

TWP CONNECTS

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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End of Year Giving

Thanks to you, 2,058 people living with disabilities in our community received assistance this year from The Whole Person through one or more of our programs. On their behalf, we thank you for helping us connect them to the resources they need by supporting independent choice and advocating for positive change in the community.

The day after our recent inaugural Night of Independence Gala, Lindsey Denney, whose son was born deaf and is a TWP consumer in our Whole Family Project, wrote this on her Instagram:

Last night was simply magical. We had the honor of celebrating the lives of so many wonderful people in our community. The Whole Person organization has become so near and dear to our hearts since finding out Fletcher is deaf. The work they do and the resources they provide for people with disabilities is beyond amazing. The Whole Family Project has introduced us to the deaf community and so many incredible people as well as providing Fletcher with language from day number one. We also had the pleasure of meeting Nyle DiMarco after his inspirational speech, highlighting his advocacy for the deaf community and early language acquisition. My heart is so full of joy and I look forward to giving back for all we have been given.

The Whole Family Project employs tutors who have a wide variety of



Ian, Fletcher and Lindsey Denney

Your support will make a real, lasting impact on the lives of people living with disabilities in our community.

sign language experience and backgrounds. Tutors may be interpreters, family members of a deaf individual or deaf themselves. Our expert tutors work with individual families, tailoring their lessons to meet the unique communication needs of each family.

Your support makes stories like the Denney family's possible every day.

This month, we are launching our 2018 Year-End Campaign. Our goal is to raise

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As the year ends, your legacy can begin!

Your year-end gift will help **The Whole Person** connect people with disabilities to the **resources they need.**

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

Genny Manly-Klocek, President
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Mike McCord
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Crystal Duey
Rick O'Neal, President Emeritus



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

New Board President at The Whole Person

Let me introduce myself. My name is Genny Manly-Klocek. I am an attorney for a financial services company. I have been serving as a board member of The Whole Person since October 1, 2015. At the board's annual meeting on September 11th I was elected board president, to succeed out-going president Rick O'Neal. Fortunately for all of us Rick expressed a genuine desire to remain engaged with TWP. In the role of president emeritus I know he will be a valuable resource to the board, Julie and all of the staff. As a board member it has been an honor and a privilege to serve and assist Julie and all of the staff and numerous volunteers in carrying out TWP's mission and vision. As a person who lives with a disability TWP's mission and vision are personal to me. I am deeply humbled by the expansion of my role on the board. I look forward to



the challenges and opportunities ahead. I'll sign-off with a favorite quote. It is from American novelist Ellen Glasgow – "What happens is not as important as how you react to what happens."

Sincerely,

Genny Manly-Klocek,
TWP Board President

End of Year Giving

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an additional \$25,000 to allow us to serve more families like the Denneys in the wake of staggering budget cuts enacted by the State of Missouri this year. TWP laid off 23 people this year and will likely see additional cuts to our funding, but with your help, we plan to continue offering all of our services. You see, even though we've helped over 2,000 people with disabilities this year, our work is not finished. That's why

our goal for this campaign is to raise \$25,000 by December 31st and we need your help to make it happen.

Would you be willing to make a special year-end donation of \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford to help us meet our goal? We simply can't do it without you. Your support will make a real, lasting impact on the lives of people living with disabilities in our community. Thank you for your continued support and friendship.

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

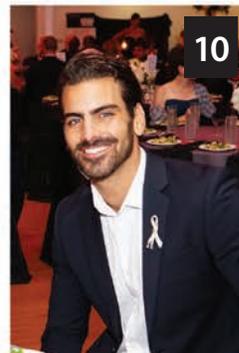
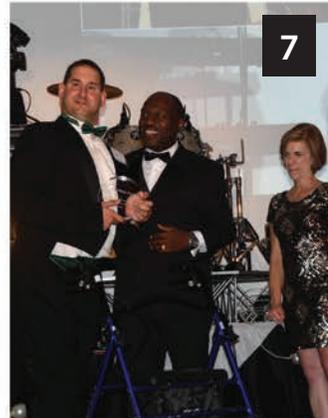
Night of Independence a Great Success

More than 300 people came together on Friday evening, September 15th to celebrate The Whole Person and seven honorees who exemplify TWP's vision of a fully accessible community where opportunities are not limited by disability. The event was TWP's first annual Night of Independence Gala. We were fortunate to have award-winning journalist Phil Witt as emcee and Nyle DiMarco – actor, model, and advocate for the Deaf community – as our keynote speaker and special guest. For many attendees, another highlight of the evening was the opportunity to hear from a family that shared how their participation in a TWP program has positively impacted their lives.

Award recipients Synchrony Bank; the City of Independence, Missouri; Jeremy Tercey; Netsmart/Andrew Mersman; David Westbrook; Erin Brown; and Candice Minear were recognized for their passionate support for people with disabilities and the right to live independently in the Greater Kansas City community.

The 2017 Gala changed course from previous years when TWP's annual awards ceremony was a luncheon. We transformed the event by moving it to an evening "creative black tie" occasion that allowed more time for both celebrating and fundraising in support of the important work of TWP in the Kansas City region. Mixed in with the speakers and award ceremony were fundraising activities from a live and silent auction to a "balloon pop." Through the hard work of staff and dedicated volunteers, TWP raised \$80,000.

Next year, the event will be held at Union Station on Saturday evening, September 29th. We are excited to announce that the theme of TWP's second annual Night of Independence Gala will be It's Magic. For sponsorship and other inquiries, please contact Terri Goddard at tgoddard@the-wholeperson.org.



The inaugural Night of Independence Gala was a great success. TWP CEO Julie DeJean and Rick O'Neill, Board President Emeritus, presented the awards. 1. Mayor Eileen Weir accepts the Civic Leader Award on behalf of the City of Independence. 2. The Paul H. Levy Founders Award was given to David Westbrook, who attended with Cynthia Wheeler. 3. Samantha Roe was the interpreter and Phil Witt was the Emcee for the night. 4. Andrew Mersman accepted the Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year Award on behalf of Netsmart. 5. Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded posthumously to Candice Minear. Kelsie, Linda and Mike Minear accepted the award. 7. Jeremy Tercey was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award. 8. Honorary Co-Chairs were Jami and Fred Pryor. 9. The Individual Award was presented to Erin Brown. 10. Our special guest was Nyle DiMarco, Model, Actor and Deaf Activist. 11. The Corporate Award was accepted by Jaymee Martin on behalf of Synchrony Financial. 12. Adam and Kelly looked great as they helped guests at the event. (Photos by Will Patterson, Laura Williams, and Jacory Deon.)

2017 AT TWP



1. TWP Employees Ashley and Lea enjoyed the Expressions Opening Night in April. 2. The Tote Voces Choir started in 2017. 3. Members of the Brain Injury support group and TWP staff attended a special concert by Christabelle Braden . 4. TWP employees DeLois and Shawniece attended the Expressions Opening Night. 5. Mayor Sly James (right) takes a selfie with student volunteers at the July Jubilee. 6. Members of the Multiple Sclerosis Achievement Center show their appreciation for a presentation on The Whole Person programs and services.

2017 AT TWP



EVENT CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER 8 & 21:
Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

NOVEMBER 9:
Brain Injury Peer Support Group

NOVEMBER 10:
#TWP Getting Social

NOVEMBER 15:
Out and About with Canines and Canes

NOVEMBER 15, 18, 22, 25:
KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

NOVEMBER 15 & 29:
Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

NOVEMBER 20 & 27:
Stretching Without Looking

NOVEMBER 23-24:
TWP Closed for Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 28:
Consumer Advocacy Group

DECEMBER 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27:
KC No Coast Wheelchair Tennis

DECEMBER 5 & 19:
Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

DECEMBER 13:
Tota Voces Choir Rehearsal

NOVEMBER 14:
Brain Injury Peer Support Group

DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1:
TWP Closed for Winter Holidays

8. Lea and Heather Schouten attend Day at the Lake in July. 9. Members of the Resource Development team at TWP supported students from The Summer Work Experience with Winnetonka High School, as they volunteered at The Whole Person this summer. 10. A highlight event in August was the total Solar Eclipse. TWP staff enjoyed seeing the whole thing from the front of our building. 11. Rick mans the information table for TWP at Day at the Lake. 12. Lisa shows off her winnings after buying tickets for the lollipop tree to support The United Way. 13. Girl Scouts helped clean up a consumer's yard in October during the Planting Independence event.



It's Magic!

Night of Independence Gala

Save the date for an evening of illusion, mystery & magic!

"An event sure to make MAGIC cool again for grown-ups!"

Saturday, September 29, 2018
Union Station Grand Plaza

thewholeperson.org/magic



Planting Independence One Yard at a Time

Each spring and fall, The Whole Person partners with individuals and organizations that volunteer to “plant independence, one yard at a time.” Yard maintenance can be a tough situation for people with disabilities. TWP began the Planting Independence program to help TWP consumers avoid unnecessary fines from the city in which they live. Based on the hugs and a few tears that TWP volunteers receive, it is much more than this for people whose homes are in need of a morning’s worth of yardwork.

Throughout the month of October, 120 volunteers descended on 28 homes throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area – raking leaves, mowing lawns, and picking up branches and debris. TWP staff members coordinated the yard debris pickup once the volunteers had finished their work. If the homeowner provided the materials for additional gardening assistance, volunteers also planted bulbs and put down top soil. The change in the appearance of several of the yards was dramatic.

This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for individuals, families, clubs, schools, scouts, organizations, and businesses that are looking for an activity to give back to the community, spend time together outdoors, and serve individuals in our community who live with disabilities. We are now in the planning stages for the next Planting Independence activity, which will take place in April 2018. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kelly Grooms at kgrooms@thewholeperson.org

Volunteers came out to volunteer at the October Planting Independence event. **1.** Employees from Synchrony get started with a smile! **2.** TWP employees, family, Creighton and Studio 825 worked together to clean a yard for a consumer. **3.** More Synchrony employees get busy at a yard in Midtown Kansas City. **4.** Girl Scouts get together to clean up a yard. **5.** A large part of the day is spent picking up the yard waste. Larry takes a break from hauling leaves and branches. **6.** The Karma Tribe Yoga group exercised their volunteer muscles at a home in Midtown.

Guardianship Consulting

The Whole Person (TWP) is always on the lookout for ways to connect people with disabilities to the resources they need. Not only does TWP serve people with all types of disabilities, our staff members assist parents, spouses, siblings, and significant others as well depending upon the need. To this end, TWP recently initiated a new service to provide consultations for people seeking guardianship.

A guardian is a person appointed by a court who is responsible for the care and custody of a minor or other individual who has been legally determined to be incapacitated. This determination is made after the court ascertains that a person is unable to make decisions affecting their care. If the court finds that this is the case, it will appoint a guardian to make decisions for the minor or individual.

TWP employees Tom Sweeny, Attorney at Law and Karen Gridley, Paralegal launched the guardianship consulting service in 2017. It can make a big difference in the lives of everyone involved in a guardianship decision to have legal assistance with the process. If this is the case for you, TWP may be able to help you petition the court for guardianship or conservatorship (focusing on financial decisions) for your loved one. Questions about this service may be directed to Karen Gridley at kgridley@thewholeperson.org or Tom Sweeny at tsweeny@thewholeperson.org.

Snack to the Future

TWP's *Snack to the Future* is a new training program implemented by employment services to solve two separate challenges TWP was facing. The snack cart is maintained and operated by consumers that are in Supported Employment status and the cart offers healthier snack options to employees. Many of the consumers in Supported Employment have never been employed before and it can be a challenge to find a position with companies that will give them the experience they need.

Supported employment assists individuals that have more severe disabilities discover and explore what type of job field they want to enter. The employment specialists plan different activities that assist each consumer in discovering and observing the existing skills they have, and potential skills they could gain. *Snack to the Future* provides several training aspects that will help each individual enter competitive employment successfully. Some of these training aspects include customer service skills, handling money, counting inventory, and teamwork.

TWP is also committed to assisting employees live a healthy lifestyle. Among several initiatives to promote a healthy lifestyle, TWP has focused on healthy eating for employees. When

Snack to the Future was being developed, employment services decided to set the cart apart from vending machines by only carrying healthier options such as nuts, fruits, vegetables, hummus and other assorted healthy snacks. *Snack to the Future* is a win/win program for consumers and employees.



TWP Employees love the *Snack to the Future* cart!

'Tis the Season for Giving!
Shop for a Cause on December 20

a store named **STUFF**

The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

Join us for a
Holiday Shopping Charity Party
STUFF
Thursday, December 20
5:30-7:00pm
316 W. 63rd St., KCMO

Artist originals, handmade gifts, rugs
fine art, artisan jewelry, scarves,
home/body products, stationary & more!

TWP will receive 15% of your purchase!
Learn more at pursuegoodstuff.com

The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

ART EXHIBITION

EXPRESSIONS

SHOWCASING ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES

7th Annual
EXPRESSIONS EXHIBITION
Friday, April 6, 2018

**CALL FOR ARTISTS
COMING SOON!**

Generous support
provided by the
following:

Missouri Arts Council
The State of the Arts

ARTSKC supported

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

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

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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:
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.



The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

Join us for our
*Happy Holly Days
Open House!*

**Thursday, December 7
4:00-7:00 p.m.
3710 Main Street, KCMO**

TWP is celebrating the season with all who participate in our programs and services and with those in our community.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

- Photo Booth with Santa!
- Treats!
- Carolers!
- TWP Tours!
- Music!

All Guests should RSVP by December 5 to Lea at iklepees@thewholeperson.org or call 816-659-9403 if you will be attending!

**You can also RSVP ONLINE at:
www.thewholeperson.org/holly**