



# The Whole Person

People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

THEWHOLEPERSON.ORG

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission and Vision	1
Who we Serve; Board of Directors	2
Impact on our Communities	3
Core Services	4
Financial Summary; Donors	5
Consumer Stories	6
Peer Mentoring; Disability Mentoring Day	7
Events and Activities	8
Community Outreach	9
Volunteer Program; Networking	10
Consumer Services; Independence	11
Accessibility; Community Relations; Giving Opportunities	12
Volunteer; Contact Information	13

*The 2015 Annual Report covers the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.*



# ABOUT

## The Whole Person

### MISSION

The Whole Person assists people with disabilities to live independently, and encourages change within the community to expand opportunities for independent living.

### VISION

The Whole Person envisions a fully integrated community of equality, where opportunities and choices are not limited by disability. We will promote a world in which people with disabilities will exercise independent choices and join with their supporters to advocate for positive change within society and its systems.

### CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Whole Person is a preeminent center for independent living, with widespread grassroots support, strong consumer control, and a diverse, professional staff. Founded in 1978, The Whole Person is a private, nonresidential, nonprofit corporation providing a full range of community-based services for people with disabilities.



TWP emphasizes consumer control, the idea that people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, deserving of equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and take part in their community, particularly in reference to the services that affect their day-to-day lives and access to independence.

**60% OF OUR BOARD AND STAFF ARE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to thank the following individuals who served on our Board of Directors in FY 2015:

Rick O'Neal, President

Jennifer Wyatt, Vice President

Michelle Ford, Secretary

Tim Urban, Treasurer

Bob Cantin

Brian Ellefson

Luke Helmstetter

Debbie Housh

Marcia Klostermann

*(Advisory Director)*

Genny Manly-Klocek

Joseph Matovu

Ben McLean

Patrick Pruitt

Chris Smith

Lisa Womack

## WHO WE SERVE

- People with disabilities
- Parents, spouses, siblings, significant others of people with disabilities
- Schools, businesses and local government agencies
- Volunteer organizations
- Hospitals and health and medical organizations
- Civic and church/religious organizations and veterans
- Any individual or organization seeking assistance

## PROGRAMS

- Consumer Directed Services
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- Deinstitutionalization
- Employment Services
- Independent Living Services
- Individual and Systems Advocacy
- Mental Health Services
- Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)
- The Whole Family Project
- Youth Services

## SUPPORT GROUPS

- Brain Injury Peer Support Group
- Consumer Advocacy Group
- Deaf Peer Social and Support Group
- LGBTQIA Social Support Group
- Life with SCI/D
- Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group
- Women with Disabilities Social Support Group

# MAKING AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

TWP has taken the lead in showing the community who we are, what our mission is, and how our services impact both the community and all people with disabilities.

## Age range of individuals receiving services

Under 5 years	1%	
Ages 5-19	4%	
Ages 20-24	3%	
Ages 25-59	57%	
Ages 60+	35%	
Age unknown	0%	

## Individuals served by county

Cass, MO	3.0%	
Clay, MO	5.6%	
Jackson, MO	87%	
Johnson, KS	1.8%	
Platte, MO	1.6%	
Other KS Counties	0.5%	
Other MO Counties	0.5%	

## Gender of individuals served

Females	62%	
Males	38%	

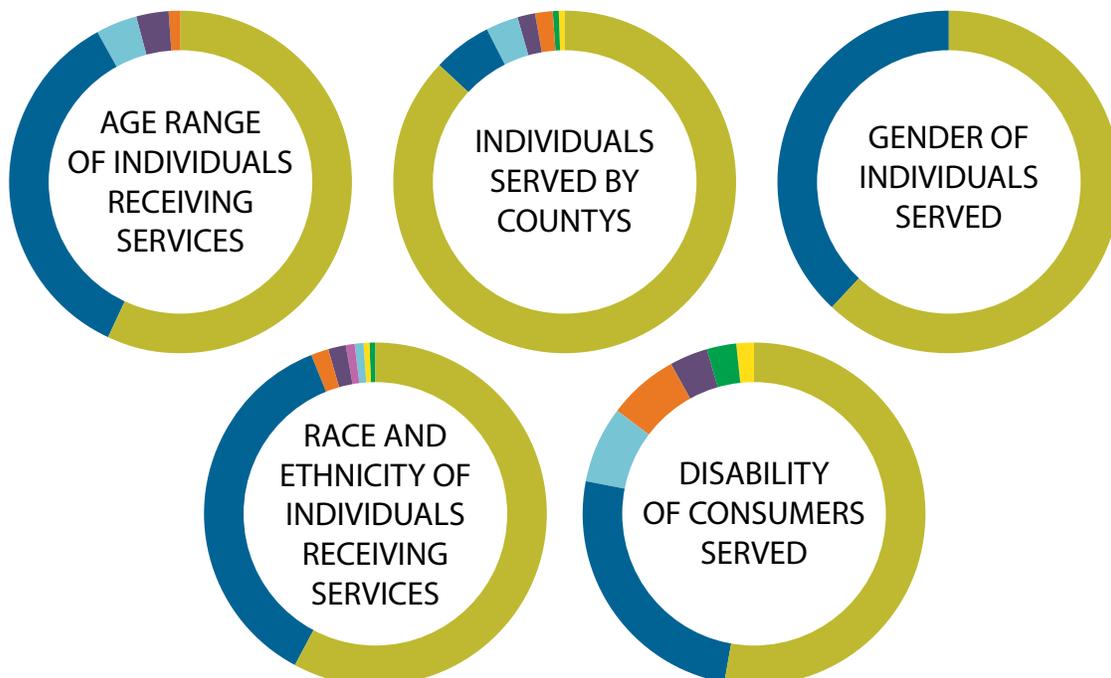
## Race and ethnicity of individuals receiving services

American Indian or Alaska Native	0.7%	
Asian	0.9%	
Black or African American	58%	
Hispanic/Latino	0.6%	
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.4%	
Two or more races	1.6%	
Unknown race/ethnicity	1.8%	
White/Caucasian	36%	

## Disability of consumers served:

Cognitive	144	
Mental/Emotional	58	
Physical	514	
Hearing	72	
Vision	30	
Multiple Disabilities	1,065	
Other	133	

**Total people served 2,016**



# CORE SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



## DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

TWP provides information about options in the community that are available to individuals who are currently in facilities, or are in immediate risk of entering state institutions or nursing facilities. For people who want to move out of institutions, we also provide assistance in finding housing and other vital service needs as requested by the individual and/or family. People with disabilities have avoided institutionalization due to the Consumer Directed Services program and TWP advocacy efforts.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

One-on-one training helps people with disabilities develop the skills needed to live independently. This may include cooking skills, health maintenance, home management, budgeting, time management, transportation, or resources for continuing one's education. TWP staff focus on working with consumers to teach self-advocacy to ensure that they are given options which reduce the need for support from family members, professional attendants or other caregiving services.

## INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (I&R)

TWP provides up-to-date information on services and support such as adaptive equipment, transportation, accessible housing and other resources. We also provide referral services to groups and agencies that handle specific issues or programs pertinent to an individual's needs. TWP's call center places callers in touch with the advocate or staff member most knowledgeable on the topic for which they are seeking information. Outreach and disability awareness presentations are shared at a variety of businesses, organizations and agencies throughout the metro area.

## INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

TWP advocates for civil rights and equality by influencing and implementing legislation and policy on the local, state, and federal levels. In addition, we assist individuals with disabilities in acquiring the knowledge and skills to solve problems and achieve goals on their own through self-advocacy. Advocacy covers education, employment, benefits, housing, and all other life skills required in order for individuals to live independently in the community.

## PEER SUPPORT AND MENTORING

This core service provides informal support from someone who has "been there" and has "lived experience." Peer support groups serve as a peer mentors to each other, sharing day-to-day challenges and empowering each other to achieve independence through their own examples of consumer control and by sharing their own personal experiences. Peer mentoring can help make a big difference in an individual's sense of self-awareness and self-acceptance.



# SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

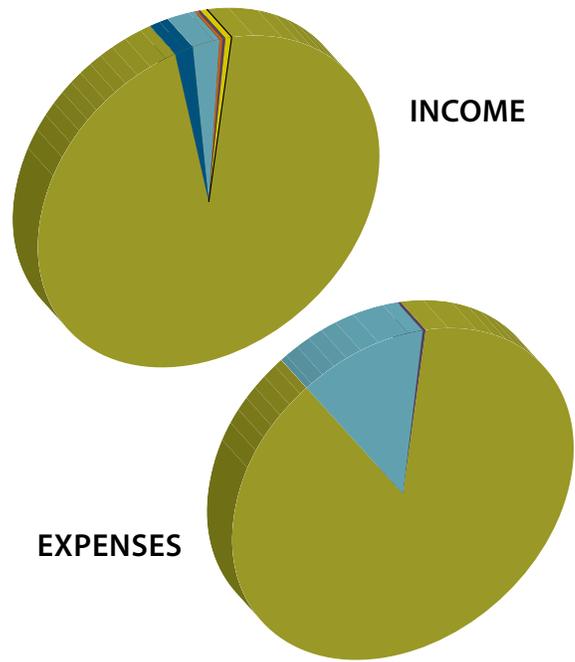
## FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

### INCOME

Government fees for services	\$23,439,288
Government grants	\$422,407
Other fees for services	\$620,672
Contributions and other grants	\$93,200
United Way support	\$45,413
Interest and dividends	\$21,382
Realized/unrealized loss on investments	(\$36,755)
Other	\$95,977
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$24,701,584</b>

### EXPENSES

Program	\$21,072,075
Management and general	\$2,653,943
Fundraising	\$61,807
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$23,787,825</b>



## THANK YOU, DONORS!

We would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations for their generous donations to The Whole Person from October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015. Every effort has been made to make this list accurate and complete. Please forgive us if any errors or omissions have been made.

<b>\$50,000 and above</b>	ArtsKC Catalyst Project Grant	Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	Nill Brothers Sporting Goods	Tom May
Missouri Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City	Saint Luke's Neurological Consultants	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City	Steve Israelite	Sheryl Mehrhoff
	Missouri Arts Council	O'Malley Insurance	Robert Heuman	Kristi Nelson
	Peter and Sheila Strand UMB Financial Corporation	Holistic Acupuncture Arts, LLC	David Cavanaugh	Asabe O'Neill
<b>\$25,000 and above</b>	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City	Regency Coffee and Vending	Jewish Vocational Services	Carlos Starnes
Hall Family Foundation	Kutak Rock LLP	Nelson & Co Wealth Management, Rick O'Neal	Truist	Joseph Tristanio
United Way of Greater Kansas City		Julie DeJean	Michelle Ford	Angie Waterman
		Candice Minear	Studio One	Daniel Allen
<b>\$10,000 and above</b>	<b>\$500 and above</b>	Tom Van Dyke	Alfredo Rodriguez	Wendy Allen
State Street Fund at the Boston Foundation	Jan Sullivan	Jennifer Wyatt	Kelsie Minear	Shirilyn Batton
Missouri Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation	YMCA of Greater Kansas City	Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City	Samantha Roe	Gay Corrado
	Commerce Bank	Robert Cantin	Joan Carlson	Kathy Gray
	Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board	Brian Ellefson	Sarah Carlson	Barbara Johnson
<b>\$5,000 and above</b>	David Westbrook	Kristina Hemberger	Marcia Cook	Janice Kroenke
Lifestyle Publications	BKD, LLP	Phil Witt	Carole Winter	Aaron Nelson
	Main Street Corridor Development Corp.	Tom Sweeny	Carina Wilson	Vivian Strand
<b>\$1,000 and above</b>	Spinal Network	Joseph Sweeny	Lewis Barton	Allycia Strother
Francis Family Foundation	Finn Bullers	Monique Todd	Shawniece Gipson	Letiah Fraser
Oppenstein Brothers Foundation			Becky Williams	Scott Quirnbach
Hallmark Corporate Foundation	<b>\$100 and above</b>		Mary Pat Mahoney	Spencer Neal
	Urban KC Living		Shana Widau	Katie Shern
	Susie Haake		Kelsey Mahoney	Adoria Wilson
			Sharonne McGee	Yawana Cole
			Carla Norcott-Mahany	Caitlin Dearing
			Janice Ahern	AZ Khan
			Joseph Tristanio	Ben Robertson
			Theresa Baker	Jessica Robertson
			DeLois Brewer	Nancy Stafford
			McKenna Mahoney	Ruthie Stephens
				Bryan Woodson



## CONSUMER STORIES

### THE WHOLE FAMILY PROJECT

Judah is a 7-year-old boy diagnosed with severe classical autism and is nonverbal. April, a tutor with The Whole Person's Whole Family Project, began working with his family to learn sign language as a communication tool. Judah's mode of communication had previously consisted of fits, including hitting, screaming and meltdowns.

Weekly sign language lessons began to transform the family's conversations, and Judah's behavior improved because he could now communicate in a language that all could understand. With the lack of communication managed, Judah started showing signs of increased fine motor skills. He is more willing to follow instructions when signed to him, and is now reading at a first grade level. Weekly sign language lessons have been invaluable to Judah and his family.

### MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON

After surviving Hurricane Katrina and finally arriving in Dallas, Cornell was the victim of a hit and run accident. He lost both legs and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Nine months later, he lost his sister to cancer. Another sister in Kansas City arranged for him to come live with her but when she became too ill to care for him, he had to move and spent the next three years in a nursing home.

All of this happened before Cornell learned about the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program at The Whole Person. The Money Follows the Person program enabled Cornell to settle into his own apartment and he has been living independently for over a year. He quickly made friends in his new apartment building and enjoys not only his new found independence, but a new sense of community. He was recently recognized as a national MFP success story and was visited by top administrators at Washington, DC and Jefferson City. Cornell has been very vocal about all the support through MFP and TWP that has been provided. He has said many times that on the day of his accident the paramedics saved his life but MFP and The Whole Person gave him back his life.



## PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Seven peer mentoring groups were offered and facilitated by The Whole Person in our fiscal year 2015. These groups included Mental Health, Spinal Cord Injury, LGBTQIA and Disabilities, Women with Disabilities, Brain Injury, Deaf and Hard of Hearing for Adults and Consumer Advocacy Group.

Goals and challenges identified and achieved through these groups include but were not limited to:

- Managing difficult emotions
- Identifying as a person with a disability
- Attaining employment
- Staying medical prescription compliant
- Decreased isolation and increased socialization
- Greater interest in public policy and advocacy
- Requesting reasonable accommodations and when to self-disclose
- Talking through frustrations and challenges with parents and loved ones, service providers and other support systems

## DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

TWP collaborated with area business and community partners to make the 11th annual Disability Mentoring Day a success. Employers (private, not-for-profit, governmental and educational), transitioning high school students, college students and adults with disabilities participated. TWP's employment staff provided information, conducted mock interviews, and resume reviews.

Disability Mentoring Day:

- Enhances internship and employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Promote disability as a central component of diversity recruitment in fashioning an inclusive workplace
- Dispel employer fears about hiring persons with disabilities
- Increase confidence among students and job seekers with disabilities



## CELEBRATION AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Whole Person held its 5th Annual Celebration Awards Luncheon at the Grand Street Café, honoring individuals and organizations that are working to further TWP's mission to assist people with disabilities to live independently. Fox 4 Anchor Phil Witt emceed the event, which featured singer/songwriter Blessing Offor of *The Voice* singing competition as keynote speaker. Awards were presented to Susie Haake, Paul H. Levy Founder's Award; Tina and Leon Jackson, Individual Contribution Award; Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board, Olathe, Civic Leader Award; and AMC Theatres, Corporate Leader Award. Over 300 people attended the luncheon which raised funds to support TWP's programs and services that connect people with disabilities to the resources they need.



## ADA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

TWP celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the ADA on Monday, July 27th with a neighborhood party. Staff and volunteers shared donuts and coffee to the community in the morning, and the party continued midday with food, live music by Jumpin' James & Good Company, booths and messages from Councilwoman Jan Marcason and Jackson County Legislator Scott Burnett.

The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. TWP had community-wide support for the occasion from a number of organizations and businesses that advocate for people with disabilities.



## EYE CARE FOR SERVICE DOGS

On Saturday, May 2, TWP hosted a free eye exam clinic for ten service dogs in partnership with Eye Care for Animals (ECFA). Dr. Amy Hunkeler and Dr. Rustin Sturgeon from ECFA provided ocular exams to dogs formally trained and certified, currently working service dogs, and formally trained therapy dogs with active registration. This event was a part of the 8th annual ACVO/STOKESRx National Service Animal Eye Exam Event, generously provided to the public by Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists which seeks to prevent and/or identify any problems that may affect a service animal's sight.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Whole Person's Community Relations Department provided trainings to local companies, groups and organizations regarding disability awareness, "people first" language, and serving people with disabilities.

TWP continues to be involved in The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) which serves as the metropolitan planning organization for the bi-state Kansas City region. Those involved include:

- Kansas City Area Transit Authority
- Johnson County Transit
- Unified Government Transit
- Other transportation advocates

These organizations work with MARC to seek increased accessibility for people with disabilities.

By approaching transportation planning on a regional level, a comprehensive improvement plan connects services throughout the following counties in the area:

- Cass County, Missouri
- Clay County, Missouri
- Jackson County, Missouri
- Johnson County, Kansas
- Leavenworth County, Kansas
- Miami County, Kansas
- Platte County, Missouri
- Wyandotte County, Kansas

TWP participated in Transition Fairs for high school students in local school districts during the reporting year.

TWP Public Policy staff advocate for civil rights and equality by engaging in systems advocacy at the local/regional, state and federal levels by engaging elected officials in disability issues.

The policy department has grown its program outreach through the following activities:

- Disability Awareness Day
- Hands Around the Capitol
- Consumer Advocacy Group
- Legislative day trips to Jefferson City, Missouri
- Get Out the Vote campaign



## INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

TWP provides independent living (IL) training through individual contacts with consumers in the community, and through classes at The Whole Person and in the community. IL skills training modules were developed this year and implemented to train consumers in the areas of transportation, housing, budgeting, value shopping using coupons, financial literacy, emergency preparedness, and computer literacy.

TWP collaborated with other organizations in the community to provide this training:

- KCATA for bus transportation
- Missouri Assistive Technology
- University of Missouri Columbia Extension
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- Emergency Management
- Grundy Disability Group
- The Prosperity Center
- Connecting For Good



## PARTNERING WITH VOLUNTEERS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Whole Person believes volunteers are vital to the success of our mission and essential for the people we serve. We believe volunteers bring optimism and enthusiasm, create positive energy, and share diverse perspectives that enhance outcomes for consumers, staff, programs and resource development.

The volunteer program seeks to collaborate with corporations, churches, universities and the community to provide an array of services such as consumer activities, disability awareness, office support, outreach, and peer mentoring. In the 2014/2015 fiscal year, 71 individuals volunteered 1,738 hours.

Many of TWP's volunteers have a disability and are advocates and ambassadors for independent living.



## NETWORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

TWP staff members serve on boards of various committees, groups and local organizations both in the private sector as well as through local and state government agencies for the purpose of attaining equal access for all. Our CEO, COO, CFO and Board of Directors continue to serve on and participate in issues-based task forces and committees to increase disability awareness and improve accessibility to individuals with disabilities in order to better meet their needs.

Staff who work with consumers, as well as staff from community outreach, marketing, CDS, home modifications, MFP, employment, TAP, and volunteer departments, conduct outreach to agencies and businesses for the purpose of developing a stronger support system for consumers.

TWP is represented by staff in the following community partnering organizations:

- FMS: Financial Management Services state meetings
- Wheel it Forward: Wheelchair tennis/adaptive sports organization
- MainCor Board of Directors
- Nonprofit Connect Volunteer Managers Committee
- VOAD: Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters
- Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- Missouri Centers for Independent Living Round Table
- Missouri Rehabilitation Association
- National Advocacy Committee for the American Council of the Blind
- Missouri Council of the Blind
- Mayor's Committee on Disabilities
- Autism Society
- Heartland Community Connection
- Kansas City Area Transit Authority (KCATA) board and the KCATA Share-a-Fare Review Committee
- Advance KC EDC Non-profit Sector



## CONSUMER SERVICES

Consumers requested and received more than 4,000 services in addition to their independent living core services.

	Consumers who requested services	Consumers who received services
Advocacy/Legal Services	151	130
Assistive Technology	43	32
Communication Services	72	44
Counseling and Related Services	6	4
Family Services	1	1
Housing, Home Modifications, Shelter Services	16	7
Independent Living and Life Skills Training	26	19
Information and Referral Services	2,494	2,493
Mental Restoration Services	1	1
Peer Counseling Services	97	89
Personal Assistance Services	1,550	1,492
Recreational Services	27	27
Transportation Services	4	2
Youth/Transition Services	130	93
Vocational Services	126	104
Other Services	12	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,856</b>	<b>4,547</b>

## INCREASE INDEPENDENCE

TWP consumers worked with Independent Living Specialists to set goals related to the following significant life areas in order to increase their independence:

- Self-Advocacy and Self-Empowerment
- Communication
- Mobility/Transportation
- Community-Based Living
- Educational
- Vocational
- Self-care
- Information Access/Technology
- Personal Resource Management
- Relocation from a Nursing Home or Institution to Community-Based Living
- Community/Social Participation
- Other Custom Goals

**The Independent Living Philosophy assumes that people with disabilities are the best experts on their lives. Therefore, they inherently have the right to make all decisions regarding any aspect of their lives, no matter their disability.**

## SUPPORT INDEPENDENT LIVING!

Independent living is about making one's own choices, being fully integrated into society, and having equal opportunities. The Whole Person doesn't just promote this philosophy: we live it. In addition to the people we serve, over 60% of TWP's board, staff, and volunteers are people with disabilities. We understand the challenges; you can join us as we empower others to lead their lives with self-determination.

Show your support for independent living by donating to TWP at [www.thewholeperson.org](http://www.thewholeperson.org). Your generous gift will support vital programs that empower people with disabilities to live, work, and enjoy their lives with independence, opportunity, and dignity.

For more information, contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager at [tgoddard@thewholeperson.org](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org) or at 816-627-2220.



## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Contributions from Individuals, Honorariums and Memorials

Your generous support can make a significant difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Through your contribution, you may choose to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. We will send a card of acknowledgement to whomever you choose.

### Corporation and Foundation Gifts

Donations from corporations and foundations enable the continuation of our programs and services for people with disabilities.

### Planned Giving

Testamentary or planned gifts allow donors and families an opportunity to create a legacy that will provide meaningful support for years to come.

For more information on giving opportunities, contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development Manager at [tgoddard@thewholeperson.org](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org), or call 816-627-2220.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Whole Person provides education on disability etiquette, including reasonable accommodations and accepted social interaction, as well as why disability awareness is important.

We support and train businesses that employ people with disabilities and offer assistance completing ADA accessibility assessments. TWP is active in our community, networking with local partners and providing information and referral services.

To arrange a presentation, invite TWP to your community event, or to receive information, contact Lea Klepees, Development Specialist at [lklepees@thewholeperson.org](mailto:lklepees@thewholeperson.org), or call 816-659-9403.

## EQUAL ACCESSIBILITY

TWP employs staff who have firsthand knowledge of accessibility compliance including staff members who are blind or visually impaired, who use wheelchairs, have mobility disabilities and who are deaf and hard of hearing. TWP staff assures accessibility by providing interpreters, captioning, and printed materials in accessible formats at community events.

TWP's office building is totally accessible, incorporating the principles of Universal Design. The building offers automatic doors throughout as well as accessible restrooms. Both individual and multi-stall accessible restrooms are located on each floor of the building. There are multiple accessible conference and meeting rooms. Elevators are equipped with Braille as well as a speaker which announces the floor and direction. The building also offers a fully equipped resource room which is completely accessible to persons with all types of disabilities. It also includes the ability to print in Braille.



## VOLUNTEER

Volunteers provide support for the people we serve by utilizing their leadership skills, talents and passion to advance our mission. Volunteers are the heart of The Whole Person! We would love to have you join us as a volunteer. For more information or questions, contact Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232 or email to [kgrooms@thewholeperson.org](mailto:kgrooms@thewholeperson.org).

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Signing up for our mailing list is a great way to stay connected to TWP. You'll receive information on upcoming events, updates on our programs, volunteer opportunities, and ways that you can contribute. Visit our website to sign up.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

For media inquiries, interviews or statements, please contact Laura Casselman, 816-627-2230, [lcasselman@thewholeperson.org](mailto:lcasselman@thewholeperson.org).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

"Like" our Facebook page to view photos, videos, articles, industry updates, event announcements, volunteer opportunities and more! It is a great place to see what is going on at The Whole Person!

We are also on Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, Vimeo, Google+ and Instagram.



## CONTACT US

For information regarding our full range of programs and services and ways you can make a difference, contact us at:

3710 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

phone: 816-561-0304

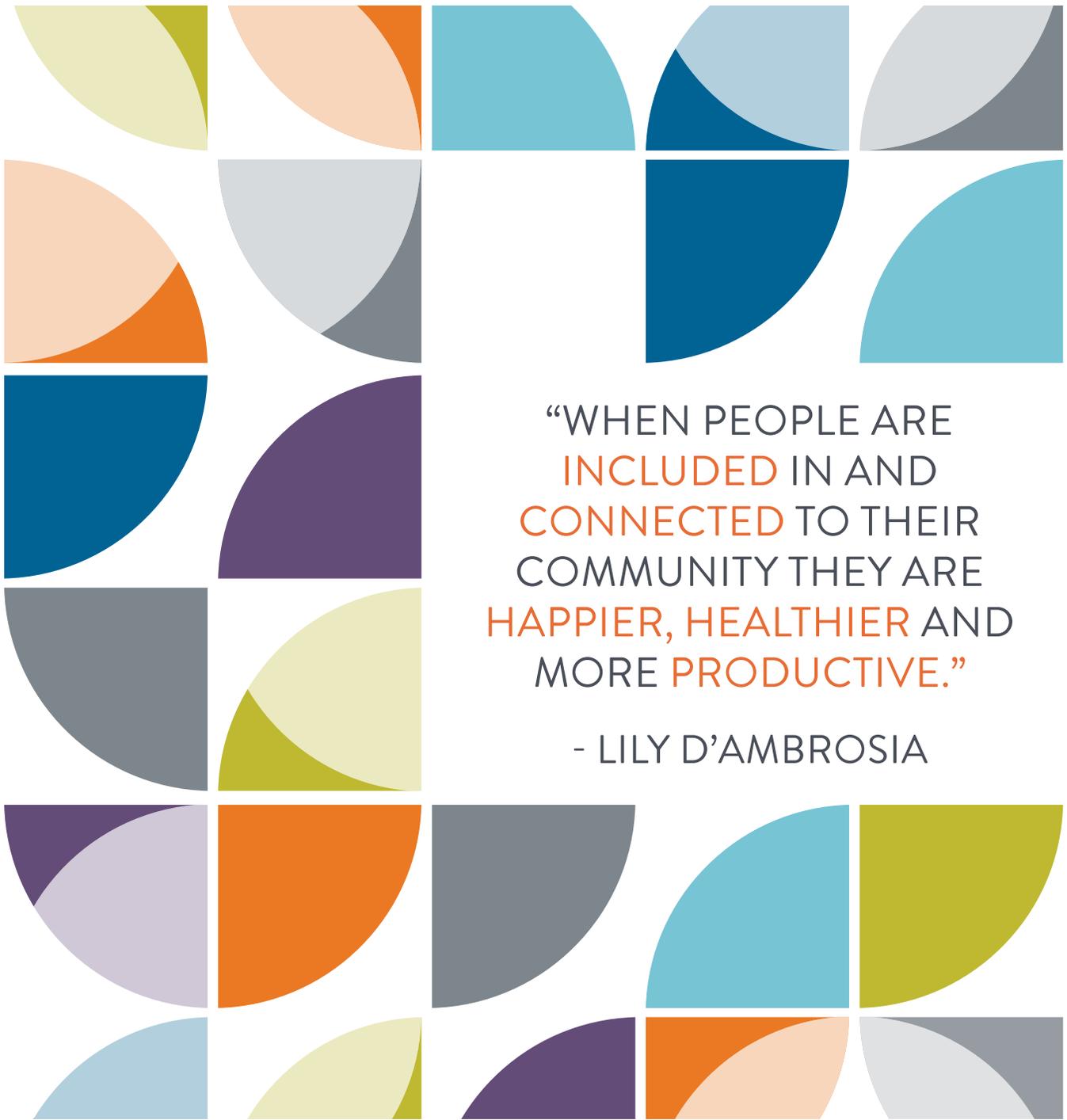
fax: 816-931-0529

toll free: 800-878-3037

Office hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[info@thewholeperson.org](mailto:info@thewholeperson.org)

[thewholeperson.org](http://thewholeperson.org)



“WHEN PEOPLE ARE INCLUDED IN AND CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY THEY ARE HAPPIER, HEALTHIER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE.”

- LILY D’AMBROSIA



Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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