CARNIVAL! Night of Independence Gala Brings Spirit of Brazil to KC

The CARNIVAL! Night of Independence Gala will take place on Saturday, September 28th at Harrah’s North Kansas City, bringing with it the exciting spirit of tropical Brazil! Feathers, sequins, and spice will envelop the evening as we honor organizations and individuals who are working to further The Whole Person’s mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently. This year, our fund-a-need will support The Whole Family Project, a program which provides American Sign Language (ASL) tutors to children who are non-verbal, along with the child’s family and friends who wish to learn ASL.

The night opens with cocktails at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner, spectacular carnival dancers and performers, the music of traditional Brazilian band Balacobaco do Brasil, silent and live auctions and our famous balloon pop. Dress for the event will be black tie with a colorful or creative twist. Pull from the colors and spirit of Brazil and come dressed to have fun!

This year’s event chairs are Lindsey and Ian Denney, who have planned an unforgettable evening with the help of an amazing planning committee.

Sponsorship of the CARNIVAL! Night of Independence Gala offers individuals and businesses the opportunity to highlight their philanthropic philosophy and commitment to people with disabilities.

If you would like more information on purchasing tickets, sponsorship, or becoming a Table Host, visit our website at www.thewholeperson.org/carnival, or contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220 or tgoddard@thewholeperson.org.

To volunteer for the Gala, contact Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232 or kgrooms@thewholeperson.org.

Shari and Chris Albright enjoyed bidding during the live auction at the 2018 Gala.

2019 Night of Independence Award Winners

The CARNIVAL! Night of Independence Awards Gala honors individuals and organizations that are working to further The Whole Person’s mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently.

This year’s winners will be honored at the Gala on Saturday, September 28, 2019:

Individual Award: Kevin Moore

Media Award: KSHB41

Corporate Award: Sprint

Civic Leader Award: Mayor Sly James

Volunteer of the Year Award: Jim Fitzpatrick

Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year Award: CREMA

Paul H. Levy Founders Award: Ray Petty
Greetings from Deaf Services

By Micki Keck

TWP’s Deaf Services program continues to grow with an increase in the number of deaf and hard of hearing consumers and two new programs: Deaf Cultural Awareness training and a basic ASL (American Sign Language) workshop, both available to the community.

Our Community ASL class will return this fall! Due to the high number of enrollments, we will have two classes at two different times, extending the opportunity to a larger audience.

Clark Corogenes has continued to provide excellent consumer services for our deaf and hard of hearing consumers, and he serves as a Commissioner on the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It amazes me to watch him working with consumers. He has demonstrated outstanding advocacy skills, especially teaching consumers how to use public transportation in the city.

We hold the Deaf Peer Support Group four times a year. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at The Whole Person. It is a time and place for deaf and hard of hearing participants to get together and mingle. The topic will be “Celebrating Deaf Awareness Month.”

For more information on Deaf Services, or to get involved, please contact Micki Keck at mkeck@thewholeperson.org.

We are in need of auction items for our upcoming gala on September 28th!
- Gift cards to local restaurants, shops, or experiences
- Sports event tickets and memorabilia
- Gift baskets
- A weekend stay at your vacation home or a hotel
- Jewelry
- Memberships to museums, fitness clubs, car washes, etc.

If you have items you wish to contribute, please contact Ashley Freking: afrerking@thewholeperson.org 816-214-9729.

Enjoy the unique ice cream flavors at both of Betty Rae’s locations on Tuesday, September 10 and 10% of your purchase is donated back to The Whole Person!

Tag your photos taken that day with #TWPSCOOP on social media to be entered into a drawing for a Gift Card!

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
Main Street Music Festival Rocks the Block

If you have been around The Whole Person for the last few years, you may recognize an event called July Jubilee, a celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This year, the event was reimagined with a brand-new twist to debut the Main Street Music Festival with more activities and a new location.

On Saturday, July 27th, the Resource Development and Marketing teams, along with the help of our invaluable volunteers, successfully threw a celebration for the ADA’s 29th anniversary. Before most of the city had rolled out of bed, preparations were underway to welcome hundreds of guests to the family-friendly music festival, held at Washington Square Park at the corner of Main and Pershing in Kansas City, Missouri.

Throughout the day and into the night, the stage pumped music from Tota Voces (TWP’s inclusive choir), Conga Jim and the Coconuts, performers Hidden Jungles and Bri Woods, Rex Hobart and the Honky Tonk Trio, A la Mode, Victor & Penny, and finally the party sounds of SELLOUT! We also heard about ADA improvements (past, present, and future) from KCMO Director of ADA Compliance Meg Conger and Councilman Dan Fowler from Kansas City’s 2nd district, as well as words from Ms. Wheelchair America 2020, Hilary Muehlberger, about how adaptive sports help people with disabilities gain independence.

Washington Square Park proved to be a great location choice with its many shade trees and a cool summer breeze, and guests set out chairs and blankets to listen to music, have a bite to eat from the food trucks, and sip on a drink from the libations tent. Kids enjoyed face painting and bounce houses, and everyone enjoyed visiting our vendor tents to browse items for sale and learn about community businesses and organizations, as well as our Art Market where Expressions artists displayed, demonstrated, and sold their works.

Thank you to event sponsors KCTV5 Take 5 to Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund and the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Ability KC and the Miller-Mellor Association.
1. Robin Bentley received the keys to her new home in July, thanks to a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and TWP.

2. TWP partnered with Kansas City Parks and Recreation to hold an Adaptive Archery Workshop this summer.

3. TWP employee Sheila provided entertainment on Employee Appreciation Day at The Whole Person.

4. Kendra met Governor Mike Parson at the Youth Leadership Forum Legislative Day. High school students with disabilities from all over the state of Missouri meet to gain a better understanding of how their government works.

5. Rick and Intern Jarret attended the Day at the Lake event in July.

6. Hilary Muehlberger, who was elected Ms. Wheelchair Missouri in the spring, went on to win Ms. Wheelchair America in the competition in July.


8. Carlos gave Pre-Employment Transition training to local high school students in July.
Sporting KC’s Soccer for All Abilities Clinic took place on June 20th and it was a major hit! Sporting KC’s athletes came out and coached 38 participants of all abilities. Participants also had the opportunity to stop by vendor tables to learn about various resources in the community.

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

SEPT. 1 | OCT. 4:
TWP Getting Social

SEPT. 3, 17 | OCT. 1, 15:
Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 25 | OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30:
KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

SEPT. 4, 18 | OCT. 2, 16, 30:
Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

SEPT. 7:
All Abilities Outdoor Adventures

SEPT. 7, 21 | OCT. 5, 19:
All Abilities Tennis

SEPT. 9:
Bowling Blind

SEPT. 10
Deaf Peer Support Group

SEPT. 12 | OCT. 10:
Brain Injury Peer Support Group

SEPT. 16, 23, 30:
Stretching Without Looking

SEPT. 18
Out and About with Canines and Canes

SEPT. 21:
Adaptive Kickball Workshop

SEPT. 24 | OCT. 22:
Consumer Advocacy Group

SEPT. 28:
CARNIVAL! Night of Independence Gala

Learn more about The Whole Person’s Kansas Programs and Services by attending one of our informational sessions! Sessions start at 12:00 pm and end promptly at 1:00 pm at the Kansas office. Lunch will be served.

RSVP by the Friday before each month’s session/luncheon to:
Ashley Frerking, 816-214-9729 or afrerking@thewholeperson.org
thewholeperson.org/ks

Sept. 17, 2019

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

Sept. 24, 2019 October 22, 2019

CLASS IS IN SESSION ON THESE 2019 DATES:
University Academy Students Raise Money for TWP

University Academy Student Ambassadors held a fundraiser in support of The Whole Person in early June, raising $508.18. On the morning of June 28th, TWP staff members Kelly Grooms and Lea Klepees visited the school and were presented with the students’ donation, which they raised by selling donuts to the student body for $1 each.

Founded in 2000, University Academy is a charter school in Kansas City, Missouri which emphasizes college preparation, career development, community service and leadership. The student ambassadors are stellar examples of the school’s mission, demonstrating excellence in academics, social service, and leadership. The group of about 25 students discussed different social issues and charities in Kansas City and selected The Whole Person to promote inclusivity and opportunity for people with disabilities in their community.

The Whole Person’s community outreach team has been invited in recent years to speak to the school’s middle school classes about people with disabilities. The opportunity for students to learn from people in the community with disabilities, as well as the chance to ask questions, has increased the students’ awareness of people with disabilities as well as the need for better access and inclusion. When visiting local schools, the TWP outreach team’s goal is to help students feel comfortable engaging people with disabilities, and to equip them to be advocates for change. To inquire about a disability awareness presentation at your school, organization or business, please contact Lea Klepees at 816-659-9403 or LKlepees@thewholeperson.org.

Catering With a Cause

The Whole Person now offers delicious catering to the community! The Whole Person Catering, a social enterprise of TWP, is a new way to provide hands-on job skills training to job seekers who have developmental disabilities. The program is led by Employment Services manager Katie Crump and professional five-star restaurant-experienced Chef, Tiffany Bohm-Taff. TWP’s EmployAbilities Catering Program opens up the job market in the food industry for people with disabilities in our community.

“I love the food that comes out of this kitchen! Quality, tastes great! Very impressed and would recommend it to anyone!!!”

– Kari C.

TWP Catering serves a gourmet menu of sandwiches, salads, sides, and desserts to individuals and groups alike. To learn more or place an order, visit thewholepersoncatering.com.
ACEing Autism Tennis Program
ACEing Autism is a tennis program for children with autism and is based out of Los Angeles, California. After a short stint in Kansas City, ACEing Autism asked The Whole Person to organize and present the program in the hopes that it becomes a mainstay in Kansas City.

Power Soccer Series
GOAL!! TWP’s Youth Power Soccer program is returning this fall. The series will run for eight consecutive weeks, September 5th – October 23rd from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the HyVee Arena. The Whole Person is excited to start its own competitive power soccer team in the fall of 2019 and compete against other teams around the region. Register before September 5th at thewholeperson.org/powersoccer

Kansas City No Coast Tennis
The Kansas City No Coast wheelchair tennis team is comprised of nine athletes who compete at the national level. All athletes are ranked in the top 100 nationally on the United States Tennis Association’s website. The highest ranked KCNC athletes are Brian McMillan who is currently ranked 9th in singles and 45th in doubles in the men’s B division, and Katie Garcia who is ranked 15th in singles and 5th in doubles in the women’s A division.

All Abilities Outdoor Adventures
The Whole Person is teaming up with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department to host All Abilities Outdoor Adventures on Saturday, September 7th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Prairie Hollow Lake in Lee’s Summit. Participants will take part in fishing, adaptive archery and marksmanship. Lunch and equipment will be provided. All Abilities Outdoor Adventures is for ages 8+. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian. Be sure to register by September 2nd at thewholeperson.org/outdoor

Kickball
TWP is also partnering with KC Parks & Rec to offer an Adaptive Kickball Interactive Workshop for people of all abilities. The demo is on Saturday, September 21st from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at 9th & Van Brunt in Kansas City, Missouri. All are welcome, but the participants that will benefit most from this program are those who can’t physically participate in a typical kickball game. Register by September 7th at thewholeperson.org/kickball

To learn more about TWP’s partnership with Habitat for Humanity, contact Travis Rash, Housing Coordinator, at 816-627-2279 or travisr@thewholeperson.org.

Employees from VMLY&R helped Robin Bentley (center) paint the interior of her new Habitat for Humanity home.

To learn more about TWP’s adaptive sports programs contact Rick Haith, Recreation Outreach Coordinator at 816-627-2229 or rhaith@thewholeperson.org.
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.

RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!
Sign up at:
thewholeperson.org/newsletter

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
EXPRESSIONS ART EXHIBIT
MARCH 6, 2020
PLANTING INDEPENDENCE
SPRING 2020
NIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE GALA
SEPTEMBER 28, 2019
ADAPTIVE SPORTS | ONGOING
BLINDNESS LOW VISION EXPERIENCE (BLVE) | ONGOING
For more information, contact:
Kelly Grooms
816.627.2232
or
kgrooms@thewholeperson.org

ALL ABILITIES OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
Saturday, September 7, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Prairie Hollow Lake – James A. Reed Wildlife Area
REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
thewholeperson.org/outdoor