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# July Jubilee and 6th Annual Celebration Luncheon

Summer is upon us and with that brings fun outdoor activities and big celebrations. This year, The Whole Person is proud to expand our **July Jubilee** from one day to two to celebrate the 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A bigger tent to cover our parking lot means a bigger, better celebration!



On Saturday, July 23, The Whole Person will host an **All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** from 8:00 – 11:00 am. For just \$7 per person and \$5 for children 10 and under, you will enjoy the sweet taste of Chris Cake pancakes and link pork sausage.

Following your breakfast, take a stroll around the parking lot to look at the goods on display at our **Makers Fair and Flea Market**. From 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, handmade goods by KC Artisans, along with flea market finds, will be available for purchase. We will also present local performers on our

“Community Stage,” featuring local dance groups, singers and musicians.

The celebration continues Monday, July 25, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Whole Person will once again **Celebrate the 26th Anniversary of the ADA** in grand fashion from our parking lot. There will be a live band, free food/drink, speakers, vendors, and a whole lot of fun! The “Community Stage” will once again host local dance groups, singers and musicians.

Both July Jubilee events will be held at The Whole Person, located at 3710 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111. For more information, please contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager, at [tgoddard@thewholeperson.org](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org) or 816-627-2220.

The Whole Person also invites you to attend our **6th Annual Celebration Awards Luncheon** on Friday, August 26 at The Gallery Event Space located in the Power & Light District in Kansas City, Missouri. The event honors individuals and organizations working to further TWP’s mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently.

Our keynote speaker, Colonel Greg Gadson, is a 25-year career Army officer whose life is the portrait of courage in the face of greater diversity. In May 2007, as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd



*Colonel Greg Gadson will be the keynote speaker at the 6th Annual Celebration Luncheon.*

Field artillery serving in Iraq, Col. Gadson was injured from an improvised explosive device that cost him both legs above the knees and normal use of his right arm and hand. Despite his injuries, Col. Gadson remained on active duty in the Army and continued to inspire many with his message of courage, perseverance, determination and teamwork.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities can be purchased on our website under the Events tab. For more information, contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager, at [tgoddard@thewholeperson.org](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org) or 816-627-2220.

## MISSION

The Whole Person assists people with disabilities to live independently, and encourages change within the community to expand opportunities for independent living.

## VISION

The Whole Person envisions a fully integrated community of equality, where opportunities and choices are not limited by disability. We will promote a world in which people with disabilities will exercise independent choices and join with their supporters to advocate for positive change within society and its systems.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick O'Neal, President  
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Ben McLean  
Patrick Pruitt  
Lisa Womack



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

## Chasing the Future

At The Whole Person the beginning of summer alerts us to the need to start the strategic planning and budgeting process for the upcoming fiscal year. What business are we in? Who do we want to be? What do we need to develop to provide outstanding service to our consumers? How can we carefully allocate our funds to achieve our plans?

We talk to our staff and our consumers, and review data about our consumers' needs – for example, the number one question from consumers requesting information and resources is about housing. We gather information, review our current service and program needs, and start prioritizing our dreams.

We include the Missouri State Plan for Independent Living to ensure we are working together with our fellow Centers for Independent Living on the goals created to assist people with disabilities throughout the State.



Focus areas are identified; goals and action plans are developed. What will be our achievements in the future? How will we change the world to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in our communities?

Julie DeJean, CEO



Volunteers from Northland Deaf Church were part of The Whole Person's Planting Independence event. Teams of volunteers provided yard clean up at the homes of our consumers on June 4. Over 85 people worked throughout the city spreading kindness to people with disabilities. See story on page 6 or for more photos, visit our Facebook page.

## TWP Programs and Services

- Independent Living Services
- Consumer Directed Services
- Employment Services
- Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Mental Health Services
- Deinstitutionalization
- The Whole Family Project
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- Youth and Adult Services
- Blindness Low Vision Experience



# Blindness Low Vision Experience

The Whole Person's Blindness Low Vision Experience (TWP BLV) offers individuals opportunities to achieve greater independence and access to the community through physical and outdoor activities, plus art and cultural events. This past spring, TWP BLV Experience participated in and enjoyed the following activities:

- A picnic and hike at Watkins Mill.
- Weekly exercise classes we call "Stretching without Looking" where you don't have to see to be able to do it.
- Bowling Blind, an activity where guide rails really do help those who can't see the pins to aim the ball right down the middle of the alley. At the last bowling night, someone scored three strikes.
- Trolley Run: When a team of 11 from TWP's BLV Experience joined forces for the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI) Trolley

Run to raise funds and awareness for what people with disabilities can accomplish, a totally blind runner clocked an eight minute mile.

- Theater: TWP's BLV Experience has also included described performances at the Repertory and Starlight Theaters.
- Sculpture: Art lovers have explored renaissance sculpture at the Nelson Atkins through their fingertips. This experience was enhanced with rich verbal description.
- Bicycle riding: The June 4 tandem bike ride in partnership with BikeWalkKC struck that perfect life balance which can only be reached by combining fun with challenge.

TWP's BLV Experience is looking forward to more summer fun activities. On July 9, the group enjoyed a special educational hands-on experience at the Kansas City Zoo. Also, Out and About with Canines and Canes offers opportunities to travel in the community, while building confidence and encouraging increased independence, which is what The Whole Person is all about.



From left: Linda, Hilary, Sheila (with Paxton), Kayla, and Erika (with Chandra) participated in the CCVI Trolley run in April.

If you are interested in signing up for events, would like to volunteer, or have questions and ideas for The Whole Person's Blindness Low Vision Experience, please contact Sheila Styron at 816-627-2217 or [ssstyron@thewholeperson.org](mailto:ssstyron@thewholeperson.org). Whether as a participant or volunteer, when you choose the TWP's BLV Experience, the sky's the limit!



The Blindness Low Vision program met BikeWalkKC for a day of tandem bicycle riding in June. Volunteers Glenn (left), Karl (background) and Laura (right) help Darla (back seat of bicycle) get ready to ride as Sheila and Hazeline look on.



ART SERIES

## EXPRESSIONS

SHOWCASING ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES

6th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition  
October 7, 2016

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

Deadline for applications is  
August 1, 2016 (no exceptions)

Apply online at  
[www.thewholeperson.org/expressions](http://www.thewholeperson.org/expressions)

Generous support provided by





# FACES OF TWP



From left: Derrick, Samantha, Candice, Anthony and Letiah enjoy a game of Family Feud on a recent Game Day. Game Day is held the fourth Friday of every month.



Callie enjoys a cookie from Insomnia cookies during our fundraiser in March.



From left: Board member Genny Manly-Klocke, Terri and Kelly attended the artist reception for the Expressions 5th Anniversary Retrospective held in May at Main Street Day.



Ruthie and Jenny led the Jump Start to Employment classes this spring. They were a great success!



From left: Katie, Gay Lynn, Barb, Bob, Angie, Caitlin, Tammy, Tyreice and Lisa teamed up to participate in the Bowl-A-Thon to support A Night to Remember and Kansas City Type One Diabetes Foundation.



From left, back row: TWP employees Shana, Terri, Kelly, (front row) Lea and Lea's daughter supported participants in the Burns & McDonnell Rock the Parkway Charity marathon in April.

Representatives from the "Wheel It Forward" Tennis Tournament presented TWP a plaque of appreciation for our support/sponsorship of the 2016 Tournament held in April at the Northland Racquet Club. From left: Jim Pfeffer, Alan Klaus, Suzanne Whitmore, Terri Goddard and Jack Spicer.



From left: Teri J., Board President Rick O'Neal, and Mark G. attended Main Street Day in May.



TWP employees enjoyed an outing to a Royals game in May. The Klepees and Nelson families cheered on the team to victory!



The KC Revolution Quad Rugby team plays a game at the KC Adaptive Sports Day in May. TWP staff member Candice Minear helped coordinate the event.



# FACES OF TWP



A large group of TWP staff and volunteers supported AIDS Walk Kansas City in April. From left, back row: Monique, DeLois, Adoria, David with wife Rebecca, Tammy, Caitlin, (front row, left) Anthony, Barb, Lisa, Kelly, Margaret and John.



TWP's Deaf Peer Social and Support Group meets quarterly for fun and fellowship.



A large group attended the Sporting KC Soccer Ability Camp in June. The event offers an introductory skills development camp for people of all ages and ability levels, particularly persons with disabilities, including but not limited to developmental disabilities, physical disabilities/injuries and cognitive disabilities. The event is organized by the Recreation Council of Greater Kansas City (RCGKC). TWP was proud to support the event.

# EVENT CALENDAR

For specific locations and times of the events listed, visit our calendar at [thewholeperson.org](http://thewholeperson.org).

**JUL. 18, 25: 5:00-6:00 pm**  
Blind & Low Vision Program (BLV),  
Stretching Without Looking

**JUL. 27; AUG. 10, 24; SEPT. 7, 21:**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**  
Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

**JUL. 14: 1:00-3:00 pm**  
Women with Disabilities Social  
Support Group

**JUL. 14, AUG. 11, SEPT. 8:**  
**3:00-4:30pm** Brain Injury Peer  
Support Group

**JUL. 20: 5:00-6:00 pm**  
BLV, Out and About with Canines  
and Canes

**JUL. 23: 8:00am-4:00 pm**  
TWP July Jubilee Celebration

**JUL. 25: 11:00am-2:00 pm**  
TWP July Jubilee Celebration

**JUL. 25: 5:00-6:00 pm**  
BLV, Stretching Without Looking

**JUL. 26, AUG. 23, SEPT. 27:**  
**1:00-3:00 pm** Consumer Advocacy  
Group

**AUG. 1: 6th Annual Expressions Art  
Exhibition Call For Artists Deadline**

**AUG. 26: 5:30-7:30 pm**  
2016 Celebration Awards Luncheon

**AUG. 27: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
Midwest Ability Summit

**SEPT. 5:** Closed for Labor Day

**SEPT. 13:**  
Life with Spinal Cord Injuries or Related  
Disabilities (SCI/D)



# Independence through Transportation

Transportation is one obstacle many people with disabilities face in trying to get about the community. For many who cannot drive themselves, do not have their own adapted vehicles, or someone to transport them, public transportation is often their only option. Unfortunately, public transportation costs money or restricts where they can travel. The Whole Person (TWP) is able to provide transportation to consumers for many activities. Recently, TWP received a donation of an adapted vehicle from Floyd Pentlin after the passing of his wife Susan.

Susan had been born without the ability to fight off infections. Her disability never limited her ability to enjoy life. But in October of 2011, Susan was diagnosed with cellulitis that developed into sepsis. Over time, the disease left Susan immobile. Eventually, she began using a wheelchair to help with mobility.

Susan's new lifestyle limited her ability to drive and transfer into a vehicle. At the time, Floyd and Susan did not own an adapted vehicle and instead used the local OATS Bus for appointments. However, Susan was still limited in her



Mike, Monique and Julie admire the fully adapted Scion that Floyd Pentlin donated in honor of his wife, Susan.

ability to participate in the activities she had always enjoyed without paying for transportation services. In September of 2013, Floyd and Susan found a Toyota Scion with a wheelchair ramp. The freedom of owning their own accessible vehicle gave Susan a sense of normalcy that she had missed since her diagnosis.

Sadly, Susan passed away in December 2013. Floyd attempted to sell the vehicle, but instead decided to donate it to an organization that worked with people with disabilities. A friend referred Floyd to The Whole Person. After researching TWP and our mission, Floyd decided that it would be the best fit for the vehicle. He believed it would empower individuals to be independent.

*"I was interested in finding a place where, rather than providing transportation for one person, it would be able to be used for a cause. After looking on the website, I felt that the cause of The Whole Person would be the right fit." Floyd said.*

Floyd hopes this donation will help TWP further its mission and encourage members of the community to become more active. He believes if Susan were still here, she would support his decision.

*"I would like to think Susan would want this donation used so people realize that they don't have to be home bound. They can still be active members of society and enjoy being a part of the community."*

# TWP Plants Independence

It was a beautiful Saturday morning when over 100 volunteers converged on 18 homes across the Greater Kansas City Metro area to help kick off "Planting Independence – One Yard at a Time" for people with disabilities. The bi-annual event provides assistance with general yard work for consumers of The Whole Person in both Kansas and Missouri. For our inaugural event on June 4th, The Whole Person partnered with volunteer groups and individuals to mow, rake, weed, and plant vegetation in the yards of people with disabilities.

Yard maintenance can be difficult for people with disabilities to manage. The spring event helped TWP's consumers get a handle on their yards and avoid unnecessary fines from the cities where they live. This provided an excellent opportunity for volunteers to give back, be outdoors, and build a stronger community through their service to those with disabilities.

The next Planting Independence day will take place Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The fall event will focus on leaf removal. Sign up to become a volunteer or sign up to get your home on the list at [www.thewholeperson.org/how-to-help/planting-independence](http://www.thewholeperson.org/how-to-help/planting-independence).



The Nelson family (top) and local softball team Sons of Pitches (bottom) were some of the many volunteers helping on June 4.

# Exhibition Series Expands for Artists with Disabilities

Previously a single First Friday show in the Crossroads, the 2016 Expressions Art Series expands to two traveling exhibitions at locations throughout the Kansas City area. The Expressions Art Series provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to overcome barriers that may keep them from showing their art in a professional setting, allowing them to share their perspectives and experiences with the community. The series 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.

The series began this spring with the Expressions 5th Anniversary Retrospective, an exhibition of works by artists who have participated in Expressions since 2011. Following an April preview at the Jones Gallery in the Crossroads, the full retrospective was on display at The Whole Person for the entire month of May before moving to Leawood Pioneer Library for the summer.

The series will continue in October with the 6th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition, featuring the work of a new group of artists at The Arts Asylum. The exhibition will open with a First Friday artists' reception, where attendees will enjoy music and dance performances, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, and conversations with featured artists.

Accessibility options provided for the series include braille and large-print event programs, volunteer guides for descriptive audio tours, sign language interpreters and accessible entrances.

For more details on the 2016 Expressions Arts Series, visit [TheWholePerson.org/Expressions](http://TheWholePerson.org/Expressions)



*The Expressions 5th Anniversary Retrospective included work by 7 artists who had participated in past Expressions exhibits from 2011 through 2015.*

## Important Voting News

During the election on November 8, 2016, the Missouri legislature will ask voters if Missouri's constitution should be amended to require photo identification in order to vote. House Joint Resolution 53 states a voter must present a valid government issued photo identification in order to vote.

Similar legislation passed in 2006, but was ultimately declared unconstitutional by the Missouri Supreme Court because it placed an undue burden on voters who otherwise would have been allowed to vote. Currently, a person can present their voter ID card, a driver's license (expired, unexpired or from a different state), or a piece of official mail, such as a utility bill or mail from any government office, with the person's name and address in order to vote.

If this proposed amendment passes, House Bill 1631 will go into effect. It allows for the state to provide, free of charge, one free non-driver's license along with paying for the cost of any documents, such as birth certificates, divorce decrees, or social security cards, needed in order to obtain the non-driver's license. It also states the money for the costs must be appropriated from the General Revenue fund, or the identification requirements will not be enforced.

If the amendment is passed, the effective date would be July 1, 2017. The Whole Person encourages everyone to register to vote and to be educated on vital decisions we will be making in November.

## Youth Summer Kick-Off

The Whole Person's Youth and Adult Support Services Department wrapped up spring semester classes. TWP brought our Youth Transition curriculum to 11 high schools across Cass, Clay, and Jackson counties, reaching approximately 70 students with disabilities. Nine of the 11 participating schools were new to the TWP youth program. Students learned about their disabilities and what it means to be a strong self-advocate, disability awareness and pride, various resources available to them, and a broad spectrum of soft skills needed for a successful transition into adulthood.

TWP has also kicked off its summer youth program in partnership with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation through a grant. TWP will serve 6 school districts this summer: Raytown, Independence, North Kansas City, Park Hill, Fort Osage, and Lee's Summit.

***TWP will serve  
6 school districts  
this summer.***

TWP appreciates the support of the school districts to help expand services to students with disabilities. We are excited and look forward to expanding our efforts to include more school districts. For more information on Youth Transition Services at TWP, contact Donnette Fayne at 816-627-2276 or [dfayne@thewholeperson.org](mailto:dfayne@thewholeperson.org).



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

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

## 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)

## 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](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org), or call 816-627-2220.



**JULY JUBILEE • A 2-DAY EVENT!**

**SATURDAY, JULY 23 - 8:00-4:00 PM**

**All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** by Chris Cakes - 8:00-11:00 am  
\$7 Per person, \$5 Children 10 and under

**Makers Fair & Flea Market** - 8:00-4:00 pm  
(Handmade goods by KC Artisans and flea market finds)

**Community Stage**  
(Local dance groups, singers and musicians)

**MONDAY, JULY 23 - 10:00-2:00 PM**

**Celebrating the 26th Anniversary of the ADA!**  
**LIVE band, FREE food/drink, speakers, vendors and a whole lot of fun!**

**Community Stage**  
(Local dance groups, singers and musicians)

[www.thewholeperson.org/Jubilee](http://www.thewholeperson.org/Jubilee)



THE WHOLE PERSON'S  
**CELEBRATION AWARDS LUNCHEON**  
AUGUST 26, 2016  
KEYNOTE | COL. GREG GADSON

**Friday, August 26**  
**The Gallery Event Space**  
61 E 14th St, KCMO

Our 6th Annual Celebration Awards Luncheon honors individuals and organizations that are working to further TWP's mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently.

**PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY AT**  
[thewholeperson.org/celebrationawards](http://thewholeperson.org/celebrationawards)

**Sponsorship opportunities available**  
Contact Terri Goddard, at 816-627-2220, [tgoddard@thewholeperson.org](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org).