

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Letter from Resource Development Manager
- 3 July Jubilee 2018
- 4 Faces of TWP
- 5 Faces of TWP/Event Calendar
- 6 Resource Development
- 7 Programs
- 8 Contact Information

It's Magic – Night of Independence Gala

The *It's Magic! – Night of Independence Gala* will be held on September 22 in the Grand Plaza of Union Station. The evening will be a night of illusion, mystery and magic that will also 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 adaptive sports program will benefit from the Fund-a-Need appeal.

The doors open at 5:00 pm with a cocktail reception, live magic performances, and silent auction followed by dinner, live auction, awards ceremony and dancing to live music from the M80's band.

This year's Honorary Chairperson is Sally Firestone, 2017 Paul H. Levy Founder's Award winner and local disability rights advocate. Morgan Perry, community volunteer, is the 2018 Event Chair. We also have an awesome planning committee.

Sponsorship of the *It's Magic! – Night of Independence Gala* offers individuals and businesses the opportunity to highlight their philanthropic philosophy and commitment to people with disabilities. Sponsorships are still available.

You might also consider becoming a Table Captain for this year's event. Each Table Captain strives to fill a table of 10, creating their own guest list so they may spend an inspirational evening surrounded by friends and family. You can even co-captain your table with a friend if you like. As a "thank you" for helping to support this inaugural event, Table Captains will be listed in program booklets and on night of event signage.

If you did not receive an invitation, or would like more information on tickets, how to sign up for a sponsorship, or ways to volunteer or host a table, visit our website at thewholeperson.org/gala, or contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220 or tgoddard@thewholeperson.org.

We hope to see you there!



It's Magic!

Night of
Independence
Gala

2018 Night of Independence Gala Award Winners

The *It's Magic! – Night of Independence 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 22:

Individual Award:

Sarah Castle (*Keynote Speaker*)

Corporate Award:

Kansas City Royals

Civic Leader Award:

Representative Cody Smith and
Representative Judy Morgan

Volunteer of the Year Award:

Michael West and Larry Baker

Corporate Volunteer

Group of the Year Award:

Cerner



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

Dear Friends,

When you or a family member with a disability needs resources, we hope you will turn to The Whole Person (TWP). If you work for a company with an interest in knowing more about disability etiquette in the workplace, TWP can provide a presentation for you.

If your work team, Sunday school class or Brownie Troop is looking for a way to volunteer and make a difference, The Whole Person can accommodate you!

Whether you are a person needing our services or a person or company wanting to help, we hope that you will seek out the dedicated, compassionate TWP professionals who are ready to serve you.

We are right in the middle of our event season here at TWP. We held our Expressions Art Exhibition opening in April, our newest event, the Community Rummage Sale, in June, and the July Jubilee (*Main Street Music Festival and Family Fun Fest*) in July. Coming up we have the 2nd Annual Night of Independence Gala in September followed by the Planting Independence fall yard cleanup in October, and our Holiday Open House/40th Anniversary Celebration will be held on December 6th. We hope that you support some or all of these wonderful events. They all either assist our consumers in some way, raise money to support the organization or increase awareness about The Whole Person and disability in our community.

There are so many ways that you can get involved with TWP. You can give of your



time, your talents or your money. Your contributions always go to good use and I am proud to say that at TWP, 91 cents out of every dollar raised goes directly to support our consumers and/or programs.

As The Whole Person celebrates our 40th year serving people with disabilities, we invite you to connect with us. We exist to serve you and your loved ones – and we want to be around for another 40 years. Get connected. Get involved.

If you can, please consider contributing to TWP today. Our consumers are counting on your support through your contributions of time or money.

Your help is making our community stronger.

Sincerely,

Terri Goddard

Manager, Resource Development and Community Outreach

TWP Wish List for Planting Independence

Help us stock our tool shed for Planting Independence!

Items needed are:

- Brooms/dust pans
- Rakes
- Clippers
- Pruners
- Loppers
- Gloves
- Twine
- Water
- Working lawn mowers
- Weed eaters
- Brown leaf bags

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
- Mental Health Services
- Transition Services
- The Whole Family Project
- Blindness Low Vision Experience
- Youth and Adult Services
- Adaptive Sports
- Legal Services

2018 July Jubilee

By Ashley Frerking, Development and Database Specialist

TWP's annual July Jubilee was a success again this year! It kicked off on Friday night, July 27 with our new Main Street Music Festival, enjoyed by hundreds of people who came out to enjoy four bands. Mama Ray opened the show, followed by an interactive set from Washboard Jo and Members of the MGDs. Classic hits sung by Conga Jim & The Coconuts and The Selle Brothers Band completed the evening. The weather was perfect for the large crowds that danced and sang along from beginning to end and lined up for food trucks and our wonderful variety of vendors.

Saturday July 28, proved to be another beautiful day with lots to see and do. The morning opened with music from DJ Chad Slater and was followed by mascots like KC Wolf and Sluggerrr, and the Marching Pythons. Performances by the Sparkle Dance Stars, The Pulse dancers, and our Tota Voces choir were also a hit. The food trucks and vendors returned for the second day to help us celebrate and adaptive sports demonstrations were open for participation in the parking lot. The FORCE grew stronger this year when the Star Wars characters from the 70th Explorers Garrison came back to join us. Ms. Wheelchair Kansas, Allison Merriam also stopped by to share in the fun. Numerous public officials, including Mayor Sly James, spoke to us about the importance of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which has celebrated 28 years since its signing.

We are extremely grateful to the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund and the Tortoise Foundation for their support of this year's July Jubilee. Also, a special thank you to Blue Cross Blue Shield, KCATA, Main Street Corridor Development Corporation, Swope Health Services, Land Home Financial Services, Inc., and our media sponsor, Steel City Media.



2018 July Jubilee Main Street Music Festival and Family Fun Festival 1. Ms Wheelchair Kansas, Allison Merriam spoke to the crowd on Saturday. **2.** Volunteer David and KC Wolf take a break. **3.** Washboard Jo and Friends performed Friday night. **4.** Mayor Sly James poses with one of the 70th Explorers Garrison of the 501st Legion Star Wars characters. **5.** Conga Jim & the Coconuts got the crowd dancing at the Main Street Music Festival. **6.** Mama Ray kicked off the musical performances Friday night. **7.** Great musicians at the July Jubilee. **8.** The Marching Pythons brought their energy on Saturday.

FACES OF TWP



1. TWP employees anxiously await the beginning of the July Jubilee celebration. 2. Sheila and Anthony attend the tandem bicycle event for the Blindness Low Vision Experience group. 3. The Deaf/Hard of Hearing Peer Group took a tour of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, finishing with a hands-on art project. 4. Jacob (Home Health Care Community Referral Development Coordinator) visits Country Squire Retirement Community every Tuesday morning to do seated exercises based on an American Arthritis Association program. 5. Meg gave a presentation to the TWP Getting Social Peer Group about emergency preparedness.

FACES OF TWP

6



7



8



9



6. Nine students successfully completed the summer course “Junior American Sign Language: 100 Basic Signs” led by Instructor Micki Keck (far right). **7.** Chet Auch (left) attended the Junior American Sign Language class for his Boy Scout Disabilities Awareness merit badge. He met with Callie and George to discuss service animals. **8.** Michael Riley (right) met Governor Mike Parson (left) and invited him to tour The Whole Person when he is available. **9.** Rick, Kelly and Lea volunteered at the Day at the Lake event held in July.

EVENT CALENDAR

For specific locations and times, visit our calendar at thewholeperson.org.

SEPTEMBER 1, 15:

Tennis for All Abilities

SEPTEMBER 3:

TWP Office Closed

SEPTEMBER 4:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

SEPTEMBER 7:

TWP Getting Social

SEPTEMBER 12:

Bowling Blind

SEPTEMBER 13:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

SEPTEMBER 17 & 24:

Stretching Without Looking

SEPTEMBER 17:

Beaded Quilt Mural

SEPTEMBER 19:

Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

SEPTEMBER 19:

Out and About with Canines and Canes

SEPTEMBER 20:

SCI/D Peer Group

SEPTEMBER 25 and OCTOBER 23:

Consumer Advocacy Group

OCTOBER 18:

SCI/D Peer Group

Gifts in 2018

Memorials

Jean Bailey Smith | Candice Minear

Tributes

Fletcher Denney | Michael Ellington

Advocates of Honor

Yuliya Antonets | Kerry Matson

Tom Schad | Sam McWilliams

Social Media Fundraisers

Ashley Boyer | Terri Goddard

Kim Krueger | Andrew Fraser

Brandie Begemann-Reilly

David Armendariz

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.

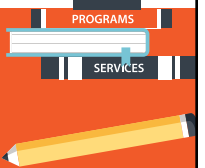
RSVP by the Friday before each month's session/luncheon to:

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



CLASS IS IN SESSION ON THESE 2018 DATES:

- September 25
- October 23
- November 27



June Rummage Sale Yields Bonus Funding for TWP

By Jim Fitzpatrick, Volunteer

To boost its mission to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, TWP went “rummaging” for revenue in June.

For the first time ever, TWP organized and carried out a rummage sale, which was held June 14-16 on the lower level of MCC Spirit of Hope Church, a couple of blocks west of TWP.

The sale was organized by **Terri Goddard**, TWP Resource Development Manager, and **Kelly Grooms**, Volunteer Specialist. Helping out were many other staff members and several volunteers, including me.

You’ve probably heard the saying adversity presents opportunity, and it was adversity that inspired the rummage sale...A TWP donor had a fire in his home and had to move to assisted living. In the move, he needed to get rid of a lot of items, and, voila!, the seeds of a rummage sale were planted.

Then, TWP staff members put out a broad call for no-longer-needed items and the community responded in a big way. Donated items ranging from heavy



TWP employees Lea and Ashley helped make the rummage sale a success.

sofas to knick-knacks filled a large room at TWP and a storage locker.

When the doors opened on Thursday, June 14, a steady flow of people began arriving, having learned about the sale mostly through word of mouth or well-placed yard signs. Two live TV spots on Thursday morning significantly boosted traffic and business.

When we closed the doors at 2 pm, Saturday, June 16, the lion’s share of merchandise was gone and more than \$4,000 had been raised to help finance TWP programs and services. (Leftover merchandise was donated to the Ozanam organization.)

Will there be a Second Annual TWP Rummage Sale? As of this newsletter, staff members are planning on it. It was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and extremely gratifying for all of us who participated.

Expressions 3-Week Workshop

By Lea Klepees, Development and Community Relations Specialist

As part of the Expressions Art Exhibition, this year’s artists were given the opportunity to participate in a professional development workshop hosted by Artist INC. Once each week for three weeks artists gathered at The Whole Person to work on professional goals, building a personal brand, and most importantly, how to network and learn from fellow artists.

The exhibition can be viewed at the Westport Center for the Arts (201 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO) through mid-November.



2018 Expressions artists take part in a workshop at The Whole Person.

Exciting Grant News

By Carla Norcott-Mahany, Grants Program Coordinator

TWP was thrilled to learn this summer that two new initiatives have been awarded full funding from grant requests submitted earlier in 2018.

- The Kansas Department for Children and Families offers competitive annual grants to providers of independent living services benefiting Kansans with disabilities. The Whole Person has received Missouri Independent Living Grants for many years, but 2018 marked the first time

we submitted a request for a Kansas Independent Living Grant, because we are now the only Center for Independent Living in the bi-state metropolitan area. Our grant of \$232,160.82 supports the delivery of expanded and new programs and services for people with disabilities in Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth Counties in Kansas.

- TWP also learned that a request we submitted last February for a Healthy Communities grant – for the first year of our project, *Access and Opportunity: Adaptive Sports in Greater Kansas City* – has been approved for the full request amount of \$72,080. Healthy Communities grants are highly competitive “Foundation Directed

Grants” awarded annually by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. We have great hopes for this project and the difference it will make for children, youth and adults with all types of disabilities throughout the area who need better access to adaptive sports and recreation. Funds will be used to form a bi-state collaboration among accessible sports stakeholders; to gather relevant data and disseminate it to the community; to expand a sports-focused diversity and inclusion program to new school districts in collaboration with Midwest Adaptive Sports; and to employ what we learn in the creation of a three-year accessible sports action plan.

Some Dream About Goals... at The Whole Person We Make Them!

By Rick Haith, Recreation Outreach Coordinator

The Whole Person's adaptive sports program wrapped up three separate power soccer demos at Ability KC's youth transition camps in June and July. Participants learned basic power chair mobility skills as they relate to the sport of soccer, the importance of communication and visual scanning, basic passing mechanics, and basic goal shots.

Power soccer is one of my favorite adaptive sports to coach. Often, kids who have cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, muscular atrophy, hemiplegia, or a similar disability that prevents them from partici-

pating in traditional adaptive "ball" sports are left on the sideline as spectators. However, with the inclusion of a power chair and adapting the game of soccer to a basketball court, anyone can play as long as they learn how to drive a power chair and can follow provided directions.

I look forward to building a team that will compete against teams from Lincoln, Nebraska; Des Moines, Iowa; Denver, Colorado; and Wichita, Kansas. Contact me if you are interested in learning more at rhaith@thewholeperson.org.



Rick ran a power soccer event in Spring 2018.

NCIL Conference

By Spencer Neal, TAP/MFP Specialist II

The 2018 annual conference of the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) was held in Washington, DC in June. This was my first time to represent The Whole Person at NCIL. I was especially excited to help present on the work of a research project collaboration, the Home Usability Program.

Co-presenter, Hayley Steinlage, and I are members of the University of Kansas Home Usability team. The NCIL workshop we addressed was titled "Participating (not just living) in the Community." We focused on the purpose of the Home Usability Program to identify and work with consumers with mobility disabilities. The program surveys the needs of consumers and assesses their homes for barriers to community access and engagement. In some cases, participating consumers may receive barrier-removal resources such as grab bars, portable ramps, and other items to encourage more engagement in community activities outside their homes.

In addition to the presentation, I participated in an exciting conference event, the March to the Capitol. Nearly 1,000 people marched – and rolled – blocking traffic for a half mile before arriving at the Capitol entrance. We were encouraged by construction workers along the way, and passersby cheered us on and joined our chants.

A bi-partisan group of Senators and members of Congress spoke to the marchers from a stage at the Capitol entrance. The energy of the crowd was amazing! It was 90 degrees, raining, muggy and uncomfortable, but that didn't stop us from making sure we were heard. The crowd was passionate, loud, and determined to take a strategic approach in displaying anger and disappointment in the current state of affairs – that the Americans with Disabilities Act was a great step but falls short of meeting the full needs and expectations of the disability community. The March had a positive impact – new legislation and letters of support were signed. I was glad to participate in the March and to represent The Whole Person at the conference.

Home Mod for a Volunteer

By Ron Bibbs, ADA/Home Access Program Coordinator

A wonderful TWP volunteer, Jeremy Tercey, has cheerfully donated his time since the summer of 2016. In no time at all, he became a favorite volunteer at TWP headquarters on Main Street, collecting and shredding sensitive documents. He was awarded Volunteer of the Year at TWP's 2017 Night of Independence Gala.

The house Jeremy lives in presents numerous functional access challenges. To enter and exit his home safely and independently he needed a wheelchair ramp to accommodate the size and weight of his power wheelchair. Jeremy also needed grab bars and a barrier free shower to replace the bath tub.

He submitted an application to TWP's Home Modification program. Ron Bibbs, our ADA/Home Access Coordinator, collaborated with Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries and completed construction of a new wheelchair ramp for Jeremy in May.

In July, Ron secured funding on Jeremy's behalf from both Friends of Man and Midwest Special Needs Trust to totally reconfigure Jeremy's bathroom, allowing him to age in place, in the home of his choice, with his family. The Home Modification Program will cover the remaining costs.



Jeremy and his mother, Carla Bass, enjoy the new ramp at his home.

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

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

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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.

Planting Independence One Yard at a Time!

Saturday, October 20 | 8:30 am - Noon

Location: A TWP consumer's home in one of several pre-selected areas

The Whole Person is partnering with volunteer groups to perform low to moderate risk activities such as mowing, raking, weeding, and planting at the homes of the people who receive our services.

VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS NEEDED!!

Planting Independence is an excellent volunteer opportunity for individuals, families, clubs, schools, scouts, organizations, and businesses.

Please contact Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232



thewholeperson.org/plant

Live Magic Performances!
Silent/Live Auctions
Dinner & Dancing
Music by
the M80s



September 22
Union Station
Grand Plaza

It's Magic!

Night of
Independence
Gala

*A
unique
evening
of illusion,
mystery and
magic benefitting
The Whole Person*

 **The Whole Person**
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

Purchase tickets at:
thewholeperson.org/gala