

TWP CONNECTS

WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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Accessible Sports Roundtable Brings Together Recreation Leaders in KC

Access and Opportunity: Adaptive Sports in Greater Kansas City is a new project developed by The Whole Person in December 2017 to address Kansas City metropolitan area gaps in communication, collaboration, and access to adaptive/accessible sports programs and venues for people of all ages with physical, mental health, and/or intellectual disabilities.

The concept for the project grew from decades-long concerns of The Whole Person that adaptive sports silos exist throughout the region but there has been no ongoing, professionally staffed, bi-state entity working to reduce silos through shared information and collaborations to increase access to sports activities and venues for people with disabilities.

In the fall of 2017, The Whole Person hired Rick Haith as our Recreation Outreach Coordinator. The development of the Accessible Sports Regional Roundtable is another important step to expand outreach to all geographic areas of the city and as many adaptive sports stakeholders as possible, in order to establish strong and mutually supportive networks across multiple sectors. Development of the Roundtable is a priority for The Whole Person's manager of Resource Development and Community

Outreach, Terri Goddard. "It was very exciting to see a room full of committed stakeholders at our first meeting and a sure sign that there is interest and a need for this sort of undertaking. I'm proud that TWP is leading this collaborative effort," says Goddard. This project is being funded by a Healthy Communities grant through the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

The newly formed Accessible Sports Regional Roundtable first met on October 18th with a full house and will meet quarterly to address bi-state metropolitan area needs

for a community-wide approach to recreational activities and sports for people of all ages and with all types of disabilities. The project's purpose is to reduce gaps in adaptive/accessible sports availability in the Greater Kansas City region and promote community inclusion and awareness of disabilities through sports.

The project's desired long-term goal is that more individuals with disabilities have access to healthy practices through athletics and sports. Short-term goals include increased community action for accessible

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The first meeting of the Accessible Sports Regional Roundtable was held at The Whole Person on October 18.

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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James Geary

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

A Note from The Whole Person's Board of Directors President

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the board of The Whole Person (TWP). I have been committed to this organization for a number of years and am delighted to be a member of the board.

Working alongside the leadership and staff of TWP provides the board with the information and knowledge necessary to be effective for the organization and its consumers. At our monthly meetings, we invite staff to come and explain their position within the organization. It is enjoyable and informative and we look forward to learning more about the specific programming at TWP as well as upcoming opportunities for growth and development.

Currently, the board is working to establish the Carver's Policy Governance



Model as well as reforming outdated guidelines and procedures to streamline our process and be more effective for TWP.

Finally, we are excited to welcome new members to the board in order to increase our diversity and expertise. Ultimately our goal is to continue to work toward making TWP the best organization it can be for the staff, consumers and our community.

Carla Oppenheimer

Accessible Sports

Continued from page 1

active living opportunities, increased knowledge and awareness of issues affecting people with disabilities, increased public resources, and strengthened collaborative networks.

We are so excited about the feedback received from our first meeting. There was broad, diverse and city-wide representation. We agreed to work together to create and disseminate an online adaptive sports Community

Gaps Survey and a community-wide, all-inclusive adaptive sports calendar. The Roundtable will also conduct a survey and issue a report on the accessibility of sports and athletics venues throughout the metropolitan area. Finally, the members will create and publish a three-year Accessible Sports Action Plan.

The next meeting will be held on 1/7/19 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm at The Whole Person. If you want more information, please contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220 or tgoddard@thewholeperson.org.

TWP Programs and Services

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

It's Magic Gala Raises Funds for Adaptive Sports

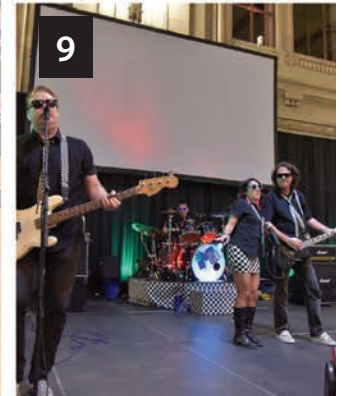
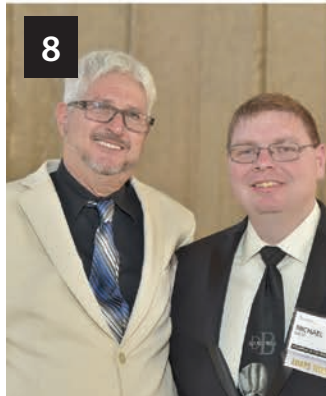
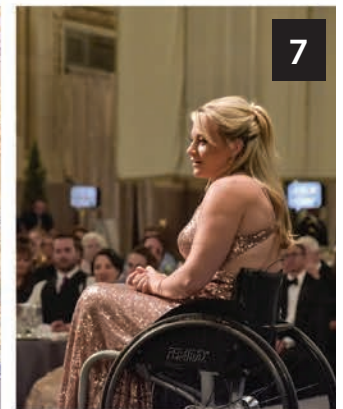
Held on Saturday, September 22, 2018, the **It's Magic! – Night of Independence Gala** was a unique evening of illusion, mystery and magic that honored individuals and organizations working to further The Whole Person's mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently.

The evening featured a cocktail reception with entertainment provided by Kansas City Aerial Artists and magic performances by Victor Le'Yon. The crowd was welcomed by the famous illusionist, David Copperfield and CEO, Julie DeJean. There was a silent and a live auction, dinner, awards ceremony with a special message from Individual Award winner, Sarah Castle and dancing to the sounds of the M80s.

Special thanks to our Honorary Chairperson, Sally Firestone, 2017 Paul H. Levy Founder's Award winner, and to Event Chair, Morgan Perry. The Event Committee also included Chris Albright, Lindsey and Ian Denney, David and Rebecca Cavanaugh and members of the Resource Development team.

The "creative black tie" and festive cocktail Gala made MAGIC cool again for everyone in attendance!

Look for information to be announced about next year's event on September 28th, 2019 at Union Station and the theme will be Carnival! Ian and Lindsey Denney will be next year's event chairs.



TWP 101 TUESDAYS

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

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

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

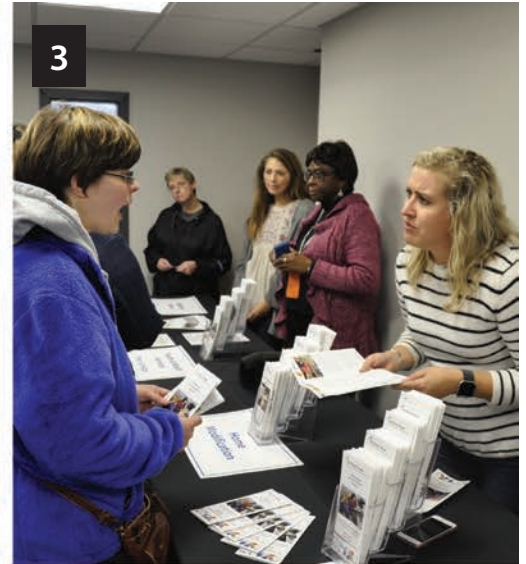


CLASS IS IN SESSION ON THESE 2019 DATES:

- January 22, 2019
- February 26, 2019
- March 26, 2019
- April 23, 2019
- May 28, 2019
- June 26, 2019

The It's Magic! - Night of Independence Gala was a great success. Presenting the awards this year were Board President Carla Oppenheimer, TWP CEO Julie DeJean and Event Chair Morgan Perry. **1.** Sally Firestone, Honorary Chair, and Susie Haake enjoyed the evening. **2.** The Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year Award was presented to Christopher Herzog, representing Cerner. **3.** Travis Bryant of the Kansas City Royals was presented the Corporate Award. **4.** Carla Oppenheimer, Julie DeJean, and DaRon McGee, Board of Directors, present Representative Cody Smith and Representative Judy Morgan with the Civic Leader Award. **5.** Jeremy Morton of Radiant Spirals entertained guests. **6.** The Gala was a unique evening of illusion, mystery and magic held at Union Station. **7.** Sarah Castle was the Keynote speaker as well as the Individual Award winner. **8.** Larry Baker and Michael West were awarded the Volunteers of the Year Award. **9.** The M80s performed at the end of the evening to finish the celebration.

KANSAS OFFICE OPEN HOUSE | 10.12.18



1. TWP Employee Anthony speaks with an attendee about services at the Kansas office. **2.** Rick, TWP Recreation Outreach Coordinator, talks about adaptive sports with attendees. **3.** Members of the Youth and Adult Services and Employment Teams were available in the conference room to discuss options available to Kansas residents. **4.** TWP staff members enjoyed sharing our Kansas programs and services, along with a hot dog meal. **5.** Anthony, Lisa, Shawniece, Evelyn, JoAnn and Stephanie (front) are the members of the TWP Kansas team. **6.** Kari introduces herself to a guest and discusses employment opportunities in Kansas. **7.** Kelly, Kari and Lea help serve hotdogs to guests. **8.** Anthony listens to a guest at the open house event.

TWP PHOTO OPS



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9. Ron Bibbs (far right) is TWP's Home Modification ADA Coordinator. He has partnered with HopeBUILDERS on several projects to change people's lives. **10.** Megan, Employment Specialist, works with a client in the Resource Room on building a resume. **11.** (Front) Crystal, Kelly, Lea, (back) Brittany, Meg, Ruthie, Shannon, Nadia and Cathleen helped make TWP Getting Social's Oktoberfest a success. **12.** Anthony, Jason, Kyle and Jimmy were part of the TWP gold team at Midwest Adaptive Sports benefit golf tournament. **13.** Rick shows off a plaque given to him by participants in his power soccer program.

EVENT CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER 4:

Mind's Eye View Peer Group

DECEMBER 4 & 18:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

DECEMBER 6:

Holiday/40th Anniversary Open House

DECEMBER 13:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

DECEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26:

KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

DECEMBER 12 & 26:

Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

DECEMBER 24-JANUARY 1:

TWP Closed for Winter Holidays

ADVOCATES OF HONOR MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

- Jennifer Hertha
- Justin McWilliams
- Chekasha Ramsey
- Gabi Collins
- Yuliya Antonets
- Kerry Matson
- Sam McWilliams
- Pallavi Vikram-Arcot
- Scott Vroegindewey
- Mike Wiley
- Jim Johnson
- Jim Keeney
- Monique Todd
- LaKeitha Kelley-Lavan
- Julie Corrigan
- Kari Chester
- David Cavanaugh
- Margaret Welch Crow
- Terri Goddard
- Callie Yeater
- Jaylene Hansen
- Michael Riley
- Ann-Marie Moore
- Carla Norcott-Mahany
- Shelly Murphy
- Tiffany Bohm
- Karen Gridley
- Kim Krueger
- Tom Sweeny
- Patricia Mullen
- Cynthia Moran
- Sheila Styron
- Laura Casselman
- Susan Schinstock
- Melanie Middlebrook
- Tristan Sherman
- Teri Jones
- Ashley Frerking
- Stephanie Brand
- Charles Porter

Volunteer Spotlight: Bobby Dykstra and Family

Name: Bobby Dykstra, VP of Sales, Boulevard Brewing Company

1. How did you hear about The Whole Person?

I was first exposed to The Whole Person while watching CNN's "United Shades of America." I was really inspired by the organization's mission and the people volunteering and impacted by the programs. I was incredibly excited to find out that this wonderful group was based in my hometown and reached out right away. My family had been looking for something like this to get involved in.

2. What program do you volunteer for?

My wife, Leslie, and our kids (Dane and Luke) love sports and we truly love to work with Rick in the adaptive sports program. I only wish we were able to get out to pitch in more often. We are in awe at the abilities of these athletes and love to be a part of their



Leslie and Bobby Dykstra.

experience. We certainly get more out of our time with the team than we can ever give back. We are lucky to be able to participate.

3. What inspired you to volunteer? Why is it important for you and your family to be involved in the community?

The inspiration really is the powerful

mission of The Whole Person. As a family we truly feel a connection to the purpose and enjoy every minute of our time with the people we get to work with. We want to be a part of a society that builds bridges and empowers one another. We believe that The Whole Person is the embodiment of that cause. Simply put, it fills our tank!

4. What has been your most memorable or favorite part about giving your time to TWP?

While still new to volunteering, our favorite family experience has been helping with the youth tennis program. There are some fantastic kids that are participating and our family (especially my boys Luke and Dane) love to play with them. Rick does an amazing job of keeping the practice and activities fun while getting the most out of the athletes. Seeing their perseverance and dedication gives us the inspiration to take on the challenges we encounter in our day-to-day lives. We receive so much more than we could ever give.

5. What would you say to someone who is thinking about volunteering?

I asked my 8-year-old son Luke this question and his response was, "Do it! I would say it is fun and it feels good to participate. I've met a lot of nice people there." His words are much more wise than mine.



Leslie, Bobby, Dane and Luke Dykstra love to work with the adaptive sports program.



Fall Yard Clean-Up Helps Consumers

Planting Independence, our annual yard clean-up, was a huge success! Yard work in the fall is often a big task. For some people with disabilities, mowing, raking, or weed-eating can be a very difficult or impossible chore.

On Saturday, October 20th, The Whole Person sent out over 100 volunteers to 24 homes across Kansas City, from North

KC, to Belton, and from Wyandotte County to Independence. Volunteers from Synchrony bank, Northland CAPS, and more lent a hand to help our consumers get their yards ready for winter!

Our next Planting Independence yard clean-up will be held in April 2019. It is a great team-building experience for corporations, schools, churches, and individuals looking to make a difference in their community! To sign up, contact Kelly Grooms at kgrooms@thewholeperson.org or 816-627-2232.



Volunteers from Synchrony bank help out every year!

Youth Transition Doing Great Work in KC Schools

TWP's Youth Transition team, led by manager Ruthie Stephens, is made up of three facilitators who teach a newly revised, engaging curriculum.

Meg Ward, who teaches at schools in Cass County, says, "Rural areas often do not have as much access to community resources, which presents a major barrier for youth with disabilities in getting what they need after high school. Our eight week course is designed to equip students with tools for maximum independence as they transition to post-high school outcomes."

TWP's Youth Transition team leads transition classes for youth with disabilities

Shannon Springer is addressing the need in Kansas schools in Johnson and Wyandotte counties by providing information about disabilities, advocacy, and employment.

Sarah Carlson is currently facilitating courses at Platte County High School and East High School in Missouri. "Teaching the Transition Class at East High School is a lot of fun. Set in the urban core, the student population is very diverse yet the topics taught are of universal importance to self-advocacy, communication skills, and disability empowerment. These classes thrive on classroom participation and experiences shared by those who live daily with their disability."

In addition, Sarah has helped launch TWP's first-ever '18-24 DIY Life Skills Class.' This postsecondary class was developed to further assist and establish relevant skills for transitioning young adults towards greater independence.

If you are interested in our staff coming to your high school, please contact us at (816) 561-0304.

It Was a Very Good Year

It was a whirlwind and record-breaking year for TWP's Resource Development team! Our year started last April with our Expressions Art Exhibit, where we featured 17 artists with disabilities and their art. The event kicked off with a grand opening exhibit at Kansas City Young Audiences, traveled to the Corinth Library in Johnson County, and on to the Westport Center for the Arts. It will finish out 2018 with exhibits at The Leedy-Vouklos Gallery, the Interurban ArtHouse in Overland Park and at MainCor's new offices. Also in April we held Planting Independence and did yard work for 37 homeowners with over 300 volunteers.

In June we held our first Community Rummage Sale and raised over \$4,000. In July we gave the July Jubilee a facelift and held our first ever Main Street Music Festival and Family Fun Festival, celebrating the 28th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Expressions Call for Artists Opens in December

The **Expressions Art Exhibition** is a year-long traveling show that features artists who have disabilities. It gives artists the opportunity to show their work in a professional setting, as well as participate in a number of professional development workshops. The 2019-2020 exhibition will be The Whole Person's 9th year of offering this fantastic program!

Expressions is a juried exhibition, and each applicant's works are carefully reviewed by a committee of arts professionals from the community. We are excited to announce the 2019-2020 *Expressions* chairperson, Poppy Di Candeloro, who is an instructor and advisor to art history and studio art students at UMKC. Additionally, she is the co-founder and operator of D2 Research, a local independent research and collections firm.

The 2nd Annual *Night of Independence Gala – It's Magic* was a huge success and a wonderful evening. This year's event brought in over \$125,000. The fund-a-need this year will benefit our Adaptive Sports Recreation Program. In October, our event year came to an end on a beautiful Saturday with over 100 volunteers around the city cleaning the yards of 24 of our deserving consumers.

*2018 was a record year for
The Whole Person*

It was also a record year for our grant activity. In 2018, we saw the submission of 30 plus grants and revenue of over \$500,000. Community Outreach was also busy attending about 141 different outreach activities. We are already busy evaluating, calendaring and planning for next year.

Each year we are inspired by the content and quality of art submitted to the show. About 20 artists are selected each year. Upon invitation to participate in the exhibition, artists receive an honorarium and are asked to participate in the grand opening on April 5, 2019, as well as artist receptions at various galleries and workshops throughout the year until March 2020. All pieces will travel to various galleries around Kansas City until March 2020.

The current exhibition will be on display in early December until the beginning of January, 2019 at the Leedy-Vouklos Art Center. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 am-5:00 pm, or by appointment.

The Expressions Art Exhibition will open its call for artists on December 17, 2018. Artists may apply online at www.the-wholeperson.org/expressions beginning on December 17th. For questions, please contact Lea Klepees at 816-659-9403 or LKlepees@thewholeperson.org.

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

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

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thewholeperson.org/newsletter



JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Signing up for our email list is a great way to stay connected to TWP. Visit thewholeperson.org to sign up.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

For media inquiries, interviews or statements, please contact:
Terri Goddard
Resource Development Manager
816-627-2220
tgoddard@thewholeperson.org

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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



We've decked the halls with boughs of holly.
Now it's time for fun and folly!

Join us for our annual
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE SHINDIG
CELEBRATING OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

**Thursday, December 6
4:00-7:00pm**

Sweets and drinks, carolers, family activities, Santa and more!



The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives
3710 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111



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STUFF

**Thursday, December 20
5:30-7:00pm**
316 W. 63rd St., KCMO