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.

“The Night of Independence Awards Gala - 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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TWP Programs and Services
- Independent Living Services
- Consumer Directed Services
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- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
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- 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

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

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

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.

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!

In the first six months of 2021, TWP’s MFP program has assisted 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.

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.
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!

Thank You Volunteers!

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; and 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.

Example of the contents of the hygiene packets available to our female consumers.
Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need.

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

RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!
Sign up at: 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:
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.

SSDI
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

DID YOU KNOW?
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 Sweeney, tsweeney@thewholeperson.org or Karen Gridley, kgridley@thewholeperson.org