



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need
thewholeperson.org

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The 2013 Annual Report covers the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013.



ABOUT

The Whole Person

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.

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Whole Person is a preeminent center for independent living, with widespread grassroots support, strong consumer control, and a diverse, professional staff. Founded in 1978, The Whole Person is a private, nonresidential, nonprofit corporation providing a full range of community-based services for people with disabilities.



Donna Bradford

A LOOK BACK. A LOOK FORWARD.

The past year was one of amazing growth and expansion for The Whole Person. The move to 3710 Main Street anchored our presence in midtown Kansas City, not only as a landmark in universal design architecture and construction, but also as a center that is connected to our community, and the people that we serve. Our new headquarters increased our visibility and brand, allowing us to expand our outreach and the message of independence for people with disabilities.

We also expanded our presence in 2013 by increasing initiatives such as our Mental Health Services program, which provides counseling, advocacy, and peer support to individuals with mental health disabilities and individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities needing mental health services. Our new space has allowed us to offer several support groups, which allow people with disabilities to connect with peers, share their experiences and gain access to new resources. Securing a contract with the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation made 2013 a pivotal year for our Employment Services program. By providing intensive and individualized career exploration, job readiness training, and job development, The Whole Person empowers people with disabilities to utilize their skills and talents to improve their own outcomes and achieve independence.



Brian Ellefson

We're proud of our growth and the larger journey on which we've embarked. We are aware of what we have achieved, but recognize that there is much work to do to meet the aggressive plans we've set for ourselves. Our staff and board continue to work toward common goals focused on the philosophy and practice that empowers people with disabilities and enables them to exert influence, choice and control in every aspect of their life.

Donna L Bradford

Donna Bradford
CFO, Interim CEO

Brian Ellefson

Brian Ellefson
President, Board of Directors



3710 MAIN STREET

In 2010, The Whole Person purchased the historic Goodenow Textile Building at 3710 Main Street in Kansas City, Missouri, originally built in the 1920's, and renovated it according to universal design principles. This renovation was not a typical construction project; It was carefully thought out and designed to provide a work environment that would allow equal access to everyone regardless of physical abilities. The new headquarters allowed us to consolidate three area offices, bringing together over 85 employees, and providing a community gathering space.

The project demonstrated that even buildings on the National Register of Historic Places can be renovated to be accessible to people with disabilities. Interior spaces are flexible, intuitive, efficient, and easy to navigate regardless of body size, posture, or mobility. An automatic sliding entry door opens hands-free. A raised floor system allows better air quality and a quieter environment. Interior paint, floor colors, and patterns are suited for visual access and elevators are oversized to accommodate multiple wheelchairs. "We wanted to create something that was extraordinarily happy, something that was joyful that celebrated life beyond belief ... that ultimately opened its arms to anybody that would want to enter into the building," said Peter Sloan, principal architect, 360 Architecture. "It was intentional to create an environment that is very welcoming for others, and for all, and ... no matter who you are, it will work for you."

RIBBON CUTTING MARCH 28, 2013

TWP commemorated the opening of our new home at 3710 Main Street with a ribbon cutting celebration and building tours on March 28. Guest speakers included Jenny Love of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Dan Smith from the TWP Board of Directors, Richard Wetzel of Centric Projects, Peter Sloan of 360 Architecture, and Diane Burnette of MainCor. Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church delivered the invocation. We were honored to have Goodenow family members also in attendance.

The celebration event drew hundreds of friends of TWP, board members, employees, supporters, community advocates and consumers. It was a fantastic expression of excitement for the programs and services that TWP provides to the community.



WHO WE SERVE

- People with disabilities
- Parents, spouses, siblings, significant others of people with disabilities
- Schools, businesses and local government agencies
- Volunteer organizations
- Hospitals, health and medical organizations
- Civic and church/religious organizations
- Veterans
- Any individual or organization seeking assistance

PROGRAMS

- Independent Living Services
- Consumer Directed Services
- Employment Services
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- The Whole Family Project
- Mental Health Services
- Deinstitutionalization
- Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

SUPPORT GROUPS

- TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) Support Group
- LGBTQ Social Support Group
- Mental Health Peer Group
- My New Life Journey: HIV/AIDS Peer Support Group
- Spinal Cord Injury Peer Mentoring Group

The staff at TWP emphasize consumer control, the idea that people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, deserving of equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and take part in their community, particularly in reference to the services that affect their day-to-day lives and access to independence.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to thank the following individuals who served on our Board of Directors during 2013:

Brian Ellefson, President
 Dan Smith, Vice President
 Delfina Segura, Secretary
 Tim Urban, Treasurer
 Carol Comer
 Jim Atwater
 Jim Barnes
 Rick O'Neal, Vice President
 Robert Cantin, Secretary
 Steve Hurst, Secretary

BRETT'S STORY

It all began with a TWP brochure Brett Blades found lying around somewhere.

Brett came to The Whole Person seeking help in his job hunting effort. As a person with amputations below both knees, finding the right job at the right place presented a challenge. Armed with a great attitude and a willingness to work hard, Brett met with Erik Nelson, TWP Employment Specialist, to locate just the right fit.

Erik identified Brett as "management material" and connected him with their Walgreens Partnership, and before long he was offered a job. Just as Brett was all set to begin work, he experienced a stroke. "I was rocking and rolling and I just got shot down with the stroke." True to form, Brett dedicated himself to his recovery and eventually began work at Walgreens as a night manager. He's now employed by The Rehabilitation Institute.

Brett considers himself a compassionate, but ornery guy. While he downplays his disability he is not shy about sharing how much hard work it takes and how you have to be willing to do it. "You've got to be part of this great world that we have," says Brett. "I wish there was a way to put a better attitude in people's hearts and their heads." Brett believes most people with disabilities want to work but don't know where to begin.

Isolating yourself at home is the worst enemy, in Brett's opinion. He is not an advocate of the "poor me" mindset. There are people who believe that not everyone is employable. Brett has overcome obstacles that most of us will never have to face. When people ask how he does it, he replies, "I don't know any other way."

Pretty soon Brett will be driving around town. He's working on obtaining a specially designed vehicle. Brett says, "You can go as far as you want. It's just up to you to do it. Don't ever feel like you're stuck in a hole."



"You can go as far as you want. It's just up to you to do it.

Don't ever feel like you're stuck in a hole."

- Brett Blades

CUSTOMIZED CAREER PLANNING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

At The Whole Person, our focus is on a person's abilities and interests, not their limitations. We help people with disabilities create a career development plan to define, develop and pursue their preferences, contributions and desired conditions for employment.

This approach helps an individual identify ways to discover the potential contributions they have to offer to an employer and improve their career opportunities and find integrated and competitive employment.

CORE SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

The Whole Person provides up-to-date information on services and support such as adaptive equipment, transportation, accessible housing and other resources in the Kansas City metro area. We also provide referral services to groups and agencies that handle specific issues or programs pertinent to an individual's needs. Outreach and disability awareness presentations are shared at a variety of businesses, organizations and agencies throughout the metro area.



INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

One-on-one training helps people with disabilities develop the skills needed to live independently. This may include cooking skills, health maintenance, home management, budgeting, time management, transportation, or resources for continuing one's education. TWP staff focus on working with consumers to learn self-advocacy to ensure that they are given options which reduce the need of support from family members, professional attendants or other caregiving services.



DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

TWP provides information about options in the community that are available to individuals who are presently in facilities, or are in immediate risk of entering state institutions or nursing facilities. For people who want to move out of institutions, we also provide assistance in finding housing and other vital service needs as requested by the individual and/or family. Over 1,000 consumers each year have maintained their independence due to the Consumer Directed Services program.



PEER MENTORING

We share our personal experiences and knowledge, or connect an individual with someone who can relate to the many changes and challenges that someone is faced with when adjusting to a disability, experiencing changes in life, or learning to use services more effectively. TWP offered five peer mentoring support groups in 2013: Mental Health, LGBT, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Advocacy. In addition, Living Well and Working Well with a Disability classes were held.



INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

TWP advocates for civil rights and equality by influencing and implementing legislation and policy on the local, state, and federal levels. In addition, we provide help to individuals with disabilities so they can acquire the knowledge and skills to solve problems and achieve goals on their own. Advocacy covers education, employment, benefits, housing, and all other areas of independent living.



"The CDS Program is a blessing."
- Tarika Kendall

ANGELA'S STORY

Tarika Kendall had been caring for her mother, Angela Richard, for over a decade. Following hip replacement surgery in 1999, Angela's road to recovery had been rocky. While Tarika wanted to help out in any way she could, the caregiving duties kept growing. While the obvious answer was to hire a healthcare worker, there was no way Angela could afford that luxury.

Angela saw a television commercial for The Whole Person and learned about the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) program administered by TWP. The program allows people with physical disabilities the opportunity to employ a caregiver to assist with personal care and daily activities to achieve a higher level of independence. Funded by Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet), The Whole Person contracts with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to provide case management and payroll services for the program.

Angela knew immediately who she wanted to hire as her official employee – her daughter, Tarika. This way she could continue to benefit from the care Tarika had already been providing, but now Tarika would be compensated for her services. Tarika passed the employee screening process, and before long, mother and daughter became employer and employee. Tarika is pleased that part of her income comes from work that means so much to her – taking care of her mother. From making sure medication is

delivered, cooking and cleaning to occasional trips to the store, Tarika and Angela enjoy life together. Angela calls the CDS program "a blessing" because, not only are her needs met, but her employee, Tarika, was someone she already knew and loved. "I'm with her all the time," says Tarika. "I'm helping her and she's helping me."

In the three years since becoming connected with The Whole Person, Angela has worked closely with Independent Living Specialist Scott Quirnbach. Scott checks on consumers to make sure they have everything they need. "We love him," Angela and Tarika exclaim. "He's easy to talk to and easy to get along with. You can tell he loves what he does."

Angela Richard passed away on Sunday, August 18, 2013. With Tarika's support, we honor Angela's memory by sharing her story.

CONSUMER DIRECTED SERVICES (CDS)

The CDS program helps people with significant physical disabilities obtain assistance with personal care and daily activities to maintain or increase their independence. This includes services in the home such as meal preparation, cleaning and personal hygiene. The goal is to provide individuals more personal autonomy in determining how best to meet their own care needs. In other words, choices – including hiring and supervising their attendant and approving time sheets for payment.



CELEBRATION AWARDS LUNCHEON

The third annual Celebration Awards Luncheon was held on Friday, August 16, in the Century Ballroom of the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. Through this event, TWP recognizes individuals and businesses that are working to further TWP's mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently. Fox 4 anchor Phil Witt emceed the event. This year's award recipients were Joseph Matovu, David Jones, 360 Architecture, Centric Projects, and Governor Jay Nixon. The Celebration Awards Luncheon was sponsored by Centric Projects, Show-Me Presentation Resources, The Kansas City Star, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, Missouri Gas Energy, and UMB Financial Corporation.

The keynote speaker for the 2013 luncheon was Michael Hingson, a New York Times best-selling author who is blind and survived the 9/11 attacks with the help of his guide dog Roselle. He shared his inspiring life story, recounting the unimaginable experience of descending 78 flights of stairs in World Trade Center Tower One and fleeing to safety amid the chaos and debris. Audience members were moved by Michael's message of empowerment, independence, and inclusion.



EXPRESSIONS ART SHOW

On May 3, The Whole Person hosted Expressions, a First Friday art show featuring artists with disabilities. Despite the winter-like weather, more than 250 people attended the show and reception at the Jones Gallery in the Crossroads Art District. An annual event, Expressions this year featured paintings, drawings, photographs, ceramics, and handmade jewelry from 17 local artist with a wide range of physical and mental health disabilities. The show gave these artists a chance to display their work and tell their stories in a welcoming and inclusive gallery space. Guests enjoyed live music, door prizes and refreshments, including wine provided by the event sponsor UMB.



OPEN CAPTIONED DRIVE-IN MOVIE

TWP collaborated with Boulevard Drive-In and Cinema KC to bring Kansas City its first open caption drive-in movie. On Thursday, July 11, hundreds of enthusiastic attendees enjoyed Disney Pixar's Monsters University with captions on the screen and celebrated this milestone of inclusion in Kansas City. It was a perfect summer night to enjoy a fun family movie under the stars, and was the first opportunity to experience a drive-in theater for many guests who are deaf or hard of hearing. Boulevard Drive-In generously donated a portion of the event proceeds to The Whole Person.

MAIN STREET DAY

It was H-O-T...but we kept cool with delicious snow cones, laughter and networking at Main Street Day, a celebration of urban mobility on September 7. Mid-America Adaptive Sports, a provider of recreational and competitive sports and athletic opportunities for children and young adults with physical disabilities, held a wheelchair obstacle course. We are proud to be a part of the MainCor and Main Street community!



DAVITA, INC. DAY OF SERVICE

On Saturday, June 9, 68 employees of DaVita, Inc. (a leading kidney care company) partnered with TWP for a day of volunteer service, making accessibility improvements to the homes of people with disabilities. Volunteers built ramps, painted, removed fallen trees, cleaned yards and performed other light construction using their own tools as well as materials supplied by Miller Building Services and funding from DaVita and their partners. 512 hours of service were contributed by these volunteers.



CAST 'N BLAST

On September 13, TWP held our annual Cast 'N Blast, an accessible outdoor sporting event that includes fishing, archery, air rifle target shooting, a picnic lunch and door prizes. Cabela's donated the worms, as well as gift cards for door prizes. 6 volunteers from Assurant Employee Benefits assisted with the event that approximately 50 TWP consumers attended. Volunteers from Missouri Department of Conservation and TWP staff members lead activities on a beautiful day at the James A. Reed Wildlife Area.



HEART OF AMERICA FOUNDATION STAND DOWN

Every year, TWP joins the Heart of America Stand Down Foundation in providing resources to veterans. The objective of Stand Down is to provide homeless veterans with access to short and long-term resources needed to begin rebuilding their lives. The Foundation has been actively working to combat homelessness with the help of the local community by providing a variety of services and a warm meal during these special events. TWP provided support and resources to over 550 Veterans during each Stand Down event in 2013.



UPS FOUNDATION GRANT



The Whole Person was honored to receive a \$10,000 grant from the UPS Foundation, the charitable arm of UPS, in July 2013. The grant was used to purchase much-needed computers, adaptive equipment, software, and supplies to help people with disabilities find and pursue employment opportunities.

"The new equipment is a great resource for our Employment Program," says Donna Bradford, CFO and Interim CEO of TWP. "The computers are a vital tool in our efforts to empower people with disabilities to achieve gainful employment and independence. We thank The UPS Foundation for their incredibly generous contribution."

"The UPS Foundation is honored to support The Whole Person's efforts to assist people with disabilities to live independently," said Eduardo Martinez, president of The UPS Foundation. "Our goal is to fund powerful programs that make a lasting difference to the global community."

SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

We provide advocacy, information and referral, peer mentoring, and individual and group counseling to help people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and minorities with disabilities maximize their opportunities for independent living.

YOUTH SERVICES

TWP provides a wide variety of activities designed to help increase the confidence of young people with disabilities – from getting together with peers, to classroom training, to one-on-one peer support.

THE WHOLE FAMILY PROJECT

The Whole Family Project provides sign language instruction for parents and family members of children who are deaf or nonverbal.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

Staff who have personal experience with deafness, and understand the deaf community and culture, provide accessibility and independent living skills training.

RURAL SERVICES

TWP continues to work to increase inclusion in areas with populations of 10,000 or less, from working directly with individuals with disabilities to disability awareness trainings.



"The Whole Person creates hope and direction."

- Jeffrey Belk

JEFFREY'S STORY

Most any weekday you can find Jeffrey Belk attending one of the many support groups offered at The Whole Person. As a man with multiple disabilities, both physical and mental, he recognizes the need to gather with others on a similar life path. Jeffrey considers TWP a place to gain friendships and exchange information.

Before coming to The Whole Person, Jeffrey was depressed from being unemployed and from losses suffered in the Joplin tornado. He kept putting off dealing with his emotions and knew he needed help. "On the outside, I looked fine, but inside I was struggling with all of my hidden disabilities, like severe food allergies, complications from surgery, short-term memory loss and struggling to fit in socially." Jeffrey heard about TWP's LGBT Social Support Group from a counselor. "The LGBT group gives me companionship," says Jeffrey. "I don't make friends easily. The Whole Person puts me in an environment with other people with disabilities. I'm a fuller person for it."

Jeffrey thinks everyone should take the Living Well With a Disability class. This group helps people set goals and work toward achieving them. Recently, Jeffrey was able to navigate the steps toward moving into HUD housing. He says, "They walked me through the steps of the system so I could proceed with it myself. I go [to TWP] every chance I can – it's total empowerment here."

THANK YOU, DONORS!

We would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations for their generous donations to The Whole Person in 2013. Thanks to increased support from friends like you, TWP has grown over the past year. This growth has allowed TWP to provide more services for people with disabilities, promoting empowerment, independence, self-reliance and integration into the community.

360 Architecture
 Bert and Diane Aaron
 Russell Adams
 Adapt on Demand
 Advance Auto Parts
 Jeanette Alexander
 Dustin Altic
 Art and Frame Warehouse
 Art of Pizza
 Associated Car Clubs of Kansas City
 Assurant Employee Benefits
 Jameson Auten
 Brenda Avery-Byers
 Jean Bailey Smith and Stephen Smith
 Bath Innovations Walk In Bathtubs
 Bayer Health Care
 Beauty Brands, Inc.
 Bike 4 the Brain
 BKD, LLP
 Barry Bloom
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City
 Shawn Boelter
 Michael Bone
 Boulevard Drive-In, The Wes Neal Family
 Steven Byers
 Cabela's
 Robert Cantin
 Christy Cartwright
 Centric Projects
 Chop Tops Hair Company
 Larna Christy
 Vanessa Colvin
 Sheryl Coss
 Crossroads Coffeehouse
 Jason Denney
 Dennis Sweeny Business Consulting, Inc.
 Brian Ellefson
 Andrea Elyachar
 Marty Exline
 Elaine Forrest
 Johnna Fults
 Bob Glaser
 Glenn E. Bradford and Associates

Governor's Council on Disability
 Kathy Gray
 Greater Horizons
 Mark Greene
 Karen Gridley
 Handicap Conversions, Inc.
 Marjorie Harris
 Heartland Combined Federal Campaign
 Jane Henderson, LMSW
 Heritage Companies
 Susan and Wayne Hidalgo
 Melissa Hill
 Leslie Holt
 Emory F. James III
 Johnny Ray's Drive In
 Lesley Johnston
 Charley Jones Jr.
 Jones Gallery
 James Jones
 Teri Jones
 Jolie Justus
 Kansas City Royals
 Kansas City T-Bones Baseball Club
 Kansas City Zoo
 Colleen Kasson
 Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
 KC Improv Comedy Club
 Glenda Kendrick
 Patricia A. Kenoyer
 Walter Krajewski
 Donna Goeckler and Kim Krueger
 La Bodega
 Joan LaBelle
 Lamar's Donuts
 Shannon Loy
 LuLu's Thai Noodle Shop
 Joseph Marvil
 Joseph Matovu
 Maya Yoga
 Norma McKelvy
 Meers Advertising
 Sheryl Mehrhoff
 Simon Meiners
 Michael Smith Restaurant
 Mid America Coach
 Nancy Milgrim
 Vicki Miller
 Missouri Gas Energy
 Elizabeth Moran
 Betty Morrisette
 Dale Mort
 Northeast Johnson County Chamber
 of Commerce
 Office of Adult Learning and
 Rehabilitation Services
 Old Navy
 Ed O'Malley
 O'Malley Insurance
 On the Border
 Carla Oppenheimer
 Oppenstein Brothers Foundation
 Pam Owens

Paradise Park
 Julie Parker
 Parks and Recreation, City of Raytown
 Paul Denzer and Sue Bernstein Fund
 Grant R. Peters
 Peggy Petrovic
 Megan Phillips
 Yvonne Pierson
 Print Time
 Quality Transcription Specialists
 Redemptorist Social Services Center
 Kathryn Ricker-Paine, LMSW
 Curt Roberts
 David Rosenkoetter
 Rotary Club of Johnson County, Sunset
 Saint Luke's Rehabilitation Department
 Screenland
 Show-Me Presentation Resources
 Dan Smith
 Beth Springgate
 Carolyn Stewart
 Daniel Stiegler
 Sheila Styron
 Summit Bank of Kansas City
 Perry Swinton-Ginsberg
 The Aladdin Hotel
 The Kansas City Star
 Monica Tiffany
 Truist
 UMB
 UMKC Institute for Human Development
 United Access
 United Way of Greater Kansas City
 UPS Foundation
 Vicki Vespestad
 Dan Walstrom
 David Westbrook
 Elizabeth Wheeler and Charley Young
 Ted and Molly Wiedeman
 Pete Williams
 Phil Witt
 Marjorie Yates

Countless others have supported TWP throughout 2013. Any omission is purely accidental. We appreciate the support of our community.



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Income

Government fees for services	\$20,865,441
Government grants	\$452,434
Other fees for services	\$1,101,152
Individual, foundation, corporate support	\$45,063
United Way	\$42,088
Interest and dividends	\$61,347
Realized/unrealized gain on investments	(\$44,691)
Other	\$58,517
Total Income	\$22,581,351

Expenses

Program	\$18,543,255
Management and general	\$3,709,240
Total Expenses	\$22,252,495

Assets

Total Current Assets	\$5,131,642
Net Property and Equipment	\$6,588,274
Total Assets	\$11,719,916

Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Current Liabilities	\$5,643,469
Total Net Assets	\$6,076,447
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$11,719,916

MAKING AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

TWP has taken the lead in showing the community who we are, what our mission is, and how our services impact both the community and all people with disabilities.

Age range of individuals receiving services

Under 6 years	1.5%
Ages 6-17	2.8%
Ages 18-22	5.2%
Ages 23-64	74.7%
Ages 65+	14.8%
Age unknown	1.0%

Gender of individuals served

Females	61.2%
Males	38.8%

Individuals served by counties

Cass, MO	3.0%
Clay, MO	5.4%
Jackson, MO	73.3%
Johnson, KS	8.3%
Platte, MO	1.5%
Other KS Counties	7.9%
Other MO Counties	0.6%

Race and ethnicity of individuals receiving services

American Indian or Alaska Native	1.0%
Asian	0.9%
Black or African American	52.0%
Hispanic/Latino	3.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.3%
Two or more races	0.9%
Unknown race/ethnicity	1.6%
White/Caucasian	40.3%

Total people served in 2013 **2,698**

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Assistance most requested from information and referral calls included:

- Location of legal services
- Removal of barriers to accessibility in the home
- Housing availability
- Public assistance
- Personal care attendant services
- Availability of transportation

Independent living skills training included the following:

- Worked with a family in a homeless shelter to advocate for themselves to find housing, obtain Medicaid, and Social Security
- Worked with consumers on accessing public transportation services with KCATA to ensure mobility and independence in the community
- Guided consumers to create a bi-weekly and monthly budget
- Helped consumers research available housing options and with contact information for income-based housing
- Taught consumers basic skills of how to conduct a search on the Internet
- Assisted with the application for vision benefits and other personal paperwork.

Self-advocacy skills were taught to consumers on the following topics:

- Parents were taught how to advocate in school settings for accessibility and IEP
- Requesting reasonable accommodations for access to services in the community
- Negotiating with creditors and utility companies to eradicate outstanding debts
- Working with governmental agencies to obtain benefits

Through peer mentoring, individuals assisted each other to overcome challenges in the following areas:

- Frustrations with teachers and professors, VR counselors and parents
- Setting goals and overcoming roadblocks
- Becoming comfortable with identifying as a person with a disability and requesting accommodations
- Managing difficult emotions

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Whole Person provides education on disability etiquette including reasonable accommodations and accepted social interaction as well as why disability awareness is important.

To arrange a presentation, contact Sharonne McGee, Community Relations Manager, at 816-627-2232 or smcgee@thewholeperson.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA



"Like" our Facebook page to view photos, videos, articles, industry updates, event announcements, volunteer opportunities and more! It is a great place to see what is going on at The Whole Person! We are also on Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, Vimeo, Google+ and Instagram.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Signing up for our email list is a great way to stay connected to TWP. You'll receive information on upcoming events, updates on our programs, volunteer opportunities, and ways that you can contribute. Visit our website to sign up.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

For media inquiries, interviews or statements, please contact Perry Swinton-Ginsberg at pswinton-ginsberg@thewholeperson.org or 816-627-2220.

CONTACT US

For information regarding our full range of programs and services and ways you can make a difference, contact us at:

3710 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

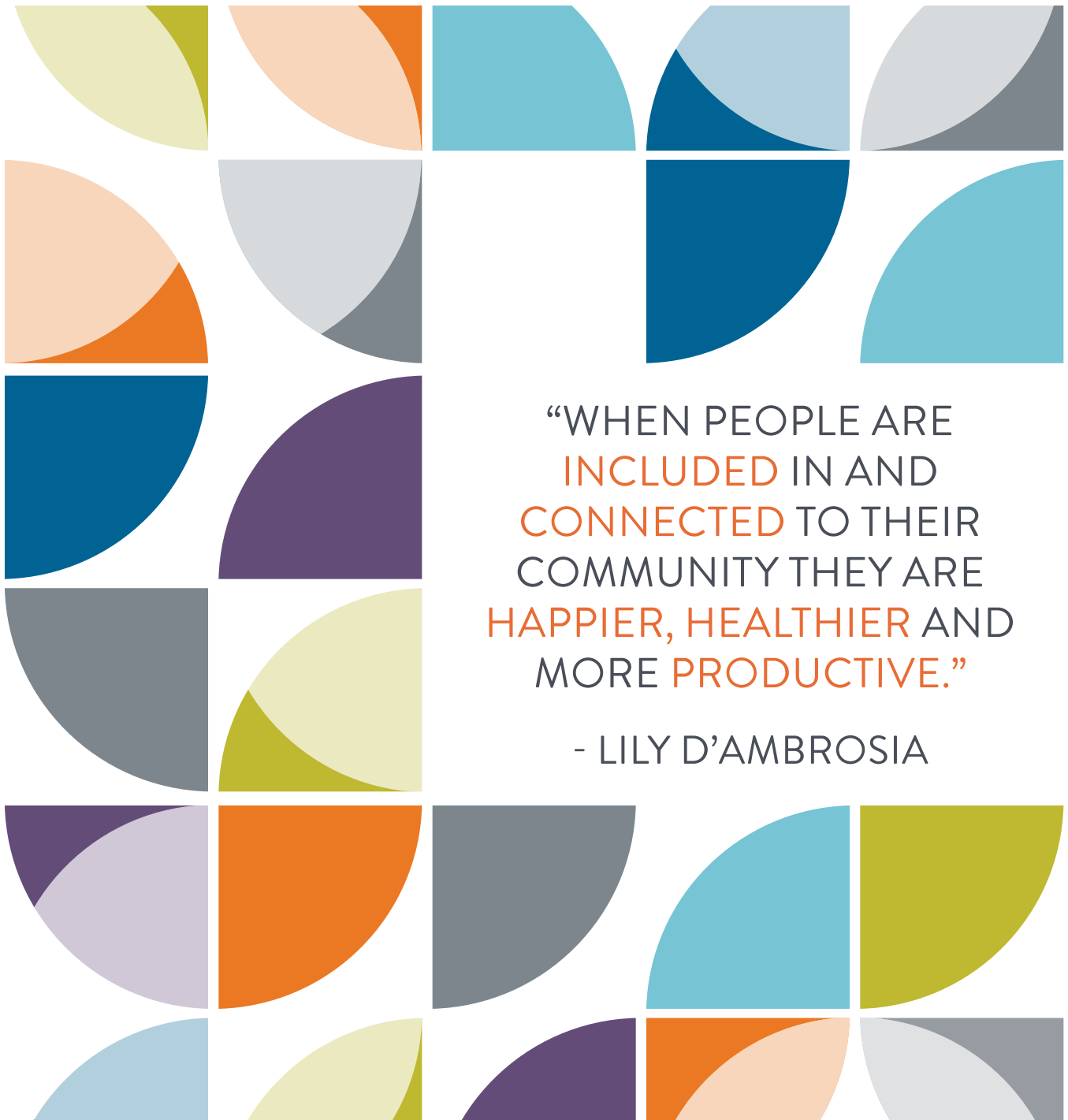
phone: 816.561.0304

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info@thewholeperson.org

thewholeperson.org

Office hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



“WHEN PEOPLE ARE INCLUDED IN AND CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY THEY ARE HAPPIER, HEALTHIER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE.”

- LILY D’AMBROSIA



Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

3710 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 • 816-561-0304 • thewholeperson.org