

TWP CONNECTS

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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Here Comes the Judge: Sarah Castle

For having been dealt “a pretty crummy hand” at age 11, Sarah Castle has done very well for herself.

At 11, when most kids are running around carefree, with many getting their first exposure to sports, Sarah was diagnosed with acute transverse myelitis, a rare neurological condition that affects the spinal cord.

For Sarah, the running was over. She found herself in a wheelchair. She’s been in it ever since.

At the same time, she never allowed her disability to limit her personal or professional horizons. A Colorado native, she became an outstanding amateur athlete, winning a gold medal in wheelchair basketball at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. Professionally, she became a lawyer, then a prosecutor, and recently, at age 36, she became a judge.

On January 29th, Missouri Governor Mike Parson selected Sarah from a panel of three lawyers to be a Jackson County Associate Circuit Court judge, working from the downtown courthouse. (More about that in a minute.)

We at The Whole Person are particularly proud of Sarah because she was named TWP’s Individual of the Year in 2018. In 2017, when Sarah was president of



the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, she organized an event that raised \$30,000, \$12,000 of which went to Midwest Adaptive Sports, another local organization that provides recreational and competitive sports programs for people with disabilities.

At the 2018 Union Station gala where Sarah was honored, TWP raised several thousand dollars for The Whole Person’s adaptive sports programs.

While Sarah has never let her disability define her, she has used it to push

herself to be the best person and lawyer she could be.

In 2013, about a year after getting her law degree from UMKC, she became an assistant Jackson County prosecutor, a job she thrived in. She never thought about being a judge, she said, until someone casually said to her, “You ought to try to be a judge.” Once she fixed on that goal, however, she really wanted it.

In the life’s-biggest-thrills category, Sarah said being named a judge ranked right up there with winning the gold medal in China. “Being appointed,” she said, “I still sometimes have to remind myself that it’s real...It’s so humbling.”

As an Associate Circuit Court judge, she will be handling civil cases involving claims of \$25,000 or less and mostly procedural matters in criminal cases. (She won’t be presiding at any big jury trials.)

She feels her experience as a prosecutor, wrestling with tough issues related to justice and fairness, has prepared her well for the judiciary.

Wherever her career path goes, however, the one constant that has been a part of her life since age 11 will accompany her.

“Disability advocacy is like my right arm,” she said. “It’s not going anywhere.”

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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Todd Isom



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

We Are Here for You

The Whole Person has been blessed with a very important responsibility. Federal and local funding has been awarded to the organization to assist our consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are now engaged in creating the actions necessary to identify needs and the processes necessary to react to the identified needs. This process began by surveying over 100 of our consumers to verify their common concerns and the issues they are experiencing; we have followed up by researching ways to satisfy these needs. Some needs are simple but require a well-thought-out delivery system, and some of the needs we have identified can be satisfied while addressing other concerns. For example, some of our consumers need personal protective equipment (masks and gloves) and others need to develop employment skills. We are exploring offering the opportunity for employment consumers to deliver needed supplies to other consumers.



The bottom line is that we as an organization are committed to assisting our consumers in getting the resources they need. Please watch our website for information about TWP's COVID-19 Response Activities. Email your contact or advocate at The Whole Person to get more information. We are here for you!

Julie DeJean, CEO, The Whole Person

STAY SAFE; STAY HEALTHY

 Wash your hands often.	 Avoid touching your face.	 Social distance of 6 feet.
 Use a face mask in public.	 Cover coughs and sneezes.	 Clean AND disinfect.

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



1. Expressions Artist Dr. Donna Agnew. **2.** Expressions Artist Margarita Aguilar. **3.** Expressions Artist Jasmine Ali. **4.** Expressions Artist Mist Ballew. **5.** Expressions Artist Matthew Breedlove. **6.** Expressions Artist Luna (Aquilla) Elfindale. **7.** Expressions Artist Samantha Goad. **8.** Expressions Artist Leslie Norman Hubble. **9.** Expressions Artist Elise Huther. **10.** Expressions Artist Kelly Johnson. **11.** Expressions Artist Kim Johnson. **12.** Expressions Artist Nick Lopez. **13.** Expressions Artist April Marie Mai. **14.** Expressions Artist Sylvia D. Mooney. **15.** Expressions Artist Josephine Termini. **16.** Expressions Artist Sandra Vukas. **17.** Expressions Artist Margaret Welch Crow. **18.** The 2020 Expressions Selection Committee: (Front row, left to right) Lea Klepees, CJ Charbonneau, Emily Stahl, Poppy Di Candeloro (Chairperson), Audrey Seider, John Campbell. (Back row, left to right) Madison Wellman, Alexej Savreux, Kathryn Grimm, Ashley Frerking. (Not pictured: Meghan Dohogne, Linda Link, Heather Lustfeldt, Ashley Lindeman). **19.** Volunteer Mindi greets guests. **20.** The artists' works were easy to view in the accessible venue. **21.** A large crowd attended the First Friday event on March 6, 2020. **22.** The silent auction was very successful this year. **23.** Rochester Brewing and Roasting Company was the venue.

2020 Expressions Gallery Schedule

**Mid-Continent Public Library
Woodneath Library Center:**
Early May - Early June

**Mid-Continent Public Library North
Independence:**
Early June - Late July

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/expressions.

Support from:



Unlucky Rabbit Art Studio
Jack Stack Barbecue

Depth Security
Blick Art Materials

Local Pig
Daren + Co.

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> 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
In-Kind Revenue	0%	
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 support.

In addition, more than half of our Board members are people with significant disabilities and serve as role models for our consumers.



54% with a significant disability

BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	15%
WHITE	69%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	7%
OTHER	7%



NUMBER OF STAFF 86



74%
STAFF WITH DISABILITIES

CONSUMERS SERVED*

2,343

DISABILITIES SERVED



MULTIPLE DISABILITIES	49%
PHYSICAL	27%
COGNITIVE	9.3%
OTHER DISABILITIES	8.3%
HEARING	3%
MENTAL/EMOTIONAL	2%
VISION	1.4%

FEMALE - 1,470

62.7%

MALE - 873

37.3%

BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	55.40%
WHITE	38.24%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	3.67%
ASIAN	1.40%
RACE AND ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	2.10%
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	.47%
OTHER	.85%

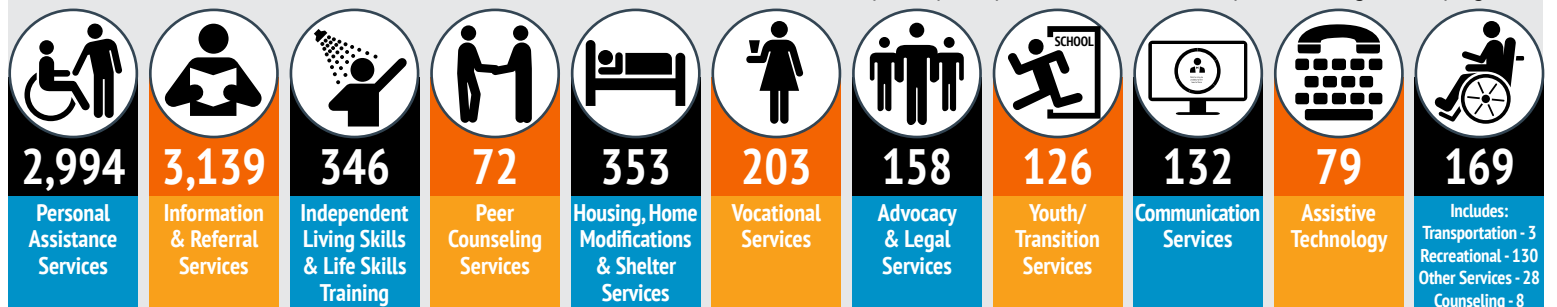
*Consumers are people with disabilities who create a consumer record and request and receive services from TWP. Annual report numbers include these consumer numbers, but do not reflect many others who benefit from TWP community education and other community services.

5 CORE SERVICES: INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICES; INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES; INDIVIDUAL & SYSTEMS ADVOCACY; PEER SUPPORT & MENTORING; TRANSITION SERVICES

7,779

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES PROVIDED FROM OCTOBER 1, 2018 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2019*

*Consumers may have participated in more than 1 independent living service/program.



EmployAbilities Round Two!

EmployAbilities was developed by The Whole Person's Employment Services Department in 2019. It offers a three-stage, eight-week private-pay employment training program for young job seekers living with a developmental disability (minimum age 18). While the training focuses on culinary skills, graduates will be ready for any employment environment.

Three students enrolled in EmployAbilities in early 2020. Two were already participating in TWP's Employment Services program, and the third signed up to gain more skills than

her summer job – washing dishes at Kauffman Stadium – requires.

TWP staff made a great connection with Kauffman Stadium employers who were eager to talk with, and potentially offer jobs to, EmployAbilities students upon graduation. However, due to COVID-19, the program was put on hold.

Contact with potential employers has remained strong in the hope of continued job opportunities once the impact of COVID-19 has improved. This group of students look forward to completing and graduating from the program.



Maddie, Carl, and Jennifer join Chef Tiffany in the catering kitchen during their training.

Twenty Years Making America a Great Place to Walk

By Sheila Styron, Blind and Low Vision Specialist

I am an enthusiastic walker and hardly ever pass up a chance to be out in the fresh air, including sometimes camping in my yard. However, I honestly don't know whether my passion for walking or having been born blind has been more influential on turning me into an advocate for promoting walkable communities and the many other aspects of healthy living that comprise the walking lifestyle.

Therefore, I was pleased to attend the National Walking Summit in St. Louis, hosted in March by America Walks, right before we were all asked to stay at home except for walking while social distancing. Representatives from communities large and small came to learn from the successes and challenges of local presenters, and most sessions involved "learning in place" strategies designed to improve everyone's lives – from people with disabilities and the financially disadvantaged to seniors and children. We walked and hopped on the light rail to experience the subject matter firsthand, a very effective way to learn. On Tuesday, I walked more than six miles, enjoying a great tour of Forest Park. Best of all, I met people from all over, who like myself sincerely believe in the physical



Sheila and Paxton join other walkers at the National Walking Summit in St. Louis. (Photo courtesy of Kim Love)

and emotional benefits walking provides and which will go far to reinvigorate my advocacy efforts here in Kansas City. Congratulations to America Walks on 20 years of making America a great place to walk!

Watch our Walking Summit video, *Voices from the National Walking Summit – St. Louis* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8zs00Wo_Lk&feature=youtu.be

AS-GKC.net

Accessible Sports in Greater Kansas City (AS-GKC) is a collaboration of adaptive and accessible sports stakeholders, founded by The Whole Person in 2018 through a Health Forward grant. AS-GKC's 33 partners help to deliver accessible sports programming for people of all ages and with all types of disabilities throughout the bi-state metropolitan area. Check them out at www.as-gkc.net/partners.

This spring, the AS-GKC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/accessiblesportsgkc/>) highlights a great new collaboration between two AS-GKC partners, Kansas City Parks and Recreation and The Disabled But Not Really Foundation (DBNR). Wesley Hamilton of DBNR highlights local park accessibility and encourages those with limitations to get outside and be active.

AS-GKC needs your help to identify community needs! Share your personal experiences now at www.as-gkc.net/gapssurvey. Your feedback will be used to help AS-GKC prioritize its work to improve the availability of accessible sports and recreation opportunities throughout KC in 2020 and 2021.

For more information about AS-GKC (including the summer meeting on July 16), contact Anthony Trakas, 816-807-0348 or ATrakas@thewholeperson.org.

Night of Independence Gatsby Gala

This year's Gala will be held September 26th at the **Abbott Event Space** in the heart of Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District. Join us as we head back 100 years to the days of prohibition, swing dancing, flapper dresses, pinstriped suits and Model-T Fords! After sheltering at home and social distancing, this may be The Whole Person's only fundraising event this year, and by September we think we'll all need a reason to come together and celebrate.

The Whole Person's **Gatsby Gala Night of Independence** will honor individuals, businesses and organizations that are working to further our mission of assisting people with disabilities to live independently. Jordan Ward and John Miller will lead the planning committee as this year's co-chairs.

Sewing Our Part

TWP employees have been sewing face masks for PCAs, nurses and staff to provide protection during the pandemic. The project started when we found out that our usual medical mask suppliers were out and we couldn't get more. Our COO mentioned that another organization was making fabric masks for their staff and the idea developed from there.

The face mask we used is the Olson Mask; a five-piece mask that creates a pocket in the back so that a removable filter can be inserted. The design was put together by two nurses and follows the CDC guidelines. Employees cut, sewed and ironed masks as others fulfilled orders. Our first mask recipients were our In-Home Care Department and the Medical Transportation drivers.

At the end of our production period, we distributed 1,240 masks! It was rewarding to support our front-line organization health care workers in this way.



Entertainment will be provided by **A La Mode**. You will be immersed in an experience that spotlights the very essence of Prohibition-era Kansas City and the era of the Great Gatsby. Wear your jauntiest pinstripe suit or your fanciest flapper dress and travel back in time to swing and dance the night away at our annual creative black tie event!

Our Honorary Co-Chairs are **Scott and CJ Charbonneau**. **Jordan Ward** and **John Miller** will lead the planning committee as this year's co-chairs.

Save the date and plan to come out and celebrate our 2020 award winners, raise some funds for TWP's future, and have a 1920's Roaring Good Time!



DID YOU KNOW?

- TWP is a permanent, accessible polling location for Kansas City residents of Jackson County. If you live outside Jackson County, you must vote at your local poll. Contact us about accessible voting.
- We can also help anyone in the metro with voter registration. Contact Kendra Burgess, Public Policy Coordinator, at 816-627-2204 or kburgess@thewholeperson.org.

SAVE THE DATE

- The 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act will be July 26, 2020. Stay tuned for upcoming events as TWP celebrates this historic legislation that continues to protect our rights to equal access and independence.
- Join our TWP Consumer Advocacy Group where we work together to educate officials and influence public policy. We meet every 4th Tuesday from 2:00-4:00 pm on Zoom. *For more information, contact Kendra at the number above.*



Main Street Music Festival Canceled Due to Covid 19

If this were a normal year, The Whole Person's Main Street Music Festival would be right around the corner. The Festival this year would have celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It was to be held in KC Live at Power and Light. Unfortunately, our celebration of the ADA with fabulous music will have to wait until next summer.

"Following suit with countless other concerts and other large scale events, The Whole Person decided it was in the best interests of all involved to cancel the 2020 Main Street Music Festival due to complications caused by COVID-19 and the uncertainty of where we will be in July," said Terri Goddard, Manager of Resource Development.

"We had some serious conversations and looked at the ramifications for either continuing or canceling the festival," Goddard said. "We faced some pretty big challenges in regards to sponsorship, artists' availability to travel, and increased costs to ensure public safety.

"All of those things considered, we were fortunate to be in a position to make this call now, without some of the possible consequences if we had waited longer to decide. We plan to be back bigger and better in July 2021."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AREA YARD CLEANUP!

- Corporate Volunteer Day
Friday, October 2, 2020
Time determined by your team
- Individuals and Groups
Saturday, October 3, 2020
8:30 am to early afternoon

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

(Excluded activities are lifting over 50 lbs or handling or removing any hazardous material.)

Yard maintenance can be a tough situation for people with disabilities. This activity with our volunteers helps TWP Consumers get a handle on their yards and avoid unnecessary fines from the city where they live.



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 sponsors:



Bruce Kay Remax • VMLY&R



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.

JUN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30:

Virtual Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

JUN. 5:

TWP Getting Social Missouri (by invitation only)

JUN. 25:

Virtual Consumer Advocacy Group

ADVOCATES OF HONOR MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

Tiffany Bohm-Taff

Stephanie Boykin-Brand

Laura Casselman | Kari Chester

Julie Corrigan | Sherry Duncan

Brian Francis | Ashley Frerking

Nadia Fry | Terri Goddard

Karen Gridley | Briana Haines

Aida Halaoui | Jaylene Hansen

Shaun Harris | Jennifer Hertha

Doshon Hunley | Jim Johnson

Teri Jones | Kim Krueger

Kerry Matson | Justin McWilliams

Samuel McWilliams | Gary Miles

Patricia Mullen

Carla Norcott-Mahany

Clayton Porter | Jason Purinton

Chekasha Ramsey | Rachel Rilinger

Mary Simmons | Shannon Springer

Carlos Starnes | Tom Sweeny

Monique Todd | Pallavi Vikram Arcot

Alicia Wofford | Callie Yeater

MEMORIALS

John Thurman | Daniel Colby

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

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thewholeperson.org

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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.



**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26
THE ABBOTT KANSAS CITY**

Join us for an unforgettable night
of energy, music and celebration!

Cocktail Reception • Live Jazz Music
Silent and Live Auctions • Awards Ceremony

 **The Whole Person**
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

thewholeperson.org/gatsby

TWP 101 TUESDAYS MISSOURI OFFICE

Learn the “basics” about The Whole Person at our Missouri office.

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:

Terri Goddard, 816-627-2220, or
tgoddard@thewholeperson.org

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

- June 16
- July 21
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20
- November 17

