

# TWP CONNECTS

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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## Expressions Artist Spotlight: Kathryne Grimm

**T**he Whole Person has been presenting the Expressions Art Exhibition for 10 years. The Exhibition, which showcases artists with disabilities, has evolved, as well as the artists who were selected each year. The goal of the program has been to promote and support individuals to grow as artists in the community. Kathryne Grimm has been involved with the exhibition for several years displaying their art in 2016 and 2017 as an artist and involved with the Expressions Selection Committee for the past four years.

Kathryne is a conceptual figurative photographer who combines art with their work as a queer trans disability activist to initiate discussion about issues facing individuals with disabilities. As Kathryne has pushed the boundaries with their art, they have also given back to the community by educating and encouraging other area artists. In June, Kathryne presented a Master Artist Workshop in conjunction with the Expressions Planning Committee. They discussed how to effectively communicate with galleries, how to discuss access needs with a gallery, how to apply for exhibitions, and an introduction in how to plan for an exhibition. Shared through Zoom, this workshop was insightful to those who are getting started in their artistic careers.

In June, Kathryne exhibited at the Kansas City Artists Coalition. The solo exhibition "Invisible Victims" examined the internal narrative of a disabled domestic violence



victim while they are living with their abuser and functioned as a voice for victims of an epidemic that is never addressed. The exhibition was a powerful presentation of the intersection of disability and domestic violence.

Kathryne's current activism and art focus is breaking down the barriers of how disabled bodies are viewed in contemporary art and in society, bringing awareness to the lack of accessibility within the Kansas City arts scene. In their own words "My intention is to break down the barriers of how disabled bodies and disabled persons are viewed in contemporary art and in society and subvert societal expectations of how disability is expected to visually present."

### 2020 Expressions Gallery Schedule

**Thornhill Gallery at Avila University:**

Early August - October

**The Smalter Gallery:**

November - December

**InterUrban ArtHouse:**

January - February 2021

### 2020 Expressions Online Gallery

Learn more about the Expressions 2020 artists by viewing an online gallery on the TWP website. This interactive gallery includes each artist's statement and showcases three images of their work. We appreciate the attention and care that went into creating each piece, and we are honored to share them with the community in this way. Visit the gallery at [thewholeperson.org/expressionsgallery](http://thewholeperson.org/expressionsgallery).

### Expressions support from:



**Unlucky Rabbit Art Studio**

**Jack Stack Barbecue**

**Depth Security**

**Local Pig**

**Blick Art Materials**

**Daren + Co.**

## 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

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

## Helping During COVID

On April 27, The Whole Person was awarded a \$57,000 grant from the Greater Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. These funds were awarded through a grant request based on TWP's history of assisting people with disabilities in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

TWP staff have worked to make sure these funds are used for direct assistance for consumers and their attendants.

Funds are being used to assist consumers and attendants with past due utility bills, free room air conditioner units, and certain uncovered medical/dental bills. We have assisted over 35 consumers and attendants in all our Missouri and Kansas counties with utilities and have been able to provide free room AC units for 25 consumers. Each PCA and consumer were assisted with completing a Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) application, which can further assist with up to \$800 for utility bills.



Jason helps load food into a consumer's trunk.



Personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies have also been purchased with these funds. These items are available for free to our consumers and attendants to allow them to safely leave their homes for work, doctor's appointments and necessary shopping.

These funds have allowed TWP staff to take an innovative approach to assist consumers with food insecurities. Chef Tiffany Bohm-Taff, of The Whole Person Catering, developed a food box to allow consumers to have nutritional, healthy foods, along with recipes to use with the food. Graduates of the TWP EmployAbilities classes helped assemble the food boxes. Fresh and frozen vegetables, milk, and meat were given to consumers, along with pantry staples such as oil, flour, and fresh herbs. TWP has been able to provide over 270 of these boxes on a weekly basis to Missouri and Kansas consumers.

The Whole Person is working hard to find and fill the needs of our community!

Karen Gridley, *Consumer Benefits Coordinator/Paralegal*

## 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



# A 1920's Evening of Giving (Virtual Style)!

You will be able to immerse yourself into the elegance, opulence, and luxury of the Roaring 20s all while sitting in the comfort of your own home. Honorary Co-Chairs Scott and CJ Charbonneau, along with Co-Chairs Jordan Ward and John Miller, invite you to join us for the Virtual Gatsby Gala Night of Independence on Saturday, September 26 at 7:00 pm. "Turning this event into a completely virtual event after a year's worth of planning was a difficult decision, but it ultimately came down to doing our part in keeping people safe and not adding to the spread of Covid-19," said Terri Goddard, Manager of Resource Development. We are lucky in that we had already planned on this being a hybrid event (some live and in person and some virtual), so pivoting at this time is a bit easier."

The evening will still honor our 2020 award winners, introduce some exciting new videos about The Whole Person and the services we provide. We plan to keep the energy up and raise some greatly needed funds! You don't want to miss this opportunity to do your part in supporting independent living for people with disabilities in our community.



Sponsorship packages and virtual tickets are available and ticket packages are available at [thewholeperson.org/gatsbygala](http://thewholeperson.org/gatsbygala). Host your own small house party – Gatsby Style or slip into your pj's and watch alone in front of your lap-top. We have Party Packages (including appetizers and desserts) prepared by Chef Tiffany Bohm-Taff of The Whole Person Catering. Don't forget to purchase a raffle ticket to have a chance at winning some fabulous prizes. There will be a silent and live auction. Help us celebrate our 2020 award winners, raise funds for TWP's future, and have a 1920's Roaring Good Time! For more information, visit [www.thewholeperson.org/GatsbyGala](http://www.thewholeperson.org/GatsbyGala).

## 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



*Gatsby Gala Chairs: From left to right: Honorary Co-Chairs Scott and CJ Charbonneau with Co-Chairs Jordan Ward and John Miller*

## Support from:



CJ & SCOTT  
CHARBONNEAU



Miller-Mellor  
Association

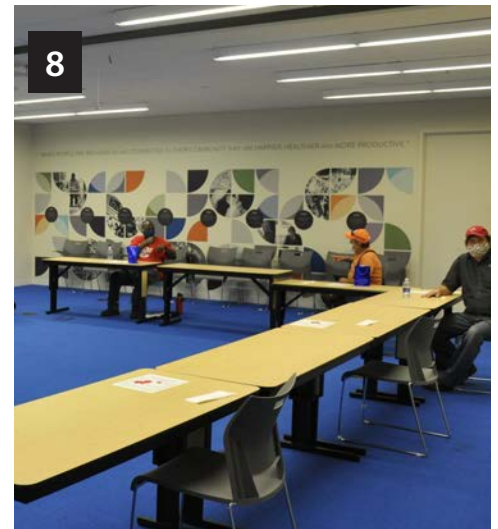
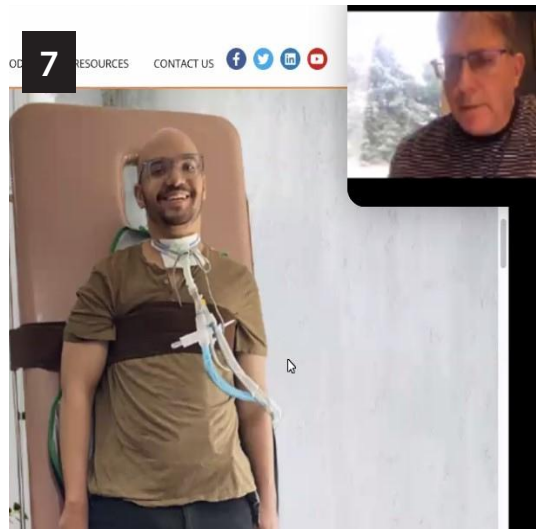
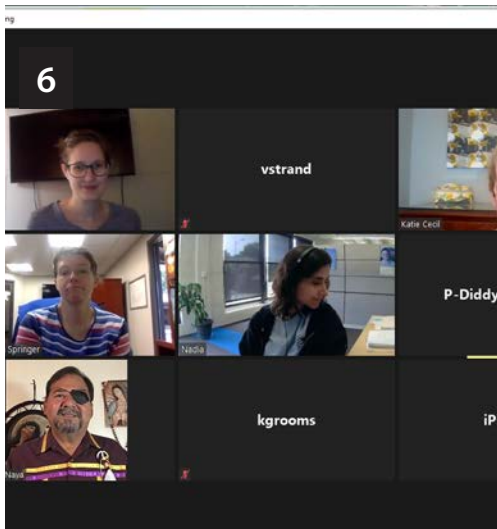
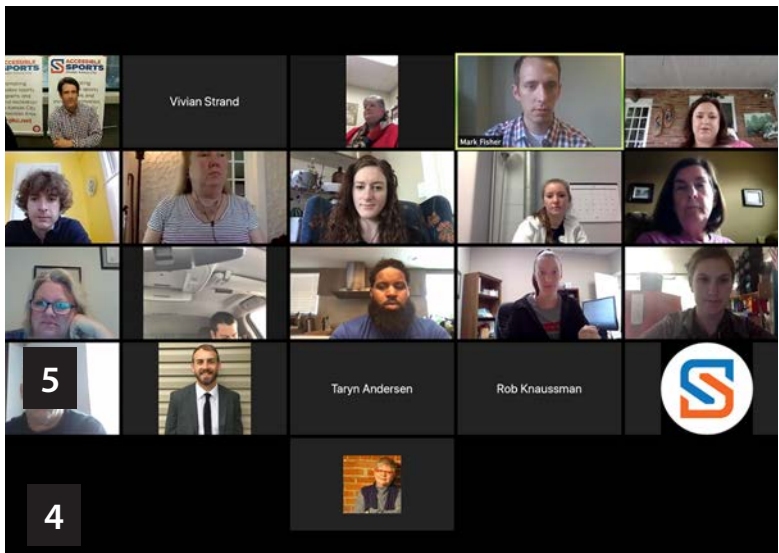
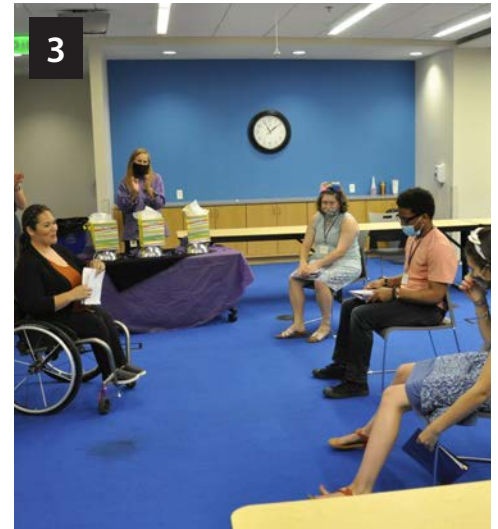
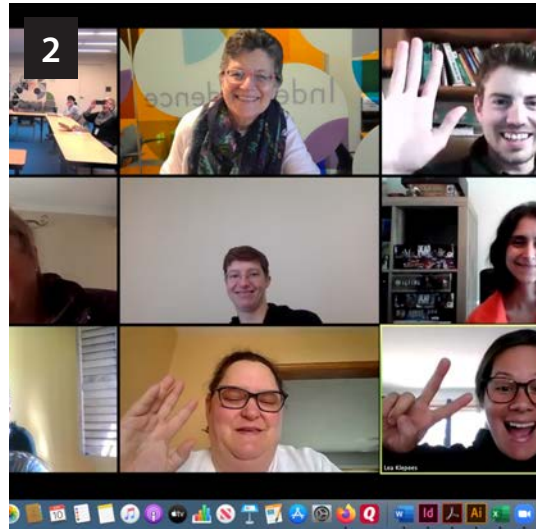


Buttonwood  
Financial Group

Crema



# KEEPING SAFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

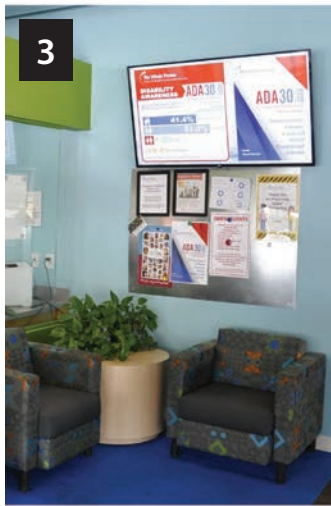


The Whole Person takes the pandemic seriously and has used virtual meetings and social distanced events to keep staff and the community safe. **1.** Margaret Kinkeade hosted a Zoom presentation in May for our first Expressions Master Artist Workshop. **2.** While working remotely, TWP staff attended "Happiness Hour" Zoom meetings on Thursday afternoons. **3.** The second EmployAbilities class graduation was filmed on Facebook live so families could attend virtually. **4.** The Accessible Sports Regional Roundtable conducted their meeting via Zoom in May and July. **5.** Kathryn Grimm held our second Expressions Master Artist Workshop in June. **6.** The Blindness/Low Vision group held several virtual Zoom meetings to stay connected. **7.** TWP hosted the Life with SCI/D meeting via Zoom in July. The presenter Josh Schueller from AxioBionics who shared information about wearable therapy and how it can benefit people with SCI/D or other disabilities. **8.** The Deaf Peer Support Group held their meeting and played social distanced Bingo.



# ADA30|20

Americans with Disabilities Act  
30th Anniversary



The Whole Person celebrated 30 years of progress in access and inclusion through the passage of the ADA on July 26, 2020. Throughout the month of July, TWP created posts on our social media channels and the public could view a special website page that shared a variety of information, videos, photos, profiles of disability pioneers, etc. Here were some of the materials created: 1. ADA billboard; 2. Indoor banner in lobby; 3. Slideshow on the lobby monitor; 4. Personal expressions shared by staff and consumers; 5. Outdoor banner by the front door of the building; and 6. ADA Bingo for staff to learn about people who were influential in the ADA movement and the passage of this law 30 years ago; people with disabilities who have excelled at their craft or made an impact in their communities; and current and young activists.

## 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](http://thewholeperson.org).

**SEPT 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:**

Virtual Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

**SEPT. 4**

TWP Getting Social Missouri

**SEPT. 10:**

Brain Injury Support Group

**SEPT. 15:**

TWP 101 Tuesday Virtual Meeting

**SEPT. 22:**

Virtual Consumer Advocacy Group

**SEPT. 22:**

Sporting KC Soccer For All Abilities Clinic

**SEPT. 26:**

Night of Independence Gatsby Gala

**OCT. 3:**

Planting Independence

## TWP 101 TUESDAYS MISSOURI OFFICE

Learn the "basics" about The Whole Person in a virtual meeting. Session will begin at 11:45 am and end promptly at 1:00 pm.

*The first ten registrations will receive a \$10 gift card. Must attend to receive gift.*

**RSVP by the Friday before each month's session/luncheon at [thewholeperson.org/TWP101](http://thewholeperson.org/TWP101)**

For more information, contact Terri Goddard, 816-627-2220 | [tgoddard@thewholeperson.org](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org)

**CLASS IS  
IN SESSION  
ON THESE  
2020 DATES:**



- September 15
- October 20
- November 17

PROGRAMS

SERVICES

# TWP Introduces Real Estate Services

TWP has some very exciting things happening in the world of Housing. We would like to announce a new partnership with the Advanced Real Estate Associates (AREA) KC team to bring real estate services to our consumers. Travis Rash, TWP Housing Coordinator, has become a licensed real estate professional in the State of Missouri. The AREA KC team is also able to provide real estate services in the State of Kansas. He is willing to represent anyone and everyone in the homebuying process in a non-profit capacity.

Travis loves to work with our consumers, or anyone in the general

public, to achieve several forms of permanent stable housing. He strives to save our consumers as much money as possible throughout the process, while simultaneously providing excellent service. Any commission earned in the process will go back to The Whole Person for the purpose of providing care and services to individuals with disabilities in the Kansas City Metro, to ensure that they can live full and independent lives in the community.

If you are interested in the potential of receiving Real Estate Services, please contact Travis at: Email: [travisr@thewholeperson.org](mailto:travisr@thewholeperson.org), Phone: 816-627-2279



*Travis heads out to check a housing opportunity.*

You can also check out our website at: <https://thewholeperson.org/other-services/housing-services/real-estate-services.html> and <https://www.areakc.com/> for more information.

## The Challenges of Wearing Masks During COVID-19

By Micki Keck, *Independent Living Advocate- Deaf Services*

There are many articles about deaf and hard of hearing people and their mask challenges out there. I thought I would do this a little different and share my personal perspective.

There is no question that wearing a mask at work is an awkward experience for me. The true challenge was when I led two Basic ASL Workshops. All I saw was the participants' eyes and eyebrows. I usually take cues from faces. I did not know what the participants' faces looked like. My new strategy was to observe the eyebrows and body language. The most difficult area was teaching WH-questions (a wh-question is referred to when, what, why, who, how, and where). I had to change my teaching strategies. I taught how to ask a wh-question in American Sign Language (ASL), using a non-manual signal: eyebrows burrowed, head tilting, and slightly hold the last signed word. I told myself that I needed to focus on the signs itself instead of facial expressions. This experience prepared me for our fall Community ASL Classes.

In my personal life, I find myself going to the same places because I know the deaf friendly staff at several local businesses. It is

easier than dealing with people who do not know me. I did try to order a small cup of Dirty Chai from a local coffee shop by showing a note on my iPhone. The barista kept on talking to me behind her mask. I told her that I was deaf. She kept on talking and talking. I just let it go. When I needed blood work done, I decided to write down a description of me including shirt, hair, and a pair of black glasses so the Phlebotomist could identify me. I usually watch the Phlebotomist's mouth from a distance; not this time.



Masks and less people in the waiting room made it easier, but I had to use a different strategy than with previous visits.

With the current mask requirements, I must make some changes to make things a little easier for myself. I have heard horror stories from my deaf and hard of hearing friends regarding rudeness. Please be patient and aware of the fact that face masks are a problem in the deaf and hard of hearing community.

### ADVOCATES OF HONOR MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

Tiffany Bohm-Taff  
Stephanie Boykin-Brand  
Laura Casselman | Kari Chester  
Sherry Duncan | Brian Francis  
Nadia Fry | Terri Goddard  
Karen Gridley | Briana Haines  
Aida Halaoui | Jaylene Hansen  
Shaun Harris | Jennifer Hertha  
Doshon Hunley | Jim Johnson  
Teri Jones | Barb King  
Kim Krueger | Kerry Matson  
Justin McWilliams | Samuel McWilliams  
Gary Miles | Patricia Mullen  
Carla Norcott-Mahany | Clayton Porter  
Jason Purinton | Chekasha Ramsey  
Rachel Rilinger | Shannon Springer  
Tom Sweeny | Monique Todd  
Pallavi Vikram Arcot | Alicia Wofford



# Public Policy Intern

This spring, TWP welcomed Sam Andersen as an intern in the Public Policy department. This internship gives him real world job experience, introduces him to how city, state and federal government works, and provides opportunities for skill building, interpersonal growth, and leadership development so he can confidently pursue his future career goals and work toward positive change in the community. Sam has recently graduated and will be attending online classes at Brigham Young University – Hawaii this fall, majoring in Intercultural Peacebuilding and minoring in Economics and Political Science.

Sam wanted to learn more about legislative advocacy and get an inside look at legislative issues facing the disability community. Sam says, “The people I’ve met have been so genuinely good, I’ve felt so welcomed and understood, and I’ve finally been able to advocate the way I’ve wanted to for all my life.”

Sam helped organize TWP’s legislative advocacy days in Jefferson City in the



spring. In July, he worked on TWP’s ADA 30th anniversary celebration campaign and educated people on the Medicaid expansion issue on the August 4 ballot.

Sam says he is “most excited about the potential of disability rights. People with disabilities make up one of the largest and most diverse minorities, because disability is a fact of life – it doesn’t discriminate. Pair that with the sad reality that voices of people with disabilities are so frequently diminished by ableism, that people refuse to listen to us because we’re somehow ‘broken,’ and you find a powerful community waiting to be awoken. That potential, the future where people with disabilities have the political voice and the policies that we deserve, is invigorating to think about.”

## Meet the Skilled Home Health Team

The Whole Person Skilled Home Health department is growing by leaps and bounds! We have serviced over 40 clients in the Jackson County Area already. The Skilled Home Health team is growing as well. Angela Bennett, RN, came on board and she has hit the ground running and has not stopped. Kara Azotea, PT-DPT, our Physical Therapist, has been traveling all over Northwest Missouri servicing clients in the St. Joseph office and the Kansas City office. Makenna Snyder, OT, is our Occupational Therapist. She is learning the ropes of the Home Health and Home Modification world! Together they have formed an amazing team that addresses all the needs of our clients and keeps them out of the hospital. They prepare individualized plans

of care geared toward each individual client’s specific needs to help them reach their optimal health goals. We are currently seeking more nurses so we can take on all the patients that are being referred to us. The sky is the limit and it is exciting to be able to add another service to The Whole Person.

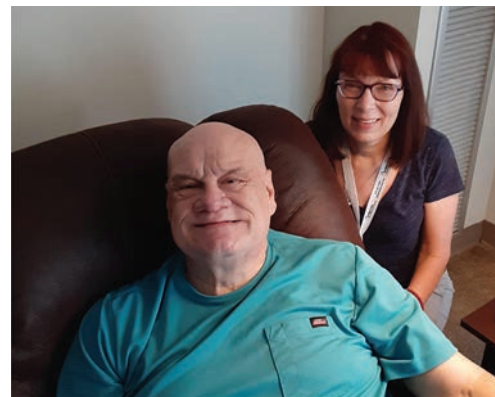


Meet the KC Home Health Care Team: Left to right - Angela Bennett, RN; Kara Azotea, PT-DPT; and Makenna Snyder, OT

## What is MFP?

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program at The Whole Person has been busy. MFP is a state program that helps nursing home residents transition to independent living settings. Many nursing home residents can live independently, but do not have the financial ability and/or knowledge of available resources to transition out of the nursing home without help. MFP provides resources and assistance during the search for a new home as well as financial support.

To be eligible, MO Healthnet must have paid for the nursing home resident’s bed for 90 days with no lapse. The resident must also have a source of income.



Jill helped Eugene Ferguson move to independent living.

Alyssa and Jill are TWP’s full time Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants and Transition Specialists, helping run the MFP program at TWP. One of the biggest challenges they have is finding a place for consumers to live which they can afford. They help with the apartment search and focus on income-based locations. Those who have past evictions, felonies, owe utility companies and/or past rent have a particularly difficult time finding housing. Alyssa and Jill coordinate the move and transport the consumer and their belongings from the nursing home to their new home. They also assist with purchasing needed items for their new apartment. Moving day is stressful, but also rewarding!

They both agree that their jobs are very satisfying. They feel that TWP is helping the community and they love meeting our consumers along the way!

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

3710 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111  
[thewholeperson.org](http://thewholeperson.org)

**RECEIVE OUR  
NEWSLETTER  
BY EMAIL!**

Sign up at:  
[thewholeperson.org/newsletter](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org) or call 816-627-2220.



## REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES

**Sessions will begin at 11:00 am and  
end promptly at 1:00 pm.**

**October 15, 2020 | January 21, 2021  
April 15, 2021 | June 17, 2021**

The ASGKC Regional Roundtable is an initiative developed by The Whole Person and supported by a Healthy Communities grant from the Health Forward Foundation. Adaptive/accessible sports stakeholders (nonprofit organizations, agencies, and businesses) from throughout the bi-state metro area gather together and are invited to share information and work collaboratively for greater access to sports and recreation for people with all types of disabilities.

**Contact Anthony Trakas for an invitation to  
join the quarterly meetings:**  
816-627-2205 | [atrakas@thewholeperson.org](mailto:atrakas@thewholeperson.org)



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**SOCCER FOR ALL ABILITIES  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

**PLANTING INDEPENDENCE  
OCTOBER 3, 2020**

**ADAPTIVE SPORTS | ONGOING**

**BLINDNESS LOW VISION  
EXPERIENCE (BLVE) | ONGOING**

For more information, contact:  
**Kelly Grooms**  
816.627.2232  
or  
[kgrooms@thewholeperson.org](mailto:kgrooms@thewholeperson.org)