

TWP CONNECTS

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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Expressions 2018



The Whole Person is happy to announce the artists featured in the 8th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition. This year's exhibit will have 15 visual artists and 2 performing artists. Artists were selected by a committee of arts professionals. This year's exhibit featuring artists with disabilities will be displayed at multiple venues from April 2018 through February 2019. In addition, the selected artists will receive an honorarium and have opportunities to participate in professional development workshops.

The Expressions Art Exhibition 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. Expressions not only breaks down some of the barriers that artists with disabilities face when looking for exhibition space, but it also offers a more accessible art gallery experience for people wanting to view art.

The opening night of the 8th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition will take place April 6, 2018 from 6:00-10:00 pm at Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA), 3732 Main. Attendees will enjoy music performances, a silent auction, interactive art projects, and conversations with featured artists.

Accommodations provided for the series include braille and large-print event programs, volunteer guides for descriptive audio tours, sign language interpreters and accessible entrances. The Expressions Art Exhibition appreciates the support of Francis Family Foundation, the Missouri Arts Council, City of Kansas City Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund (NTDF), ArtsKC and Artist INC.

We hope you will join us for a fun filled evening! For accommodations or guidance, please contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220 or by email at TGoddard@thewholeperson.org.



Expressions 2018 Artists

Visual Artists

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Omar Al-Shams | Christine Klasinski |
| Janice Atkins | Jane Kobe |
| Tina Blatter | Alex Krahenbuhl |
| Dustin Bowers | Sylvia Mooney |
| John Campbell | Kassidee Quaranta |
| Michelle Childers | Ronald Ulrich |
| Margaret Crow | Fazida Yathali |
| Lana Hughes | |

Performing Artists

- Annette Billings
- William Dozier

Expressions 2018 Sponsors



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.

Volunteer Awareness Month

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold at The Whole Person. As the volunteer specialist, I would like to thank all the volunteers who have given their time this past year. Events such as Planting Independence, the July Jubilee, and Expressions thrive with your help. We cannot run these wonderful events for our consumers and community without the generous gift of your time. The Whole Person applauds your caring commitment.

Our biggest volunteer project in 2017, Planting Independence, utilized over 300 volunteers to clean up the homes of 52 TWP consumers across the Kansas City metro area. Consumers who have difficulty maintaining their yards, and sometimes get cited by the city, beam with gratitude after volunteers spend the morning sprucing up their yards.

The Whole Person also thanks volunteers who have been involved in our blind low-vision activities like bowling, zip-lining, and those who have worked one-on-one with



consumers who need help with reading and correspondence. Your support has helped these individuals continue to live independently in their homes.

Thank you, volunteers, for your continued support of our programs, services and events. Together we are increasing awareness about the needs of people with disabilities in the community and promoting an inclusive culture. Thank you so much for all you do for The Whole Person and those we serve.

Kelly Grooms,
TWP Volunteer Specialist

Planting Independence in the Spring

The Whole Person will be Planting Independence one yard at a time on the morning of April 21. We are still looking for volunteers (individuals and groups) to help consumers with their spring yard maintenance. TWP also needs tools to support this effort. Items needed include twine, pruners, shears, rakes, weed eaters, yard waste bags, gloves and miscellaneous yard tools.

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to donate from our wish list above, please contact Kelly Grooms at kgrooms@thewholeperson.org.

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
- Mental Health Services
- Transition Services
- The Whole Family Project
- Blindness Low Vision Experience
- Youth and Adult Services
- Adaptive Sports
- Legal Services

Second Annual Holiday Open House

The Whole Person welcomed over 200 people through its doors in early December for the second annual holiday open house. By inviting consumers, friends, and neighbors into the building, TWP not only celebrated the season, but also increased awareness of the programs and services offered to our community.

Guests who attended enjoyed sweet treats like cookies and hot cocoa, live music by the inclusive choir Tota Voces, and a visit from Santa. Kids and adults all took time to create colorful pieces of art and make festive jingle bell necklaces. Tours of our building were also available to guests, who were eager to learn more about the Universal Design of our building.

The TWP open house was a wonderful way to connect with new and old friends while educating our community a bit more about our organization's role in Kansas City.



Members of the Tota Voces choir, Sheila, Adam, Heather, Sue, and Troy, entertained guests at the holiday open house.



Many Ways to Give

The holidays seem to bring out the best in most people, but the holidays can be depressing, isolating, or overwhelming for those who are struggling. Many people contacted TWP this last holiday season to see how they could help.

Eloise and Dale Glaspie contacted The Whole Person in December and wanted to donate three \$100 gift cards to TWP consumers. Their only stipulation was that the consumers had to be veterans. We identified three deserving individuals and gave them the cards.

Thank you, Eloise and Dale for thinking of our consumers during the holiday season.



Pammy Sue Houck enjoyed the decorations for the holidays.

The Season to Give

Decorating your home for the holiday season is at the top of many to-do lists during the winter months. The Whole Person received a phone call in December from two out-of-town individuals looking for resources for their cousin in Kansas City. Pammy Sue Houck, a local salsa maker and retailer, found she was having difficulty decorating her home from her electric wheelchair. Volunteer Specialist Kelly Grooms happily offered to assist Pammy and had a wonderful time during her visit.

In the spirit of giving, Pammy's cousins showed their gratitude to TWP by making a generous donation that will be paid forward to our consumers who are living independently in our community.

Planting Independence One Yard at a Time!

**Saturday, April 21
8:00 am - Noon**

Location: A TWP consumer's home in one of several pre-selected areas

The Whole Person is partnering with volunteer groups to perform low to moderate risk activities such as mowing, raking, weeding, and planting at the homes of the people who receive our services.

VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS NEEDED!!
Planting Independence is an excellent volunteer opportunity for individuals, families, clubs, schools, scouts, organizations, and businesses.
Please contact Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232
www.thewholeperson.org



FACES OF TWP



1. Gus enjoyed the holidays at The Whole Person. 2. Letiah and Ruthie attend the Ugly Sweater Contest. 3. Cathleen and Tonya celebrate the holidays at TWP. 4. TWP Consumers and friends enjoyed the #TWP Getting Social event. 5. The #TWP Getting Social Peer Support Group played Bingo in January. 6. Lakeitha and her daughter, Faith, get ready to help at the Happy Holly Days Open House. 7. Terri, Lea and Kelly from the Resource Development department prepare for the Open House in December. 8. The jingle bell necklace craft was a big hit at the December open house event at TWP.

FACES OF TWP



9./10. The Deaf Peer Support Group hosted a roundtable discussion with members of the Missouri Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. **11.** TWP staff members Evelyn, Aisha and Shawneece enjoyed the Pop-Up Shop hosted by the Snack to the Future program. **12.** Julie (TWP CEO) and Mark dressed for the holidays. **13.** TWP's Facebook page hit 4,000 likes in January. Karen says thank you to our supporters. **14.** Kayla, Nina, Kari, Brent, Katie and Megan hosted the first Holiday Pop-Up Shop to help participants in the Snack to the Future program practice their job skills in a store-like setting.

EVENT CALENDAR

For specific locations and times of the events listed, visit our calendar at thewholeperson.org.

- MARCH 2:**
TWP Getting Social
- MARCH 3, 17:**
Tennis for All Abilities
- MARCH 5, 19, 26:**
Stretching Without Looking
- MARCH 6:**
Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group
- MARCH 7, 14, 21:**
KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis
- MARCH 7:**
Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal
- MARCH 8:**
Brain Injury Peer Support Group
- MARCH 14:**
Bowling Blind
- MARCH 19:**
Beaded Quilt Mural
- MARCH 21:**
Out and About with Canines and Canes
- MARCH 24:**
BLVE Picnic and hike at Watkins Mill
- MARCH 27:**
Consumer Advocacy Group
- APRIL 2, 16, 23, 30:**
Stretching Without Looking
- APRIL 3 & 17:**
Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group
- APRIL 6**
TWP Getting Social
- APRIL 6**
Expressions Art Exhibition
- APRIL 6-7**
Wheel It Forward Tennis Tournament
- APRIL 7:**
BLVE Tandem Bike Riding
- APRIL 11:**
Bowling Blind
- APRIL 12:**
Brain Injury Peer Support Group
- APRIL 24:**
Consumer Advocacy Group

TWP 101 TUESDAYS

Learn the "basics" about The Whole Person
FREE box lunch! Building tours at 11:45 am.
Session ends promptly at 1:00 pm.

RSVP by the Friday before each month's session/luncheon to:

Lea Klepees, 816-659-9403, or
lklepees@thewholeperson.org



CLASS IS IN SESSION ON THESE 2018 DATES:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|
| ■ March 27 | ■ June 26 | ■ September 25 |
| ■ April 24 | ■ July 24 | ■ October 23 |
| ■ May 22 | ■ August 28 | ■ November 27 |

TWP Partners with the Chiefs/Mavericks

The Whole Person was thrilled to partner with the Kansas City Chiefs and their ticket fundraising program for the second year in a row. Games offered ran all season, giving fans many options of games to attend. Highly anticipated rivalry games against the Oakland Raiders and the Los Angeles Chargers were popular among TWP employees, consumers, and friends. TWP sold almost 80 tickets to those two games alone. Despite the playoff loss, it was a season to remember for Chiefs fans. The Whole Person is grateful for the opportunity to offer discounted tickets to our community while the proceeds benefit our organization.

In the new year, The Whole Person was honored to be the KC Mavericks'

organization of the night on January 21. The Mavericks, Kansas City's minor league hockey team, provided discounted fundraiser tickets to TWP. A portion of these ticket sales returned to TWP. As the honorary organization, our programs and services were promoted during the game. We were also the beneficiary of the "Chuck-a-Puck" contest. Pucks purchased were thrown onto the ice after the 2nd period, with fans aiming for sponsor targets and a silver cup to win \$900 cash and other prizes. It was a great night of hockey and fun!

By partnering with these local sports organizations, TWP was able to raise over \$3,250.00. We look forward to working with both the Chiefs and Mavericks again next season!



(Left) Kelly and Terri enjoyed one of the Chiefs games. (Right) Rick, Alyssa, Mac the Maverick and Lea attended the Mavericks game.

Give a Memorial or Tribute Gift

You can express your sympathy and respect for your loved one by giving a memorial gift. When you give a memorial gift, you will be asked to provide the name and address for the person you would like notified about your gift, as well as the name, city and state of the person being honored. An announcement will be sent by postal mail to the person you request to be notified when you give a memorial gift using our safe and secure online form.

You may also give a tribute gift in honor of a special occasion, such as a birthday, wedding or anniversary. Online fundraisers on social media sites like Facebook are becoming popular for these special times. Another option is to select The Whole Person as a recipient of the charitable proceeds when making purchases through such sites as Amazon Smile.

You can feel confident that your memorial and tribute gifts will be put to good use at The Whole Person. It's easy to give with our safe and secure online form. Or, if you prefer, you can make your gift by mail: The Whole Person, Attention: Resource Development, 3710 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111

If you have questions about setting up a social media fundraiser or choosing The Whole Person for your loved one's memorial or tribute donations, please contact Terri at 816-627-2220.

Make a Difference All Year Long

Would you like to support The Whole Person on an ongoing basis? Join our new monthly giving club, Advocates of Honor, and become a charter member of a special group of donors making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities through recurring donations. Monthly gifts are easier on your budget, while still providing TWP with predictable income, often allowing donors to make a larger contribution when it is spread out, versus a one-time donation.

Your monthly gifts will provide our consumers with educational and vocational training, peer groups, and recreational activities that will enrich their lives and increase their independence. Making incremental gifts throughout the year will allow you to make a greater impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

To set up a recurring gift, fill out our secure online donation form at thewholeperson.org/donate and select the amount and frequency of your gift (monthly, quarterly or annually).

If you have any questions or if you would like to increase or suspend your recurring gift at any time, please contact Terri at 816-627-2220.

Gifts for 2017

Memorials

Jean Bailey Smith
Traci Perry
Edgar K. DeJean
Matthew Nelson
Kroeger
Candice Minear

Advocates of Honor

Yuliya Antonets
Thomas Schad

Social Media Campaigns

Ashley Boyer
Terri Goddard
Kim Krueger

Tributes

Fletcher Denney
Michael Ellington
Lydia Reading

The Red Lipstick Rumble

The KC Revolution Wheelchair Rugby team hosted its annual tournament in January at the North Kansas City YMCA. The tournament was renamed this year after the passing of our late friend and teammate Candice Minear. Candice was an integral part of the development of our program and would frequently show up to practices and events in her signature "red lipstick". The team voted to rename the event "The Red Lipstick Rumble" in honor of Candice.

There was some incredible competition this year, as we hosted three teams that ranked in the United States Quad Rugby Association (USQRA) top 20. There was also an all-veterans team led by some of the nation's best up and comers and a feisty Dallas team.

Although the home team finished with a disappointing record, the tournament was a major success! With the help of The Whole Person, Ability KC, North KC YMCA, Harrah's Hotel and Casino, and Midwest Adaptive Sports, the KC Revolution showed how great a city we are for adaptive athletes! The future certainly looks bright as groups like The Whole Person and Midwest Adaptive Sports continue to increase opportunities for individuals with a disability around the greater KC area. Thank you again, to all the sponsors and supporters of the KC Revolution wheelchair Rugby team!

In sport,

Tony Durham
KC Revolution Program Director

Coming in Spring to Adaptive Sports

The Whole Person's adaptive sports program will be hosting the Wheel It Forward wheelchair tennis tournament April 6 – 7 at the Northland Racquet Club.

A Youth Power Soccer workshop will take place at 68's Inside Sports on April 14.

Available Now!

The Kansas City "No Coast" competitive wheelchair tennis team practices every Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Northland Racquet Club.

The Tennis for "All Abilities" recreational tennis program is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday, of every month, from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm at the Northland Racquet Club.

The Whole Person has also partnered with KOMA martial arts in Overland Park, Kansas. KOMA martial arts can create unique individualized programming based on an individual's abilities.

Come Out and Play!

Through participation in adaptive sports, participants can meet positive role models, increase socialization skills, improve



Rick's ready for spring!

self-confidence and self-worth, become more independent, decrease anxiety and depression, improve physical fitness, have less health risks, gain long term skills, and develop life-long friendships.

For more information regarding upcoming or current adaptive sports opportunities, please contact Rick Haith at rhaith@thewholeperson.org or go to TWP's adaptive sports website thewholeperson.org/sports and click on a specific sport icon.

Public Policy

January 3rd officially kicked off another legislative session in the great state of Missouri. This year, like last year, Missouri is faced with numerous fiscal and civil issues the state must resolve. One major issue the state is currently contemplating is a shortage of approximately \$300 million in the state's revenue due to the recent federal and state tax cuts. This shortage will result in tough decisions being made at the state level. In the coming months, the Public Policy Department will make sure to keep you updated on legislation that will directly and indirectly affect people in our community.

The Public Policy department will also be reaching out to you for help in the form of Calls for Action. With Calls for Action, we will be able to activate our community to engage their members of government at the state and federal levels. When we engage our public officials with one voice we can make sure our representatives will help our community live independently. Please feel free to contact Michael Riley, mriley@thewholeperson.org, with any questions you have about Public Policy.

Benefits Enrollment Center

In December 2017, The Whole Person was designated a Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) by the National Council on Aging (NCOA). This designation allows TWP to work with consumers to identify and enroll in entitlement benefits and assistance programs in the community they might not have known about or if they need assistance to complete the applications.

NCOA was originally formed in response to concerns about rising health costs and mandatory retirement in the 1950's. NCOA continues to champion important issues and create innovative programs that reflect their core values and that make life better for all older adults, especially those who are struggling. The BEC program through NCOA will benefit older adults and people with disabilities.

For more information, contact Karen Gridley at bec@thewholeperson.org.

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

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

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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

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Contributions from Individuals,
Honorariums and Memorials
Corporation and Foundation Gifts
Planned Giving

For more information on planned giving, contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager at tgoddard@thewholeperson.org, or call 816-627-2220.



It's Magic!

Night of Independence Gala

**Save the date for an evening
of illusion, mystery & magic!**

*"An event sure to make MAGIC
cool again for grown-ups!"*

Saturday, September 29, 2018
Union Station Grand Plaza

*Creative black tie, cocktail reception,
live magic performances, dinner, silent and
live auctions, awards ceremony and dancing.*

thewholeperson.org/magic



JULY JUBILEE
CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE!

The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

MAIN STREET MUSIC FESTIVAL

**LIVE MUSIC
FOOD TRUCKS • VENDORS**
FRIDAY, JULY 27 • 6-11 PM
3710 MAIN STREET
THEWHOLEPERSON.ORG/MSMF

FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL
Saturday, July 28
★ 8:00am - 2:00 pm ★
3710 Main Street

**Vendors, Food, Entertainment,
Special Guests & More!**
Celebrating the 28th Anniversary of the
Americans with Disabilities Act!
thewholeperson.org/jubilee