

TWP CONNECTS

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 23

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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Venez nous rejoindre (Come join us!)

The Whole Person will present their **"Night of Independence Awards Gala - An Evening in Paris"** on Friday, September 24 from 6-10pm at The Abbott Event Space in the heart of the Crossroads. This annual evening of giving honors individuals, businesses, and organizations that are working to further The Whole Person's mission to provide independent living services and programming for people with disabilities in the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. **Honorees include:** Dr. Mark T. Fisher, Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine, Children's Mercy Hospital; City of Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation; Worcester Investments; and Mona Randolph, posthumously receiving the Paul H. Levy Founders Award.

Make plans now to be whisked away by the ambience of the romantic streets of Paris at this **Hybrid Event held In-Person**

or Virtually through Zoom. "An Evening in Paris" begins with a cocktail hour with cash bar, followed by buffet dinner and awards program followed by exquisite desserts by Chef Tiffany Bohm-Taff. Parisian music by instrumentalist Jane Christison and entertainment by Parisian mime, Beth Byrd-Lonski will set the tone of an extravagant evening.

We would like to thank Jennifer Salva and Logan Weed who are serving as **Co-Chairs** of the Gala Planning Committee. Other committee members include Jordan Ward (*Immediate Past Co-Chair*), Chris Albright, Jessica Barranco, Hilary Muehlberger, Kelly Grooms and Mitch Chalk.

"An Evening in Paris" will be hosted by Emcee Kelly Eckerman, KMBC 9 News anchor, and produced by Utopia Entertainment. Shannon Mays of Raising

Paddles will oversee our Live Auction and **Fund-A-Need** that supports The Whole Person Foundation which funds home modifications for people with disabilities throughout the Kansas City metro area. Our **Silent Auction** will have 75+ items to bid on and includes themed-baskets, autographed items, and unique artwork.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our **Presenting Sponsor**, Capitol Federal, **Underwriting Sponsor** UMB, and **Advocate Sponsor** the Fred & Jami Pryor Foundation for their support.

Join us for a magical evening in the "City of Lights" on Friday, September 24.

Choose from a wide range of ticket and sponsorship options at www.thewholeperson.org/Paris. Contact Kelly Grooms at kgrooms@thewholeperson.org, or 816-627-2232 for purchasing and other information.



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.

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

Safe and Mobile at Home

A Q&A with TWP CEO Julie DeJean

The Whole Person's (TWP's) home modifications program utilizes skilled, experienced volunteers and local contractors to design and build wheelchair access ramps and other residential modifications such as grab bars, handrails, door widening, stair lifts and basic bathroom modifications such as zero or low-barrier shower pans in place of existing bathtubs. In some cases, TWP can identify funding for eligible recipients, based on location and income, to make these projects a free or low-cost service. The program begins with a home assessment to determine needs.

How does TWP help determine the need for specific accessibility home modifications? Julie DeJean: "One of our programs assists people who want to get out of nursing homes. Part of our assistance includes asking where they are moving and what do they need to be independent. There are also consumers who live in their homes and want to stay there, but can't afford the modifications needed to keep their home safe long-term."

What are some of the modifications you are referring to? Julie: "Ramps are something everyone understands because they are needed for wheelchairs. They make life easier and provide access but they can be expensive with many construction regulations. Low threshold showers and grab bars are also important modifications. If the person absolutely cannot ambulate and transfer themselves onto a transfer tub bench, then you need a roll-in shower, which is the most expensive modification that you can do."

As someone ages in place, do home modifications help maintain health as a diagnosis progresses? Julie: "If you were just diagnosed with an illness and you know it's going to get progressively worse, modifying your home is going to make your life easier. It's not going to put as much stress on your health or your physical abilities."

From a therapeutic standpoint, you want a consumer to retain as much of their strength and mobility as they can. You don't want to move somebody to a wheelchair sooner than needed because once you do, they may not retain the strength they had before. It's a delicate balance."

What is a home assessment? Julie: "Home assessment is about determining the adaptive equipment or changes needed to improve the individual's ability to safely perform self-care and activities of daily living. This includes shower chairs, toilet rails, toilet risers, special feeding equipment, bed assists, etc. It does not include Durable Medical Equipment (DME) such as wheelchairs, special beds, and other high-priced equipment. Most DME requires a physician's order and is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid or private health Insurance."

The Whole Person requests funding through the City of Kansas City, Missouri each year to provide consumers with the necessary changes to their homes so they can live more safely. This funding is limited to those who own their home and meet income guidelines. Other charitable funds are sometimes available.



Example of a roll-in shower.

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

Freedom to Live Independently

Two women living in a state hospital in the State of Georgia believed their lives would be better if they received services in their community for their disabilities rather than being forced to get support in an institution. They took their case all the way to the United States Supreme Court and the Supreme Court agreed, issuing a decision in June 1999 that has become known as the Olmstead Act.

The Olmstead decision was primarily based on the non-discrimination mandate under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This includes a federal regulation that requires states to administer their programs, services, and activities “in the most integrated setting appropriate for the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.” “Most integrated setting” is a setting where people with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of community life, a setting rooted in independent living. In other words, Olmstead was about choice. The goal of implementing the Olmstead ruling is that “no one should have to live in an institution or a nursing home if they can live in the community with the right support.”

Centers for Independent Living (CILs), such as The Whole Person, offer services for people with all types of disabilities. Our programs provide tools, resources, and supports for integrating people with disabilities fully into our community to promote independence, equal opportunities, self-determination, and respect.

The Whole Person has four programs that specifically address personal care

assistance in the home of a person with a disability. (See guide on right for specifics.)

The Missouri Consumer Directed Services (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 consumer has choices – including hiring and supervising their own attendant and approving time sheets for payment.

Kansas Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) oversees the process of providing supports and services for people with disabilities in Kansas. Participant-Direction means that the participant, or their representative, has the right to hire, train, schedule, supervise and employ Personal Care Service Workers (PCSW) to work with the participant in their home and community.

Similar to the Missouri CDS program, the purpose of **Missouri In-Home Care** is to ensure that qualifying consumers have Personal Care Attendants, but the consumers are not required to self-direct their own care. TWP matches a PCA to the consumer and supervises the provided care.

TWP Home Health Care has experienced medical professionals to meet acute illness, post-injury or post-surgical needs. Home Health is available for those who are confined to their home, need a skilled care provider (RN/OT/PT/MSW), and are under a doctor's care.

HOME HEALTH SERVICES

- Multiple payor sources (Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, Private Insurance)
- Must be homebound
- Must be ordered by a physician
- Offers skilled nursing
- Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Social Work
- Must take place in patient's home
- Patient must have seen doctor 90 days prior or 30 days after start of care
- Referrals often come from hospital discharge planners, doctor offices, etc.

IN HOME SERVICES

- Medicaid, VA, Private Pay
- Authorized through the state or VA
- TWP provides the Personal Care Attendant
 - PCAs cannot work over 29 hours
- PCAs provide respite services, home making, and personal care services
- Cannot transport a client in their client's car
- PCAs can run errands for client
- Must take place in patient's home
- Nurse visits can be 1x week for meds or monthly for toenail trim

CONSUMER DIRECTED SERVICES

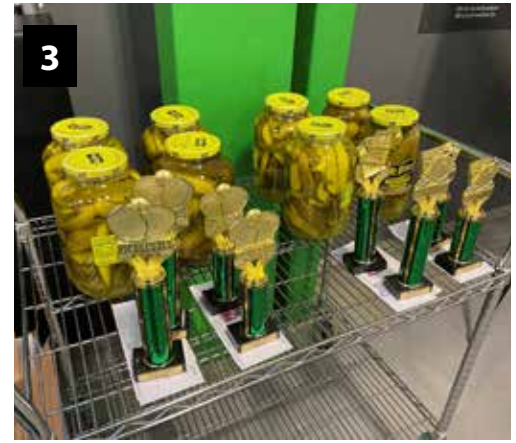
- Missouri Medicaid
- Authorized through the state of Missouri
- Plan of care determines number of hours
- At least 18 years of age
- Have a physical disability
- Self-direct your own care
- Employ your own PCA

KANSAS HCBS

- Active KanCare (Kansas Medicaid)
- At least 18 years of age
- Have a physical disability and/or chronic medical condition
- Self-direct your own care
- Employ your own attendant



Big Dill Classic 2021



The Whole Person held our first Big Dill Classic tournament on Sunday, July 11 from 5-8 pm at Chicken N Pickle, in North Kansas City. Twenty-two Pickleball and Cornhole teams participated to support TWP's Adaptive Sports Programs. 1. Team "Survivors" won 2nd place in Pickleball. 2. Team "Sparkle Unicorns" won 1st place in Cornhole. 3. Prizes for the top 4 teams included trophies, gift cards and pickles! 4. Midwest Trust sponsored and participated in the tournament. 5. Volunteers from TWP had fun! 6. Thumbs up for a good time! 7. "GPA" won 2nd place in Cornhole. 8. Team "Life is a Beach" won 1st place in Pickleball. 9. All teams received branded coolers. 10. Intense competition on the Pickleball courts! 11. TWP teams took on Cornhole. 12. Concentration played a big part in Pickleball games.

Big Dill Classic 2021



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20

13. Cornhole games were on the outside courts. 14. The thrill of victory. 15. The pickle mascot made everyone laugh. 16. Teams sign in with our great volunteers. 17. Teamwork! 18. The pickle mascot welcomed everyone to the event. 19. Concentrating on the bags. 20. Pickleball stayed dry on the indoor courts.

EVENT CALENDAR

For the most current events, visit our calendar at thewholeperson.org.

SEP. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; OCT. 6, 13, 20, 27:

KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

SEP. 3; OCT. 1:

TWP Getting Social Peer Group

SEP. 6;

Closed for Labor Day

SEP. 7, 21; OCT. 5, 19:

Mental Health Support Group

SEP. 9; OCT. 14:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

SEP. 13, 20, 27; OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25:

BLVE Virtual Stretching Without Looking

SEP. 14:

SCI/D Spinal Cord Injury Disability Peer Group

SEP. 20; OCT. 18:

BLVE Tech-info

SEP. 24:

An Evening in Paris – Night of Independence Gala

SEP. 28; OCT. 26:

Advocates in Action Group

2021/2022 Expressions Traveling Exhibition

Expressions showcases artists with disabilities, celebrating their abilities and unique talents. Each year, the artists' work is shown at various venues through a traveling exhibition.

August, September, October 2021
Kansas City, Kansas Public Library
South Branch

3104 Strong Ave, KC, KS
Mon.-Thurs.: 9am-7pm
Fri.-Sat.: 9am-5pm

November, December 2021;
January, February 2022
Kansas City Kansas Community College

Mon.-Thurs.: 11am-4pm or by appt.
7250 State Ave, KC, KS

March 2022

Kansas City Artists' Coalition

Wed.-Sat.: 11am-5pm
3200 Gillham Rd, KC, MO

thewholeperson.org/expressions

Update from Youth and Adult Services

The Youth and Adult Support Services department has been ramping up since last year's COVID-19 restrictions were modified. Here is a summary of activities.

In June, The Whole Person participated at the first ever transition fair for the Kansas City Public Schools and the Wyandotte Comprehensive Special Education Cooperative. It was also the first in-person event since COVID.

Getting Social held an in-person meeting in June. The topic was communication and we learned about marketing at The Whole Person. The consumers who participated got to be part of a market research group and give their opinions. It was very informative and enjoyed by all.

The Whole Person held a DIY Life Skills Class for 18-24-year-olds called "Youth on the Move" on the topic of transportation. These classes are valued by young adults who are moving into the community.

The Peer Mentoring Program has also been very successful. We currently have 10 mentees. The mentees are youth from foster care and the juvenile justice system. Thanks to TWP staff Amy Harris and Justin Clark for working so hard to mentor these youth – their efforts have paid off.



Peer mentors have been busy spreading literacy throughout the city this summer. With a large donation of books from The Little Ladybug Library, TWP and the mentees have been able to refill little libraries throughout the city. This helps the mentees to see the positive impact they can have on their community through action, and families all over the city are able to enjoy new reading materials.

We are also excited to have a qualified professional to facilitate TWP's Mental Health Peer group: Deborah (Deb) Babbitt. The group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. You may attend the group virtually or in person.

For more information about Youth and Adult Services, contact Ruthie Stephens at rstephens@thewholeperson.org.

Getting Around This Fall

Transportation for people with disabilities has always been a challenge. Restrictions during the pandemic made it more difficult to receive reliable service.

One of the changes made that was popular were over-the-phone mobility assessments to get approved for the RideKC Freedom program. Usually done in person, by conducting assessments over the phone, applicants did not have to worry about getting to the assessment in person. It has not been determined if assessments over the phone will continue.

As Covid restrictions ease, KCATA has resumed full capacity on all RideKC buses, RideKC Micro Transit and RideKC Freedom paratransit vehicles. This should alleviate some of the delays seen during the pandemic. RideKC is still operating reduced schedules, but hopefully as restrictions are lifted and staffing increases, the delays will be less.

The Whole Person offers transportation for people with disabilities who are on Medicaid. This option is cheaper, and usually more punctual than private transport.

RideKC Freedom: Provides door-to-door paratransit services. Requires a mobility assessment for approval into the program.



The Whole Person: Provides paratransit services for people on Medicaid. Call the Missouri office at 816-561-0304, or the Kansas office at 913-871-4188 for more information.

TWP Core Services

The Core Services department at TWP has been busy this year!

In the Deaf Services area, Micki, Deaf Services ILA, participated in a full immersive Deaf/HH camp for children. She shared lots of information regarding TWP services, including info about The Whole Family Project. Clark, Deaf Services ILA and Angela, our intern, participated in the Deaf/HH in Government virtual conference and gained valuable information that will benefit our consumers as well as our team. TWP facilitated a Juniors ASL class this summer. Our participants are between the ages of 9-15 years of age. They had FUN!

14 consumers transition to independent housing. The MFP program is headed for a great year!

The Blind Low Vision Experience group has been out and about enjoying the sunshine. Earlier this summer, they participated in Walk, Talk, and Get Moving. This was a shared event with personal trainers at Loose Park that promoted low impact activities as they walked around the park, stopped at several locations to complete a series of exercises, and discussed health choices. More activities and events to come!

For more information on Core Services activities, contact Doshon Hunley at dhunley@thewholeperson.org.

Consumer Benefits are Available

There is a lot of help available through the Consumer Benefits program at The Whole Person.

- We have received a grant from **Soroptimist International of Kansas City** that is earmarked for a hygiene closet for our female consumers, especially those who participate in employment and youth services. Packets with body soap, razors, deodorant, comb, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, nail clippers, and feminine hygiene supplies are available from TWP. If a female consumer requires additional supplies, we can work to obtain items the consumer needs to be successful. These supplies are also available in case of an emergency such as a fire or natural disaster.
- The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has started a new program called **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program**. PCs for People Kansas City (Formerly Connecting for Good) shared a flyer on how to access the program. "PCs for People" is able to assist consumers to apply for the benefit, and they are also able to give a \$100 discount on a refurbished desktop computer.
- The Whole Person has signed a partnership agreement with **Neuro Community Care (NCC)** to provide independent living services for participants in their **Wounded Warrior Project Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) program**. TWP will work to provide the participants (Warriors) with community support specialists (CSS), who work with them to achieve the goals the Warriors set during their initial NCC intake process.
- Starting this summer, a volunteer for **Community Leaders Assisting the Insured of Missouri (CLAIM)** will come to TWP's Main Street office twice per month. The assistance this person can provide will include: applications for and enrollment into health insurance, including Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and programs to help with Medicare Part B and D costs; questions consumers may have about Medicare, Medicaid/MO HealthNet, Medicare Advantage, or supplemental insurance;



Example of the contents of the hygiene packets available to our female consumers.

understanding and organizing health care bills and statements in a system that will help manage a consumer's healthcare-related paperwork in the future; submitting claims for Medicare, Medicare Advantage and supplemental insurance; and understanding the Medicare appeals process in whatever capacity is necessary.

For more information on any of these benefits, please contact Karen Gridley at kgridley@thewholeperson.org.



Thanks to: (Front row) Lea Klepees, Wendy Allen, Kelly Grooms and Paxton. (Second row) Adrea Hobson, Deborah Gaskin, Melanie Middlebrook, Matthew Askew, Jill Robison, TWP Consumer, Alyssa Aley, Kayla Young, Sheila Styron, Kari Chester. (Back row) Sara Johnson, TWP Consumer, Sam Jordan, Harold Brown, Jason Barbour and Ryan McIntosh.

Thank You Harvesters Volunteers!

A HUGE Thank You to the TWP employees who came out and volunteered with Harvesters on June 15. The Harvesters Volunteer Engagement Center is a vital part of Harvesters' mission to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow. In this area, volunteers sort and repack food, which assists Harvesters to feed more than 141,500 people each month. Volunteer tasks are assigned based on product availability and project prioritization. A great time was had by all! You guys are awesome!

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

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

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

For media inquiries, interviews or statements, please contact:

Mike Wiley

816-627-2262

mwiley@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 Mike Wiley, at mwiley@thewholeperson.org or call 816-627-2262.



**Build the
future by
giving in
the present!**

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

It matters so much to us.

Consider a donation in memory or honor of someone this year.

When you donate in honor of someone, we send a tribute letter, letting them know about your gift.

thewholeperson.org/donate



If you are currently working full time, Social Security will not process your Social Security Disability application. Even if you are only being paid minimum wage, people working forty or more hours a week make too much to qualify for Social Security Disability. Being employed does not automatically disqualify you from obtaining Social Security Disability benefits; people working part-time can qualify.

For more information, contact
Tom Sweeny,
tsweeny@thewholeperson.org or
Karen Gridley,
kgridley@thewholeperson.org