promised to keep him in mind if anything opened up. Johnathon was crushed, but he was also determined and continued to apply for other opportunities. About a month later, a part-time position opened at Petco and they were able to offer it to Johnathon – a major step toward achieving his independence.



Petco team member Johnathon loves his new job!



Katie and Adoria led the Jump Start to Employment class, a pre-employment skills class in partnership with Kansas City area Vocational Rehabilitation Offices.

thewholeperson.org/jobseekers

The Whole Person assists individuals with disabilities by identifying ways to improve career opportunities and find permanent, integrated, and competitive employment. Our program provides services primarily through Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation.

Connecting with Families

The Whole Family Project provides free sign language instruction to families who have a child living in the home, from birth to age 12, with a hearing or speech disability who would benefit learning visual communication. The program employs tutors with a wide variety of sign language experience and backgrounds. They work with families, tailoring their lessons to meet the unique communication needs of each family, as exemplified in the following story.

Scarlet's story

Scarlet has been working with a tutor since she began experiencing communication delays related to Down syndrome at the age of six months. The tutor recognized Scarlet's need to use sign language in her everyday environment outside the home, so she 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, the tutor visited the school in advance and took photographs of the classrooms, Scarlet's teachers, and the big red rug used for story-time in one of the classrooms. The tutor 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-applesauce,” 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 the tutor had provided. The combined efforts of Scarlet, her family, and the tutor allowed her to communicate with the world around her and to feel included in what was happening in her life.



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



The Deaf Peer Support group is very active and made up of individuals and family members.

The Whole Family Project provides free sign language instruction to help families better communicate with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, have speech disabilities or other similar barriers.

thewholeperson.org/thewholefamily

Connecting with Donors

Independent living is about making one's own choices, being fully integrated into society, and having equal opportunities. The Whole Person doesn't just promote this philosophy: we live it. With donations, we can achieve our mission to provide vital programs in the Kansas City Metro Area which empower people with disabilities to live, work, and enjoy their lives with independence, opportunity, and dignity.

Floyd's story

Transportation is one obstacle many people with disabilities face when trying to move about the community. TWP is able to provide transportation to consumers for many activities. Recently, TWP received a donation of an adapted vehicle from Floyd Pentlin after the passing of his wife Susan.

Susan's lifestyle limited her ability to drive and transfer into a vehicle. Floyd and Susan did not own a modified vehicle and instead used the local OATS Bus for appointments. Susan was still limited in her ability to participate in the activities she had always enjoyed before paying for transportation services. The couple found a Toyota Scion with a wheelchair ramp. The freedom of owning their own accessible vehicle gave Susan a sense of normalcy.

When Susan passed away, Floyd decided to donate the vehicle to an organization that supported people with disabilities. After researching TWP and our mission, Floyd decided that TWP would be the best fit for the vehicle. He believed it would empower individuals to be independent.

"I would like to think Susan would want this donation used so people realize that they don't have to be home bound. They can still be active members of society and enjoy being a part of the community."

Support independent living!

Independent living is about making one's own choices, being fully integrated into society, and having equal opportunities.

The Whole Person doesn't just promote this philosophy: we live it.



Monique Todd, Floyd Pentlin and Julie DeJean.



Mike Wiley, COO; Monique Todd, HR Director; and Julie DeJean, CEO, pose with the donated Scion.

thewholeperson.org/donate

Connecting with Advocacy

TWP advocates for the civil rights and equality of people with disabilities by influencing and implementing legislation and policy at the local, state and federal level. Advocacy means working on, supporting or recommending a particular cause or policy. We support a variety of areas including personal advocacy, peer advocacy, systems advocacy and legal advocacy.

Disability Rights Legislative Day

In March, staff, consumers and guests of The Whole Person attended Disability Rights Legislative Day at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City. During our visit, we participated in a rally with speakers Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, Assistant Attorney General Brian Weisel, Representative Kevin Engler, Senators Paul Weiland and Eric Schmitt, and various personal advocates from across the state.

The legislators talked about how meeting people with disabilities influenced how they viewed pending legislation.

After the rally, many of our consumers were able to meet with their representatives and senators to express support for various programs.

TWP was able to share lunch and visit with Rep. Bonnaye Mims and Rep. DaRon McGee in between their votes on the House floor. Consumers and staff were also able to observe both the House and Senate in session during the day. The House of Representatives worked on budget bills and the Senate worked on clarifying items in their journal, which is the historical record of their day-to-day proceedings.

Common types of disability advocacy:

- Self advocacy
- Individual advocacy
- Peer advocacy
- Systems advocacy
- Legal advocacy



Consumers and guests of The Whole Person arrive for Disability Rights Legislative Day in Jefferson City.



Camille with Representative DaRon McGee at Disability Rights Legislative Day in Jefferson City.

thewholeperson.org/advocacy



“WHEN PEOPLE ARE
INCLUDED IN
AND **CONNECTED**
TO THEIR COMMUNITY
THEY ARE
HAPPIER, HEALTHIER
AND MORE **PRODUCTIVE.**”

- LILY D'AMBROSIA



The Whole Person

People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

Social Media



“Like” our Facebook page to view photos, videos, articles, industry updates, event announcements, volunteer opportunities and more! We are also on Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, Vimeo, Google+ and Instagram.

Contact Us

For information regarding our full range of programs and services and ways you can make a difference, contact us at:

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