The Show Must Go On!

This year marks the 11th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition showcasing artists with disabilities and celebrating their abilities and unique talents. Expressions strives to promote artists with disabilities by featuring their work in professionally organized art exhibitions and offering them innovative educational and networking workshops that connect them to the broad regional creative community.

The 2021 Expressions opening reception will be held March 5, from 11:00 am - 7:00 pm at Rochester Brewing & Roasting Company, 2129 Washington Street, Kansas City, Missouri. All current CDC Guidelines regarding the pandemic will be followed. The opening will feature both live and virtual events, and an online gallery will be launched after March 5th.

The exhibition will remain on display at multiple metro area venues through March 2022. Learn more at www.thewholeperson.org/expressions.
Greetings from the TWP Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Department! We hope this newsletter finds you healthy, happy, and warm.

Let’s start off with a little information about what the CDS department is and how we help TWP consumers. The CDS program can assist Missourians who have active Medicaid and a physical disability with activities of daily life such as cooking, cleaning, dressing, bathing, and transportation for essential needs.

Once approved for the program, the consumer will hire someone of their choosing (usually a non-spouse family member or a friend) to assist them. The Personal Care Attendant (PCA) is paid using Medicaid funds. TWP provides payroll services for the PCA and case management such as advocacy for the consumer. TWP case managers will check in with the consumer by phone at least once per month and perform at least one face-to-face home visit per year.

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for the CDS department. COVID-19 has curtailed one of our most important objectives for our consumers – to continue to thrive and participate in their communities. Isolation can be one of the biggest obstacles that someone with a disability can face, and the ongoing pandemic has necessitated even more isolation. TWP’s CDS case managers have done their best to offer suggestions and resources to their consumers such as TWP’s “Getting Social” events that are held on the first Friday of the month from 1-3 pm. One of the most rewarding programs for our case managers was the food box program through which nearly 300 consumers and 200 PCAs were given recipes and ingredients for multiple meals. CDS case managers helped with consumer notification of the program and coordinated pick-up or delivery.

As we move forward into the new year, we are optimistic that some software changes to the system that PCAs use to clock in and out from their shifts with the consumers will streamline the payroll process, while at the same time ensuring that the consumer stays in compliance with federal Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirements. The new system will enable clock ins and outs to be entered from any smartphone with the system app. The app will use GPS to ensure that clock ins and outs are happening from the consumer’s home.

It has been said that hope springs eternal, and we here at the CDS Department certainly hope for a return to normalcy. We look forward to being able to see our consumers on a regular basis again, and assisting in their quests for independence!

Jim Johnson, CDS Manager
www.thewholeperson.org/CDS
In the early months of 2020, Kat and Andrew Collett, owners of With Love Salon in the Crossroads, contacted The Whole Person about featuring us as the philanthropic partner of an annual ‘color’ conference that was to be held in Kansas City, Missouri in July 2020. “We were so excited about this unique fundraising event and to have the opportunity to talk with stylists from all over the country about ways they could make their salons more accessible to their customers,” said Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager at The Whole Person. “And then COVID-19 hit.”

Kat and her team quickly pivoted; they continued with their conference and did everything virtually. TWP offered several video presentations on People First Language and Disability Etiquette. Conference attendees were invited to donate to The Whole Person and in November, Kat and Andrew presented us with a check for $750. Thank you for this unique opportunity.

Farmers Insurance® donated a newly refurbished vehicle to The Whole Person during a special ceremony on Wednesday, November 11 in Shawnee, Kansas. Farmers® worked with local auto body shop Shawnee Mission Ford to “restore the vehicle and help provide reliable transportation to the deserving service organization” as part of the National Auto Body Council (NABC) Recycled Rides® program. Shawnee Mission Ford technicians donated their time and skills for the restoration. Jason Crump, husband of The Whole Person’s Employment Services Manager, Katie Crump, works for Farmers and recommended us for this program.

“Farmers Insurance is dedicated to serving others and building stronger communities where our employees, customers and agents live and work,” said Carly Kraft, external communications manager at Farmers Insurance. “The Farmers team is honored to help donate a vehicle to The Whole Person, an organization focused on making a positive impact in our local community.”

The NABC Recycled Rides® program brings together collision repairers, insurers, and others in the collision industry in an effort to make a difference and give refurbished vehicles to individuals and service organizations that would benefit from reliable transportation. Since the NABC Recycled Rides® program began in 2007, they have donated more than 2,500 vehicles valued at a total of more than $36 million.

Night of Independence Gala 2021

Make plans now to be whisked away by the ambience of the romantic streets of Paris on Friday, September 24 at the Abbott Event Space. The 5th Annual Night of Independence Awards Gala will present An Evening in Paris. The 2021 Gala and planning committee will be led by Jennifer Salva and Logan Weed, a dynamic duo who joined the Gala committee last year and helped make the 2020 Gatsby Gala a success despite shifting to an entirely virtual event due to COVID-19.

Jennifer Salva is an attorney at Kuckelman Torline Kirkland in Overland Park. Prior to entering private practice, she worked in the United States District Court. Jennifer earned her Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Sciences degrees from the University of Kansas.

As a Kansas City native with deep ties on both sides of the state line, Jennifer is driven to pursue meaningful inclusion and justice for individuals of all ability levels in our community. She has volunteered with organizations that create opportunities for individuals with disabilities for over a decade in the Kansas City area. Jennifer also serves on the Board of Editors of the Kansas Bar Association Journal, as Communications Director for the J.L. Weigand Notre Dame Legal Education Trust, and she volunteers with several legal education organizations to provide mentorship to lawyers-in-training.

Currently, Jennifer’s favorite hobby is serving as American Sign Language interpreter for her sister’s Hawaiian Kenpo Karate Classes at the Olathe Karate Academy. Her sister, a graduate of the Kansas School for the Deaf, molded Jennifer’s desire to be an advocate for others, especially those with disabilities and Deaf individuals.

Logan moved to Kansas City in 2019 from Quincy, Illinois after spending four years in the Finger Lakes region of New York. Logan is Project Manager at RCC Framing. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Construction Management from Western Illinois University. In his free time, Logan enjoys playing guitar, collecting records, volunteering, and spending time with his cat, Nico.

2021 Committee members are Jordan Ward, John Miller, Chris Albright, Jessica Barranco, Bruce Kay, Blake Kullman, Hilary Muehlberger and Alex Shipley.

The current plan is for this to be a hybrid event; we will offer in-person tickets along with virtual options. Please visit us on the web for more information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

www.thewholeperson.org/Paris
THE YEAR IN NUMBERS
FY 19/20

CONSUMERS SERVED*
2,430
FEMALE - 1,528
62.9%
MALE - 902
37.1%

DISABILITIES SERVED
MULTIPLE DISABILITIES 51.9%
PHYSICAL 25.7%
COGNITIVE 8.0%
OTHER DISABILITIES 7.1%
MENTAL/EMOTIONAL 2.9%
HEARING 2.7%
VISION 1.8%

REVENUE
$31,956,319
Government Fees for Service 93.5%
$29,873,507
Government Grants 2.4%
$766,126
Other Fees for Service 1.8%
$589,779
Individuals, Foundations, Corporate 1.61%
$509,772
United Way Donor Designated 0.01%
$3,109
Realized/Unrealized Gain on Investments 0.15%
$47,695
Interest and Dividends 0.32%
$102,379
Other Income 0.21%
$63,952

EXPENSES
$31,358,543
Programs 90.3%
$28,307,073
Fundraising 1.76%
$555,606
Management and General Operating 7.94%
$2,495,864

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Members of the Board support our programs and services through committee work and financial contributions.
In addition, more than half of our Board members are people with significant disabilities and serve as role models for our consumers.

BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN 23%
WHITE 62%
HISPANIC OR LATINO 7.5%
OTHER 7.5%

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
255 speaking engagements/events
TWP 101 luncheons, Disability Etiquette and Awareness trainings, and ASL Classes

Volunteers
154 volunteers served 1,920 hours
Monetary value of volunteer time $52,224

TWP Signature Events
Expressions Art Exhibition, Planting Independence, and Night of Independence Awards Gala

*Sponsored Events
Such as: CCVI Trolley Run, AIDS Walk, Kidney Walk, Out of the Darkness Walk, The Stroke Walk, ARTS KC Luncheon and Disability, IN Greater Kansas City

*Consumers are people with disabilities who create a consumer record and request and receive services from TWP. Annual report numbers include these consumer numbers, but do not reflect many others who benefit from TWP community education and other community services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES PROVIDED FROM
OCTOBER 1, 2019 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020*
*Consumers may have participated in more than 1 independent living service/program.

Download at: thewholeperson.org/report
3710 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 • 816-561-0304 • info@thewholeperson.org
Deaf Services Training and Workshops

In 2019 and early 2020, Micki Keck, TWP Independent Living Advocate-Deaf Services, conducted Deaf Services Training – Deaf Cultural Awareness and Basic ASL – at Children's Mercy Hospital, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Marriott's Overland Park hotel, public libraries, nursing facilities and more. Micki created the training at the agency where she previously worked, and TWP is glad to continue and grow her work in the Kansas City metro area. The Deaf Services Training/Workshops are starting to pick up after the initial shutdown due to the pandemic.

Micki Keck started Basic ASL (American Sign Language) workshops via Zoom for programs such as University of Missouri-Kansas City Dental Hygiene students. Micki states, “It was a challenge for me to teach basic ASL and not be able to lead individual/group activities through Zoom.” She will lead two Basic ASL Workshops with Johnson County Library staff via Zoom and L’Arche Heartland in person in February. Groups interested in these classes can visit www.thewholeperson.org/training for more information.

Initially, the department offered ASL classes for the local area. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 Fall Community ASL class size was reduced and two more classes were added to each session. Each class had a total of 15 participants. There were two sessions, each running for six weeks at The Whole Person. These classes are always well received, and even with the pandemic, they have been fully attended, and participants appreciate the information they learn. The 2021 Spring Community ASL class begins in-person in March. Visit www.thewholeperson.org/springASL for more information.

A new outlet for the ASL workshops is area coffee shops. Several local shops have been eager to learn ASL so they can communicate better with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community. Micki led “ASL for Coffee Professionals” in December at Blip Roasters in the West Bottoms and was interviewed on KCTV5. The class was well attended. Due to the success of the first event, a second workshop was held in January.

Micki is a great advocate for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community in Kansas City and truly loves helping everyone learn ASL.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art held its first virtual ASL tour on January 23. The topic was "Women in Art." ASL tours are in American Sign Language only; no voice interpretation provided.

ASL tours are free, but registration is required. Space is limited, so those interested should sign up as soon as possible. For more information and to register, please visit: https://nelson-atkins.org/museum-tours/virtual/asl/

Subscribe to the Nelson's monthly Access newsletter at https://nelson-atkins.org to stay up to date on upcoming virtual ASL tours.

Micki will conduct the virtual ASL tour at the museum February through June.

EVENT CALENDAR

Due to COVID-19, our event calendar changes frequently. For specific locations and times of the events listed, visit our calendar at thewholeperson.org.

MAR. 1, 8, 15, 22; APR. 5, 12, 19, 26: BLVE Virtual Stretching Without Looking
MAR. 1; APR. 5: BLVE Virtual Mind’s Eye View
MAR. 2, 9, 16; APR. 6, 13, 20: Virtual Mental Health Support Group
MAR. 5; APR. 2: TWP Getting Social Peer Group
MAR. 9: Life with SCI/D Spinal Cord Injury Disability Peer Group
MAR. 10: Virtual Volunteer Fair
MAR. 11; APR. 8: Brain Injury Peer Support Group
MAR. 15; APR. 19: BLVE Tech-info
MAR. 23; APR. 27: Advocates in Action Group

CLASS IS IN SESSION ON THESE 2021 DATES:
- March 16
- April 20
- May 18
- June 15

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.
TWP Peer Support Groups

The Whole Person’s peer support groups provide a forum for problem solving, brainstorming, sharing of concerns and successes, and ways to address issues individually and collectively.

Advocates in Action
Open to all people with disabilities as well as anyone in the community who wants to participate in civic activities at the city, state, and federal levels of government impacting people with disabilities in Kansas and Missouri. Meetings occur virtually on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2:00-4:00 pm via Zoom. For more information, contact Kendra Burgess at kburgess@thewholeperson.org or (816) 627-2204.

Blindness Low Vision Experience
Offering those who are blind/low vision a variety of opportunities to achieve greater independence and access to community through outdoor activities, art, and cultural events. During the COVID-19 pandemic, activities will be held virtually. For more information, contact Sheila Styron at sstyron@thewholeperson.org or 816-561-0304.

Brain Injury Peer Support Group
Connecting individuals, 17 and older, who have had a brain injury from an accident, stroke, tumor, aneurysm or seizure disorder to each other and the resources they need. Held on the second Thursday of each month, 1:00-2:30 pm at TWP. For more information, contact Amy Harris at aharris@thewholeperson.org.

Deaf Peer Social and Support Group
Connecting people in the Deaf community with their peers for fun and to share resources. Meetings occur every quarter. Time varies by event. For more information, contact Clark Corogenes at ccorogenes@thewholeperson.org, or Micki Keck at mkeck@thewholeperson.org.

Life with SCI/D
Discussing topics that aid in adjusting to life with a spinal cord injury or related disability and becoming more independent. All meetings in 2021 will be virtual. Host groups are The Whole Person, the Greater Kansas City Spinal Cord Injury Association, and MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital. For more information, contact Lea Klepees at lklepees@thewholeperson.org.

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group
Anyone with a physical, cognitive, or mental health disability may attend to share information and successful techniques addressing the needs and challenges of the group. Meetings occur on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:30 pm via Zoom. For more information, contact LaTrisha Kioko at 816-595-2919 or lkioko@thewholeperson.org.

TWP Getting Social Missouri
A social group open to all people with disabilities, their PCAs, family, friends, and other service providers. Meetings are on the first Friday of each month from 1:00-3:00 pm in the TWP Community Room, 3710 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri. For more information, contact LaTrisha Kioko at 816-595-2919 or lkioko@thewholeperson.org.

TWP is always improving our Peer Support groups, and we invite you to try them out!

Advocates In Action!

You don’t have to wait until election day to make your voice heard! We provide ways to engage in government issues impacting people with disabilities year round.

Welcome to TWP Advocates in Action! (formerly known as the Consumer Advocacy Group). We changed our name to reflect our mission and vibrancy.

“Government 101,” “Spotting Fake News,” and “Running for Public Office” are just a few of the topics we will cover this year. Are you new to advocacy? No problem! Advocacy is a skill that can be learned. Defined, it means working on or supporting a particular cause. We will give you the tools to enhance your ability to communicate, serve and lead. Civic engagement is a vital part of supporting independent choice and advocating for positive change in the community.

Consider this your official invite to participate in scheduled meetings with elected officials, legislative advocacy days, and more. Put your advocacy into action.

Meeting EVERY 4TH TUESDAY from 2:00 - 4:00 pm on Zoom.

Contact Kendra Burgess, Public Policy Coordinator, at (816) 627-2204 or kburgess@thewholeperson.org. Let her know that you want to join and follow the TWP 411 newsletter to hear real stories from advocates, get updates on bills, and learn about upcoming events.

2021 Wheel It Forward Tournament

The Whole Person is excited to announce the return of Wheel It Forward, our annual competitive wheelchair tennis tournament. Due to COVID-19, we will move the tournament from its normal time in April to August 27th-29th. We hope our new plan will allow more athletes throughout the Midwest region to compete safely. The tournament will take place at the Northland Racquet Club, 306 Tennis Ct., North Kansas City, Missouri. Competing athletes will be able to work toward improving their USTA (United States Tennis Association) rankings as well as take home prize money. Please save the date and come out to support our local athletes!
If you are sick or injured and unable to work, The Whole Person may be able to help you apply for Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). The Social Security Disability program pays a monthly cash benefit to people who are unable to work as a result of a “medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for 12 months or more.”

The Whole Person’s legal team can represent you in connection with an application for benefits or on an appeal if your application has been denied.

The information necessary to process a claim can be safely and conveniently obtained over the phone and/or through email and fax. The Whole Person will ensure that your application is complete and filed in a timely manner and will help complete and submit all documentation and forms required by the Social Security Administration.

The Whole Person will also assist in gathering medical records and contacting doctors to help prove your claim for disability benefits. If it is necessary to appeal, The Whole Person’s attorney will file the necessary forms, gather documentation, and attend the hearing with you to present your case to the judge. A claim for Social Security disability benefits is more likely to be approved if the claimant has legal representation.

In order to retain the services of The Whole Person for representation on your claim for disability benefits, call attorney Thomas Sweeny at (816) 595-3341 or paralegal Karen Gridley at (816) 627-2270.
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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AREA YARD CLEANUP!
• Corporate Volunteer Day
  Friday, April 9
  Time determined by your team
• Individuals and Groups
  Saturday, April 10
  8:30 am to early afternoon

To learn more about this opportunity, contact Kelly Grooms
816-627-2232 | kgrooms@thewholeperson.org
or go to thewholeperson.org/volunteerplant

Thank you to our sponsor:

Westlake Hardware

Night of Independence Awards Gala
Be whisked away by the ambience of the romantic streets of Paris!
Join The Whole Person for the 2021 Night of Independence Gala!
Friday, September 24 at the Abbott Event Space
in the heart of the Crossroads
Co-Chairs: Jennifer Salva and Logan Weed
We will offer both in-person tickets and virtual options.
Sponsorship & tickets on sale now at: thewholeperson.org/Paris