

TWP CONNECTS

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 17

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Letter from Transition Services
- 3 Volunteer Spotlight
- 4 Faces of TWP
- 5 Faces of TWP/Event Calendar
- 6 Media Awareness Event
- 7 The Whole Person Catering
- 8 Contact Information

Expressions Art Exhibition Celebrates Ten Years!

The Whole Person's annual Expressions Art Exhibition is proud to celebrate its tenth year in 2020. We are excited about the new artist outings, workshops, and gallery spaces where the exhibit will travel in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Many artists responded to the Call for Artists 2020, more so than any previous year. Forty-nine applicants were vying for a spot in this year's exhibition. The Expressions committee, all of whom are volunteers and professionals from the arts community, chose seventeen artists to participate this year. The submissions received with their applications represent a variety of media, including paintings, digital art, photography, and performance art.

The Expressions Art Exhibition, an ArtsKC Unity Award Recipient, is a unique arts experience with opportunities for artists with disabilities to showcase their work in a professional setting. The artists participate in professional development workshops throughout the year to further develop their skills and introduce them to others in the arts community. This is important because accessibility in venues and galleries in the community can often create barriers for artists with disabilities.

Linda Link, current committee member, said "The Whole Person's Expressions

Committee members felt it was imperative to provide educational and creative workshops for the featured artists for multiple reasons. Not only is it a great way for emerging creatives to network and build and grow their professional practices, but we also wanted to provide them with the tools by which they can ultimately become agents of change in the world in which they create work."

To kick off the year-long exhibit, we invite you to join us for the opening night reception on Friday, March 6 from 6-10 pm at Rochester Brewing and Roasting Company (2129 Washington St, KCMO) for a meet and greet with the artists, silent auction, live entertainment, refreshments, and more.

The event is free and open to the public. Thank you to ArtsKC, the Francis Family Foundation, and the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund for their support of the Expressions artists, the traveling exhibits, and workshops; many thanks also to Rochester Brewing and Roasting Company, Depth Security, Unlucky Rabbit Art Studio and The Bauer KC for their support for opening night. For more information, contact Ashley Frerking at 816-214-9729 or afreerking@thewholeperson.org.



2020 Expressions Art Exhibition Gallery Schedule

Rochester Brewing and Roasting Company:
March 6 - Early May

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 Smaller Gallery: November - December
InterUrban ArtHouse: January - February 2021

Expressions 2020 Artists

Donna Agnew	Elise Huther
Margarita Aguilar	Kelly Johnson
Jasmine Ali	Kim Johnson
Mist Ballew	Nick Lopez
Matthew Breedlove	April Marie Mai
Margaret Welch Crow	Sylvia D. Mooney
Luna (Aquila) Elfindale	Josephine Termini
Samantha Goad	Sandra Vukas
Leslie Norman Hubble	

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.

“Money Follows the Person” Transition Services

By Doshon Hunley, Core Services Manager

Many of us know someone or have a loved one who resides in a nursing home. The quality of care varies, as it does for anything. There are nursing homes that provide excellent care and those that are less than desirable.

Many people in our society view nursing homes as a final destination, but this does not have to be the case for the majority of nursing home residents. Unfortunately, many of those who have this mindset – of a nursing home as a final destination – may not know about, or find out about, other options that may assist them in returning to live independently in the community.

The State of Missouri has found that it costs more than double to care for someone in a nursing home than it costs for the same person living out in the community. It's not just the elderly who are nursing home residents. For example, a 26-year-old young man who experienced a motorcycle accident has been in a nursing home for two years due to a spinal cord injury. The Money Follows the Person (MFP) state funded program provides the opportunity for him to return to the community rather than remain in the nursing home for the next 50 years. Or a couple, married for 42 years and living together in a nursing home after experiencing several falls, may transition back into the community to live independently through MFP now that they have recovered.



Funds can be used to make home modifications, purchase medical equipment, and acquire basic living necessities. To assist with making the determination whether a transition is appropriate, two Certified Occupational Therapist Assistants (COTAs) have been added to TWP's transition staff to help determine the safety of a pending transition and to provide their experience and expertise.

A person's quality of life dramatically improves when they are living in a place of their own choosing. The MFP/Transition team is glad to be a part of that choice.

The Whole Person is thrilled to announce that the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation has awarded the Transition Team a 2020 Quality of Life Nursing Home Transitions grant of \$40,000 for people living with paralysis. For more information about MFP or the Reeve grant, contact TWP's Core Services Manager, Doshon Hunley, at dhunley@thewholeperson.org or 816-627-2228.

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

Volunteer Spotlight: Jamie Solis

Name: Jamie Solis; student at Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts

How did Jamie learn about The Whole Person (TWP)?

Jamie's mother learned about TWP when she did her practicum in college. As a social work major, she was required to visit organizations providing community resources. TWP was on a list of organizations to visit.

What types of volunteer work has Jamie done for TWP?

Jamie started volunteering with The Whole Person at the Community Rummage sale in 2019. He has also volunteered with our Adaptive Sports program at the All Abilities Outdoor Adventures event. At this event, he helped people with disabilities fish, shoot air rifles, and learn archery. Jamie

also volunteered at the Main Street Music Festival in July 2019. He was in the Kids' Corner supervising the bounce house. In December 2019, Jamie was the greeter at our Holiday Open House.

What inspired Jamie to start volunteering?

Jamie needs 40 volunteer hours to graduate. Currently he has 27 hours. Jamie's mom suggested TWP as a good opportunity to finish his hours. Jaime and his younger brother have a learning disability. They both attended Wheatley Elementary where they were placed into inclusion classes with other children who had disabilities. Paseo High school also has several students with disabilities. Throughout his school career, Jamie has always been around children with disabilities. He has expressed how difficult it is for him to



Jamie enjoyed volunteering at TWP's Holiday Open House in December 2019.

learn and comprehend his studies, but he is determined to be successful and plans to go to college or a trade school.

What does Jamie think about volunteering at The Whole Person?

Jamie believes volunteering at TWP allows him to see the challenges people with disabilities face and allows him to help them.

The Gatsby Gala – it will be a Roaring Good Time!

It's 2020 and we are headed back 100 years to the days of prohibition, swing dancing, flapper dresses, pinstriped suits and Model-T Fords. This year's Gala will be held September 26th at the beautiful Abbott Event Space in the heart of the Crossroads.

We'll turn the event on its head this year with many surprises added to our guest experience. The featured entertainment will be A La Mode. They will leave you thinking you've been transported back in time! You will be immersed in an experience that spotlights the very essence of Prohibition-era Kansas City.

The spirits of Django Reinhardt and the sultry songstresses of the past are alive and well in the present. Led by phenomenal guitarist Clayton DeLong and enchanting songstress Jessica "Baby J" DeLong, A La Mode takes that



authentic, swinging, improvisational Kansas City style and blends it with French and gypsy jazz. Joined by KC's finest players on upright bass, violin, drums, brass and more, A La Mode is a staple of today's Kansas City Jazz scene.

Save the date on your calendar 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! Individual Tickets are \$150.

For more information, visit www.thewholeperson.org/Gatsby

Volunteers Needed for Yard Clean Up Event!

On Saturday, April 18 The Whole Person will partner with volunteers to help with yard work at the homes of the people who receive our services. Yard maintenance can be a tough situation for people with disabilities. This volunteer activity helps TWP consumers get a handle on their yards and avoid unnecessary fines from the city where they live. Individuals and groups interested in helping, please contact Kelly at kgrooms@thewholeperson.org, 816-627-2232.

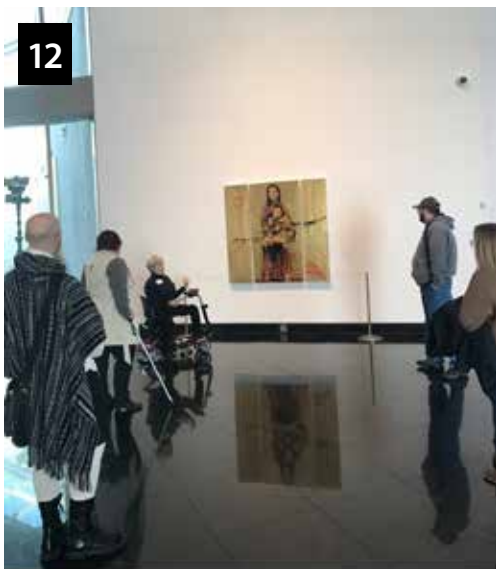


FACES OF TWP



1. TWP staff gathered to celebrate the Chiefs going to the Super Bowl! The celebration continued when they won! **2.** Jeremy is one of our volunteers. He helps us with all of our shredding. Thanks, Jeremy! **3.** Daphne helps Santa get ready for the 2019 Holiday Open House. **4.** Lea spoke to museum guests attending the Access+Ability exhibit at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in December. **5.** Katie and Lea started a new session of EmployAbilities with students Maddie and Jennifer in January 2020. **6.** Rick rode a Metro bus to discuss the accessibility of the KCATA system. **7.** Micki conducted an introductory ASL class at The Whole Person for employees of local Starbucks locations. **8.** The Accessible Sports Regional Roundtable gathered for its first meeting of 2020.

FACES OF TWP



9. Susie, Hilary, Allison and Lea gathered to celebrate the holidays at our 2019 Holiday Open House. **10.** Sydney and Eric, students from the EmployAbilities program, sold baked items at the Holiday Bake Sale at Farmers Insurance in Olathe, KS. **11.** Travis Bryant shared a dynamic presentation with TWP's Consumer Advocacy Group on the topic of effective Public Speaking. **12.** Expressions 2019 artists toured the Kemper Gallery. **13.** Callie, Nancy, Tyreice, Sarah and Christine are our Intake team. They do a great job signing up our Consumers!

EVENT CALENDAR

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

FEB. 12, 19, 26 | MAR. 4, 18:

All Abilities Tennis

FEB. 12, 19, 26 | MAR. 4, 18, 25:

KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

FEB. 12, 19, 26 | MAR. 4, 18, 25:

Kansas Peer Group D.I.Y. Class

FEB. 13 | MAR. 12:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

FEB. 18 | MAR. 3, 17:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

FEB. 19 | MAR. 4, 18:

Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

FEB. 19 | MAR. 18

Out and About with Canines and Canes

FEB. 22:

Art Beyond Sight Tour at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

FEB. 24 | MAR. 2, 16, 23, 30:

Stretching Without Looking

FEB. 25 | MAR. 24:

Consumer Advocacy Group

MAR. 6:

TWP Getting Social Missouri

MAR. 9:

Bowling Blind

MAR. 10:

Deaf Peer Support Group

TWP 101 TUESDAYS | MO

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:

Ashley Frerking, 816-214-9729, or afreking@thewholeperson.org



CLASS IS IN SESSION ON THESE 2020 DATES:

■ March 17, 2020
■ April 21, 2020
■ May 19, 2020

■ June 16, 2020
■ August 18, 2020
■ September 15, 2020

Local Media Learn about Disability Awareness and People First Language

As an organization serving people with disabilities, TWP never fails to notice when inappropriate language is used in news stories that report on the population we serve. Understanding that the media does not write this way on purpose, but rather because there is a lack of disability awareness, TWP organized a media workshop and invited all local media outlets to attend on November 12, 2019.



In collaboration with UMKC's Institute for Human Development, TWP created an impactful presentation to teach reporters, anchors, news directors, and writers about the importance of representing people with disabilities with respect and dignity. The workshop provided general disability awareness and People First Language skills to a full house: Representatives from all four local news stations attended, along

with writers from the KC Star, KCUR, 2Mas2KC, The Catholic Key, and PBS.

After the hour-long workshop, many media outlets requested copies of the presentation for their staff. Abby Eden, morning anchor and reporter for FOX4 said, "It was a great presentation and I used what I learned in a script today and changed "autistic" to "has autism." What you're doing makes a difference!"

Public Policy Update

TWP is a permanent polling location for residents of Kansas City that reside in Jackson County, Missouri. TWP can also help you with voter registration and absentee ballots wherever you live in the metro area. We can also be contacted if you would like to learn more about accessible voting.

You're invited to the annual Disability Rights Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 11 at the Missouri State Capitol to meet with your elected officials. You must RSVP by contacting Kendra Burgess, Public Policy Coordinator at kburgess@thewholeperson.org or 816-627-2204.

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 at TWP. Follow our Public Policy 411 Newsletter for updates on issues impacting people with disabilities, upcoming events, and to stories from consumers who are creating positive change in the community: thewholeperson.org/publicpolicy411

Expressions Wins ArtsKC Unity Award

The Whole Person is honored to be the 2020 recipient of ArtsKC's Unity Award in recognition of the Expressions Art Exhibition. The Unity Award celebrates a business or organization for connecting arts and culture in a unique way through programs and social impact in the community. Poppy Di Candeloro, Chair of the Expressions Committee, accepted the award at the ArtsKC annual luncheon on February 20.

The Expressions Art Exhibition was recognized for its year-long traveling art exhibitions and innovative professional workshops that connect artists with disabilities to the creative arts community in Kansas City.

The Whole Person and the Expressions Art Exhibition is deeply grateful for this prestigious award.

ArtsKC Regional Arts Council is a non-profit organization serving to further arts programs and services in the Kansas City metropolitan area. ArtsKC works

with other organizations, businesses, and individuals to advocate and further the importance of the arts in the community.

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 Rilingier
Mary Simmons | Shannon Springer
Carlos Starnes | Tom Sweeny
Monique Todd | Pallavi Vikram Arcot
Alicia Wofford | Callie Yeater

MEMORIALS

John Thurman | Daniel Colby

The Whole Person Catering is Ready to Cater Your Next Event!

The Whole Person Catering is a social enterprise of The Whole Person that prepares people with disabilities for competitive employment. Along with chef Tiffany Bohm-Taff, The Whole Person Catering is staffed by participants in EmployAbilities, an eight-week comprehensive employment training program to help job seekers living with a developmental disability find employment.

In operation since September 2019, EmployAbilities is growing by leaps and bounds. In November 2019, TWP Catering and the TWP Employment Team held a graduation for the first five participants in the EmployAbilities program. At the end of January 2020, we welcomed our second set of participants to the program.

TWP Catering serves gourmet menu items for individuals and businesses throughout the Kansas City area. The individual lunch menu consists of delicious sandwiches, salads, sides, desserts, and more. The catering menu lets you choose from sandwich platters, salad bowls, dessert platters, and beverages. In keeping within our mission, each sandwich and salad has been named after a disability advocate or pioneer in the disability community.

We love everything about TWP Catering but don't just take our word for it.

Jessica Reusch, Senior Administrative Assistant at First American Title Insurance Co. said "Tiffany! Everything was INCREDIBLE! Much of our meeting was spent talking about how delicious everything was, and how cool your



organization is. We will definitely be ordering again. Thank you!"

The kitchen is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Catering orders must be placed through the online ordering page and require 48 hours notice. To cater your next lunch or event, visit thewholepersoncatering.com.

The Big Dill Classic: Pickleball and Cornhole Tournament

The Whole Person is teaming up with Chicken N Pickle in North Kansas City to hold the first annual Big Dill Classic on Sunday, June 14th. The Classic will feature a Pickleball Tournament and a recreational Cornhole tournament. Each tournament will hold a maximum of 24 teams and will feature pool play and the tournament. Prize packages will be awarded to the top three teams in each tournament. Chicken N Pickle is a unique indoor/outdoor entertainment complex with a restaurant and sports bar that boasts pickleball courts, a variety of yard games, and enough space to kick back and relax with your favorite peeps – an atmosphere that fosters fun, friendship, and community.

The entry fee for Pickleball will be \$80 per team, the Cornhole fee will be \$60 per team, and a Spectator ticket will sell for \$25. The entry fee/ticket includes a



dinner buffet, a raffle ticket and a promotional item. We will have great music, a silent auction and fun raffle items, too! All proceeds will benefit The Whole Person's Adaptive Sports Programs.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America! Follow us on social media or for more information, visit www.thewholeperson.org/BigDill

Wheel It Forward Tournament

The Whole Person presents the **Wheel It Forward Tournament** April 3-5 at the Northland Racquet Club (306 Tennis Ct., North Kansas City, Missouri) for people with paralysis (paraplegia, quadriplegia, and ambulatory disabilities). This tournament provides a quality wheelchair tennis and adaptive sports experience for people with disabilities and others. Wheelchair tennis players from all over the Midwest region are invited to come to Kansas City to play competitive tennis and win their share of prize money. Spectators are more than welcome!

For more information and to register visit thewholeperson.org/wheelit



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

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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 Ashley Frerking, Community Relations Specialist at afreking@thewholeperson.org or call 816-214-9729.



The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

MAIN STREET MUSIC FESTIVAL

POWER & LIGHT DISTRICT LIVING ROOM

**SATURDAY
JULY
25**

A COMMUNITY EVENT
CELEBRATING
**DIVERSITY, INCLUSION,
AND ACCESSIBILITY**
WITH THE BEST IN
LIVE AND LOCAL MUSIC.



thewholeperson.org/music



**GATSBY
GALA**

**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

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