

TWP CONNECTS

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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New Year, New Art, New Opportunities

The **2019 Expressions Art Exhibition**, now in its 9th year, started strong with new committee members, exciting ideas for social and educational outings, workshops, and awesome gallery spaces that will reach communities all across the bi-state metropolitan area. More artists with disabilities responded to the Expressions 2019 Call for Artists than in any previous year. Applicants submitted work in a variety of media including paintings, sculpture and poetry. Applications were reviewed by Expressions Committee members, all of whom are volunteers from the arts community, who had the challenge of selecting just 21 artists to participate this year.

The Expressions Art Exhibition is unique in that it offers artists with disabilities the opportunity to showcase their art in professional settings. It also allows artists to share their perspectives with a diverse audience. Kathryne Husk, former Expressions artist and current committee member, said "There is vast untapped and under-recognized talent within the disability community. Due to inaccessible art scenes, venues, and application processes, many artists and their work never get the recognition they deserve. Expressions is important because it helps to shed light on inequities within the art world while giving much needed exposure to marginalized artists within our community."

Expressions artworks will travel throughout the year following opening night on

the first Friday of April. A collaboration with Mid-Continent Public Library brings the art to Liberty and Independence for the first time, as well as the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. Also new this year is a Master Class with Stephen Proski, a renowned local artist who has a vision-related disability. "We have excellent artist workshops planned, from application workshops to deconstructing/reconstructing a work of art with the guidance of a professional artist with a disability. My hope is that the participating artists will take with them the learned skills and exhibition experiences as they continue to exhibit and practice as artists," said 2019 Expressions Chairperson Poppy Di Candeloro, who teaches and advises in Art History at UMKC.

Join us to kick off the year-long exhibition with an opening reception on Friday, April 5th from 6-10 pm at Kansas City Young Audiences (3732 Main St, KCMO), including an artist meet-and-greet, silent auction, live painting by Nicholas Clark, refreshments, and entertainment. The reception is free and open to the public. Thank you to Arts KC, Francis Family Foundation, Missouri Arts Council, and Artist INC for their support for the Expressions artists, traveling exhibits and workshops, as well as Kansas City Young Audiences, Creative-Coldsnow, and The Bauer KC for opening night support. For more information, please contact Lea Klepees at 816-659-9403 or LKlepees@thewholeperson.org.



The Expressions Art Exhibition travels to different venues throughout the year.

Expressions 2019 Artists

Visual Artists

Omar Al-Shams	Jeffrey Golden
Luna (Aquilla)	Valerie Grogan
Elfindale	Clint Hanson
Brandon Aspenleider	Tom Hawks
Kathleen Atkinson	Alex Krahenbuhl
Troy Berry	Taj Moses
Sherri Buerky	Antwan Pettis
John Campbell	Denise Pilcher
Paige Culver	Tristan Sherman
Marci Eddings	Winzel Starr

Performing Artists

William Dozier	Alexej Savreux
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Expressions 2019 Sponsors



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

Carla Oppenheimer, President

Marcia Klostermann, Vice President

Tony Waterhouse-Leal, Secretary

Todd Isom, Treasurer

Chris Albright

Ashley Boyer

CJ Charbonneau

Crystal Duey

James Geary

Ashish Jain

Mike McCord

DaRon McGee

Ben McLean



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

Volunteers Make the Difference!

With National Volunteer Month right around the corner in April, I wanted to take a moment to invite you to consider volunteering for The Whole Person.

When you volunteer your time, you are making a statement that you value your community and everyone in it. You recognize that there is a need and are willing to give of your time and talent to enrich the lives of others. Besides helping others, you also create connections with other people who enjoy giving their time, as well as those you may be serving. Lastly, volunteering can help you experience the world in new ways and even allows you to catch a glimpse into lives that may be very different from your own.

We have many opportunities for you to get involved in the community, from helping with the Expressions Art



Exhibition to working outdoors at a consumer's home in order to spruce up their yard for spring. Whatever your interest, TWP is sure to have a great volunteer opportunity for you individually or with your school, organization or business group. If you are interested in learning more, contact me at 816-627-2232 or kgrooms@thewholeperson.org.

Kelly Grooms,
TWP Volunteer Specialist II

Spring Yard Clean-Up Coming Soon!

The Whole Person has scheduled the annual yard clean-up, Planting Independence, for the morning of April 13th. Both individual and group (business, school, church, etc.) volunteers are needed to help consumers with yard work. Special thanks to our sponsors this year; Westlake Ace Hardware and KPMG. This will be the only opportunity to participate in our yard clean-up in 2019 so make sure you sign up today by contacting Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232 or kgrooms@thewholeperson.org

WISH LIST

- Twine
- Pruners
- Shears
- Rakes
- Weed eaters
- Yard waste bags
- Gardening gloves
- Miscellaneous yard tools

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

Volunteer Spotlight: Jim Fitzpatrick

Name: Jim Fitzpatrick, retired reporter/
editor for The Kansas City Star

1. How did you learn about The Whole Person?

In the fall of 2017, my daughter, Brooks Fitzpatrick, participated in TWP's annual yard clean-up event. Then, last year, when TWP was preparing for its first-ever rummage sale, the call went out for volunteers, and Brooks suggested I participate. She knew I'd been looking for volunteer opportunities and thought TWP would be a good fit. I got in touch with Kelly Grooms, Volunteer Specialist, and she "signed me up." Getting ready for the rummage sale – and breaking it down afterwards – was a lot of work but also rewarding. The sale generated significant funds for TWP.

After that, Kelly asked if I would like to do some work in the Consumer Directed Services division, specifically helping Jim Johnson and his crew of disability case managers with corrections to the caregiver payroll that TWP prepares and sends to Missouri Medicaid every other week. I've been doing that regularly since last summer.



Jim and his wife Patty enjoyed the 2018 Night of Independence Gala.

2. What other types of volunteer work do you do for TWP?

In addition to the payroll work, I do whatever else comes along, including distributing flyers for various TWP events. Late last year, I worked with a crew Kelly put together, salvaging donated furniture and household items from the retirement unit of a TWP supporter who was downsizing. Those items will go into the 2019 rummage sale.

3. What inspired you to support TWP?

Once exposed to TWP, I saw how much good they were doing and how much assistance they were providing for people with disabilities – people

who, without TWP's help, would be hard put to live independently. That made a strong impression on me.

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

I'm a retired reporter and editor for The Kansas City Star, so I have inherent curiosity and an inexhaustible desire to make connections. The most interesting part of my work with TWP is talking with the people we help and learning about them and their situations. It's gratifying to hear how much they appreciate TWP's services, and it continually reinforces my realization of how lucky I am to have my health and to be self-sufficient. Volunteering for TWP certainly makes a person count his or her blessings!

5. What would you say to someone who is thinking about volunteering but hasn't taken that first step to action?

Plunge in. You will feel a lot better about yourself, and no matter the type of volunteering you do, you will be contributing to the self-sufficiency of people who wish to stay in their homes and hang on to a better quality of life.

Night of Independence Gala 2019

We are proud to announce that the 3rd Annual Night of Independence Gala – Carnival! will be held on September 28, 2019 at Harrah's Casino. This year, the Gala Committee will be led by co-chairs Lindsey and Ian Denny, and we couldn't be more thrilled that they have stepped up to take on this important role! Lindsey and Ian and their adorable son Fletcher have been TWP consumers for the last several years in our Whole Family Project. Their love, loyalty, and gratitude for The Whole Person shines through in everything they do and say.

Our 2019 theme, Carnival!, takes its cues from a traditional Brazilian celebration,



from the music and entertainment to the decorations and food. We hope people will embrace this theme and have a little fun with their attire at the event!

The Gala Committee meets monthly on Monday evenings starting on February



Co-chairs of the Gala are Ian and Lindsey Denny, shown here with their son Fletcher.

25th at 6:00 pm. If you have an interest in serving on this committee, contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220 or tgoddard@thewholeperson.org

FACES OF TWP



1. Tristan, Cynthia and Santa enjoy the 2018 Holiday Open House. **2.** Brent worked at the Snack Cart Pop Up shop in December. **3.** Members of the Blindness Low Vision Experience went ice skating in December. **4.** Participants in the first adaptive archery workshop included: (front, left to right) Elizabeth Bird, Jon Carter and Rick Haith (TWP); (back, left to right) Sophia Jones, Mya Diacono, James McGinnis, Taryn Andersen (KC Parks and Rec) and Thomas McConnell. **5.** TWP Board of Directors: (front, left to right) Tony Waterhouse-Leal, Ashley Boyer, and James Geary; (back, left to right) Carla Oppenheimer, CJ Charbonneau, Chris Albright, Marcia Klostermann, Ben McLean, and Don Harkins. **6.** TWP employees Shanta, Susan, Angie, Pat, Lakeitha, Tyreice and Lisa adopted a child for the holidays. **7.** TWP had Chiefs spirit this season.

FACES OF TWP



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8. The Tote Voces choir performed at the Holiday Open House in December. **9.** Kristi and Laura reviewed adaptive equipment in a presentation at TWP. **10.** Micki hosted the Deaf Peer Support Group at TWP in December. **11.** (Left to right) Rick Haith, TWP's Recreation Outreach Coordinator, was awarded the Outstanding Diversity Achievement Award from the United States Tennis Association-Heart of America Chapter. He attended the banquet with a participant in the All Abilities Tennis program, Yandel Radillo and Yandel's father Rolando. **12.** CEO Julie DeJean and her husband Mark visited with Board President Carla Oppenheimer at the 2018 Holiday Open House.

EVENT CALENDAR

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

MARCH 1:

TWP Getting Social

MARCH 2, 16; APRIL 6, 20:

All Abilities Tennis

MARCH 4, 18, 25

Stretching Without Looking

MARCH 5, 19:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27:

KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

MARCH 6 & 20:

Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

MARCH 11:

Bowling Blind

MARCH 14:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

MARCH 14:

TWP 101 Kansas Services

MARCH 19:

TWP 101 Kansas Services

MARCH 20:

Out and About with Canines and Canes

MARCH 21:

TWP 101 Kansas Services

APRIL 2 & 16:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

APRIL 3, 10, 17, 24:

KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

APRIL 3 & 17:

Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

APRIL 5:

TWP Getting Social

APRIL 5:

Expressions Art Exhibition Reception

APRIL 11:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

APRIL 18:

Life with SCI/D (TWP)

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:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ■ February 26, 2019 | ■ May 28, 2019 |
| ■ March 26, 2019 | ■ June 25, 2019 |
| ■ April 23, 2019 | ■ August 27, 2019 |

Let's Get Social!

TWP's Getting Social is a monthly group event for community members with disabilities as well as their personal care attendants and family members. As a hybrid of the fun and the functional, Getting Social seeks to create an environment that promotes peer relationships and community partnerships. The heartbeat of Getting Social is to further equip TWP consumers with tools for increased independence in their daily lives. We seek to reinforce all major topics covered in our events through speakers, games, and activities.

We are excited for 2019 and hope that you will join us for future events! Getting Social is hosted at TWP on the first Friday of every month from 1-3 pm. For example, our group celebrated 'Random Acts of Kindness' month in February in order to discover how powerful kindness can be and how it has the potential to create positive change in our community. Coming up on Friday, April 5th, the Getting Social group will explore the themes "Saving the Earth" and "Going Green."

Check out TWP's website to learn more about future Getting Social Events (go to Peer Support & Mentoring under the Core

Services tab). We hope you will join us for the fun! Please call the main TWP line at 816.561.0304 to RSVP your attendance.



Barbara painted a canvas at a recent Getting Social event.

Grants Program Update

The Whole Person is grateful to the following foundations and other funders who have awarded grants totaling \$318,040 since fall 2018, for a wide range of programs and services for people of all ages and with all types of disabilities:

- ArtsKC Catalyst Project Grant (for Expressions 2019)
- First National Bank Fund (for Kansas Employment Services)
- Francis Family Foundation (for Expressions 2019)
- Hall Family Foundation (for The Whole Family Project)
- Jewish Federation/Leadership Tomorrow Interns (for digital resources for The Whole Family Project)
- Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department, City of Kansas City, Missouri/HUD (for Home Modification/Minor Home Repair Services)
- National Council on Independent Living/Craig H. Neilsen Foundation (for adaptive sports equipment and tennis court fees for people with spinal cord injuries)
- PhRMA (for emergency assistance)
- Sherman Family Foundation (for Youth Services)

- John W. & Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee (for Employment Services)
- United Way of Greater Kansas City (for Independent Living Services)

ADVOCATES OF HONOR MONTHLY GIVING CLUB

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

Work on Wellness

January is the month when many people start thinking about improving their health and making better health choices in their lives. **The Whole Person's Wellness Committee** recently put a spin on the typical healthy choices roller-coaster ride we often take in January and February. Instead of just physical activity, challenges were created to encourage other kinds of small life choices – emotional, physical, and financial – that can lead to healthy changes beyond the thirty day window. Examples of challenges include stretching once an hour, drinking 32 ounces of water, listening to a favorite song, and trying not to spend any money for one full day. TWP staff will be given "rewards" based on points at the end of the thirty days. While the physical rewards will be small, the lasting changes could be HUGE. Sometimes life gets so busy that we forget that small choices can yield large benefits. Way to go, TWP staff!



Sending "Thank You" notes was one of the Wellness Activities.



Spring Cleaning!

The Whole Person's second annual **Community Rummage Sale** will be held at Remodel Moore from May 2nd to May 4th. This space, located at 3115 Gillham Road, is an exciting new venue for our sale. We invite you to join us for a fun shopping experience. Our hours of operation will be Thursday 10am-4pm, Friday 9am-9pm (open late for First Fridays), and Saturday 10am-2pm.

Last year's event was a huge success. Hundreds of people from all over the community showed up to see what treasures they could find. The Whole Person raised over \$4,000 to help people with disabilities in the community.

We are accepting donations for this year's Community Rummage Sale through April 19, 2019. Please make sure all items are clean, dust free, and in good condition. No old electronics or box TVs will be accepted. Please

TWP raised over \$4,000 at the 2018 Community Rummage Sale to help people with disabilities.

contact Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232 or kgrooms@thewholeperson.org to schedule a drop-off time or if you're interested in volunteering. Tax receipts will be provided for donations.

Reverse Job Fair

The Employment Department hosted a **Reverse Job Fair** at The Whole Person's headquarters on Main Street in collaboration with Nexus, a group that meets monthly and involves several community rehabilitation providers in the metro area, including The Whole Person.

A "Reverse Job Fair" offers the opportunity for job seekers to create a table-top "job board" promoting their skills and abilities to employers. Where a traditional job fair involves job seekers approaching employers, in this case, the employers approach the job seekers.



Dalton Downs spoke with an employer on the spot at TWP's Reverse Job Fair.

The Reverse Job Fair was a two-day event, January 24th-25th, in The Whole Person's community room. On the first day, TWP's Employment Services staff worked with each job seeker to create their job boards, practice mock interviewing, and attend a "Dress for Success" workshop.

The event turnout was a huge success. Forty job seekers and 20 employers participated in the fair. Best of all, nine of the job seekers received on-the-spot job offers! Some of participants who did not get a job offer commented that the Reverse Job Fair was a great experience for them and helped them learn how to showcase all of their abilities.

TWP Cares

The **TWP Cares Committee** volunteered at Thelma's Kitchen on February 1st. Thelma's Kitchen is the first donate-what-you-can café in Kansas City. After a short orientation, ten employees from TWP greeted guests, served the meals and bussed tables for lunch. People from every part of the community gathered to eat together, no matter their living circumstances or financial status. It was a good crowd and the food was awesome. Thanks to those who volunteered: Tiffany Bohm, Sarah Carlson, Daphne Cummings, Vivian Strand, Lea Klepees, Kayla Young, Ashley Frerking, Kelly Grooms, and Kelyanna Cooper.



TWP Staff pose under the mural at Thelma's Kitchen that was created by one of our consumers!

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

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

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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:

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.



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

HARRAH'S NORTH KANSAS CITY

6:00PM-11PM

Featuring the sights and sounds of a Brazilian Carnival, this festive gala will feature a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, dinner, awards ceremony and lots of lively dancing to Samba and Bossa Nova music!

thewholeperson.org/carnival



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JULY 27

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK
100 E. PERSHING RD., KCMO

11AM-11PM

LIVE BANDS • FOOD TRUCKS
VENDORS • ACTIVITIES

thewholeperson.org/music