

TWP CONNECTS

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Make a Difference
- 3 Events and Programs
- 4 Faces of TWP
- 5 Event Calendar
- 6 Outreach/Development
- 7 Public Policy/Support Groups
- 8 Contact Information

Summer Celebrations at The Whole Person

This summer, The Whole Person celebrated the 26th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with two fun-filled days of the July Jubilee.

On Saturday, July 23rd, we hosted an all-you-can-eat breakfast fundraiser in our Main Street parking lot that featured Chris Cakes pancakes and sausage. The Pulse Performing Arts Center and the Conga Jim Band entertained guests and passersby, who were also welcome to stroll through our tents to check out the handmade goods and flea market finds available for purchase at TWP's Makers Fair and Flea Market. Kansas City Mayor Sly James and other City officials

stopped by to share a few words and visit the vendor booths.

The celebration continued on Monday, July 25th when The Whole Person again opened up the parking lot for consumers, staff and community members to enjoy music, guest speakers, and free hot dogs, popcorn and snow cones. This event would not have been a success without the help and support from our sponsors, staff, vendors, donors and volunteers.

TWP's 6th Annual Celebration Awards Luncheon culminated our 2016 summer events on August 26th at the Gallery



John Holt of Fox 4 News emceed the 6th Annual Celebration Luncheon featuring Colonel Greg Gadson as the keynote speaker.



TWP employee Lisa gets the crowd up and dancing at the July Jubilee on July 25.

Event Space in Kansas City's Power & Light District. The luncheon honored award winners who work to further TWP's mission in assisting people with disabilities to live independently. Our honorees included:

- Adam Lane – Individual Contribution Award
- Jackson County Sports Complex Authority – Civic Leader Award
- The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art – Corporate/Organization Award
- Finn Bullers - Lifetime Achievement Award
- Sally Firestone – The Paul H. Levy Award

Continued on page 3

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

Rick O'Neal, President
Jennifer Wyatt, Vice President
Michelle Ford, Secretary
James Geary
Debbie Housh
Marcia Klostermann
Genny Manly-Klocek
Joseph Matovu
Mike McCord
Ben McLean
Patrick Pruitt
Lisa Womack



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

Make a Difference

Dear Friends of TWP,

I am in awe every day at the good work being done by the staff of The Whole Person. I'm lucky, because I get to see our consumers and hear their stories. I want to share a story today about Annie.

Annie's first connection with The Whole Person was her participation in the Youth Transition Classes at her high school. Annie's big dream is to work towards owning a small business in the area of pet care. In a few years, when both of her sisters have gone to college, she and her family plan to start such a business together. In the meantime, Annie is working towards developing her work skills and knowledge through TWP's Employment Services program.

Annie's family and her Employment Specialist worked together to find an available position that would provide Annie with good customer service skills and a foundation for future employment. She landed a job at Sprouts and was very excited to get her new uniform and food service license. Annie says that her favorite parts of the job are baking and packaging cookies and muffins. Chris, Sprouts Bakery Manager, showed patience and attention to detail when teaching Annie about her job. Chris and the bakery team provided natural supports and Annie was a quick learner, demonstrating more and more independence in her work tasks. Her Employment Specialist loved going to Sprouts to "job coach" for Annie, but after eight weeks or so her direct assistance was no longer needed. Step by step, Annie is gaining work experience and



following her career path towards her long-term goal. Annie and her boss Chris plan to develop a recipe for natural dog treats that can be sold at Sprouts.

The Whole Person offers an array of programs and services that your contribution will support. YOU are helping our Independent Living Advocates and Employment Specialists touch the lives of thousands and helping each of them to lead a more independent life. Your year-end gift is extremely important because it offers immediate resources that are directed to the current needs and opportunities at The Whole Person. No gift is too small to make a difference. We are so grateful to you for helping to create and support our committed staff who work on the front lines day in and day out to connect people with disabilities to the resources they need.

Make a difference today. Right here!
Right now!

Sincerely,

Terri Goddard, Resource Development
Manager

TWP Programs and Services

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

Summer Celebrations

Continued from page 1

Guests were inspired by these champions for people with disabilities and the words shared by our keynote speaker, Colonel Greg Gadson.

Col. Gadson, a 26 year career Army officer, was injured from an improvised explosive device in May 2007, as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field artillery serving in Iraq. His injuries cost him both legs above the knees and normal use of his right arm and hand.

Colonel Gadson spoke at the luncheon about overcoming his injuries and dealing with aspects of depression. He noted that what helped him most was realizing that he still had responsibilities and it was built into his character to never give up: "I'm not a quitter." He was and still is going to live his life and motivate others. Col. Gadson challenged the audience to consider their own character and strive to be the best person they can every day despite obstacles.

The Whole Person thanks Colonel Gadson for his words of inspiration. We would also like to thank our honorees for everything they have done for the community, John Holt from Fox 4 News for serving as emcee, and of course our sponsors, staff, donors and volunteers who helped make this such a wonderful event.

Be on the lookout for next year's event: TWP is pleased to announce that Nyle DiMarco will be the keynote speaker for our September 15, 2017 Night of Independence Awards Gala.



Nyle DiMarco will be the 2017 keynote speaker. Photo ©PEOPLE.com



Individual Award Winner Adam Lane receiving his award from TWP CEO Julie DeJean and TWP Board President Rick O'Neal.



Civic Leader Award Winner Jim Rowland of the Jackson County Sports Complex Authority receiving his award from Julie DeJean and Rick O'Neal.



Sally Firestone, winner of The Paul H. Levy Founders Award receiving her award from Julie DeJean and Rick O'Neal.



Christine Boutros receiving the Corporate/Organization Award at The Whole Person's Celebration Awards Luncheon from Julie DeJean and Rick O'Neal on behalf of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.



The Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Finn Bullers was received by his family, Anne Christiansen-Bullers, Alora Bullers and Christian Bullers from Julie DeJean and Rick O'Neal.

FACES OF TWP



From left: Jim and Ken attended the Kansas City Fair Housing Seminar at The Whole Person.



Kansas City Mayor Sly James visited with TWP employee Clark at the July Jubilee.



Barb and Luke drum up interest for the July Jubilee Saturday event held at The Whole Person on July 23rd.



Everyone enjoyed the Kona Ice truck at the July Jubilee Celebration.



Candice Minear represented TWP at the Midwest Ability Summit in August.



Joseph and Angie were in charge of grilling hot dogs for the July Jubilee event. Great job!



Quentin Stoops participates in the adapted art class at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The class was a social activity sponsored by the Life with SCI/D Peer Group. Photo courtesy of Christine Boutros.



TWP employee Scott visits with Bonnie at the July Jubilee.



Staff members (left to right) Angie, Kristi, Margaret and Lea pose with Colonel Greg Gadson, our speaker at the 6th Annual Celebration Awards Luncheon



Volunteers Cecilia and Aubrey helped seat guests at the Celebration Luncheon in August.

FACES OF TWP



Members of MainCor attended the July Jubilee. We love having their support in our neighborhood!



Attendees of the Celebration Awards Luncheon gathered at The Gallery Event Space for the 2016 event. Five honorees received awards this year.



Members of the Deaf Peer Support Group met in June for their summer get-together.

EVENT CALENDAR

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

SEPT. 26:

Blind and Low Vision Group Stretching Without Looking

SEPT. 27:

Consumer Advocacy Group

SEPT. 28:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

OCT. 6:

LGBTQIA Social Support Group

OCT. 7:

Expressions Art Series Opening Night and Reception

OCT. 12:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

OCT. 13:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

OCT. 20:

Life With Spinal Cord Injuries or Related Disabilities (SCI/D)

OCT. 22:

Planting Independence

OCT. 25:

Consumer Advocacy Group

OCT. 26:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

NOV. 3:

Life With Spinal Cord Injuries or Related Disabilities (SCI/D)

NOV. 9:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

NOV. 10:

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

NOV. 22:

Consumer Advocacy Group

NOV. 23:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

NOV. 24-25:

TWP Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

ATTENTION CDS ATTENDANTS:

As of 10/01/16, the web address to view your paycheck stub online is changing. The new address you will use is www.thewholeperson.traponline.com/ess.

Planting Independence – Fall Edition

The Whole Person is “*Planting Independence – One Yard at a Time*” again on Saturday, October 22nd from 8:00 am -12:00 pm. This program provides assistance in the form of general yard clean-up to consumers who receive TWP services or participate in any of our programs, and who own or rent their homes. TWP partners with volunteer groups to perform low to moderate risk activities such as mowing, raking, weeding, and planting.

Yard maintenance can be a difficult situation for people with disabilities. This activity, with our volunteers helps TWP consumers get a handle on their yards and avoid unnecessary fines from the city where they live. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for individuals, families, clubs, schools, scouts, organizations, and businesses who are looking for an activity to give back, be outdoors, and serve people in our community who live with disabilities.

If you are a TWP consumer and would like your yard to be considered for this upcoming date in October, or you would like to volunteer as an individual or put together a group, you can go to the TWP website at: thewholeperson.org/how-to-help/planting-independence, contact Kelly Grooms at 816-627-2232 or by email at kgrooms@thewholeperson.org.



TWP CEO Julie DeJean helped with the *Planting Independence* event in June.



Guests enjoyed the *Expressions 2015* exhibition in the Crossroads last November.

TWP announces Expressions 2016 Artists

The Whole Person is thrilled to announce the class of the 6th Annual Expressions Art Series. This year’s class will have 14 visual artists and one performing artist. These artists with disabilities will have the chance to exhibit their work in a professional setting, while making connections with the Kansas City arts community.

The Expressions Art Exhibition provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to overcome barriers that may keep them from showing their art in a professional setting allowing them to share their perspectives and experiences with the community. This series celebrates artists’ abilities and unique talents, adds diversity to the Kansas City arts scene, and exposes audiences to art that otherwise might not be experienced. The 2016 series will also offer professional development for the artists.

The 6th Annual Expressions Art Exhibition will take place October 7, and feature a new cohort of artists at The Arts Asylum located at 1000 E. 9th St., Kansas City, MO. The exhibit opens at 6:00 pm, and attendees will enjoy music and dance performances, a Balloon Pop, a Silent Auction, an interactive arts corner, hors d’oeuvres and refreshments, and conversations

with featured artists until closing at 10:00 pm.

Accessibility options provided for the series include braille and large-print event programs, volunteer guides for descriptive audio tours, sign language interpreters and accessible entrances. The Expressions Art Series has been made possible by the generosity of the Francis Family Foundation, the Patricia Sweeny Memorial Fund and the Missouri Arts Council.

We hope you will join us for a fun filled evening! For accommodations or information, please contact Terri Goddard at 816-627-2220 or by email at tgoddard@thewholeperson.org.

2016 Expressions Artists

Janice Atkins	Michelle Childers
Andrew Rosenbarger	Omar Al-Shams
Brandy Heckler	Russell Easterwood
Cynthia Whalen	Teigan Hockman
George Utter	Travis Hensley
Jessica Becker	Christine Klasinski
Kathryne Husk	H. Storme
Malek Deng	Sherri Buerky
	William Dozier

Deaf Services is Growing

Jacob Marshall joins The Whole Person as the new Whole Family Project Specialist, as we say goodbye and thank you to Samantha Roe for her time and service as Project Coordinator. Prior to his new role, Jacob interned with the Youth and Adult Support Services Department at TWP while completing his Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas. Jacob also has a B.A. in Deaf Studies, an Associate's Degree in Sign Language Interpretation, and he has previously worked at the Kansas School for the Deaf.

The Whole Family Project has grown significantly in the last year. As of August 2016, we are serving 39 families by providing sign language to Deaf, hard of hearing and/or nonverbal children and their family members so they can overcome communication barriers together. We have 12 tutors and a waiting list of 13 families. In the next few months, we will hire two more tutors to help fill the need.



The Deaf Peer Support Group is very active. Members of the group attend the July Jubilee at The Whole Person on July 25th.

Announcing: Community Sign Language Classes are back at TWP! Starting Tuesday, October 4th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, community members who are, or who serve, the Deaf, hard-of-hearing, nonverbal, or Deaf-Blind community can partake in this FREE 11-week sign language course. This class is open to

individuals, groups, family members, PCAs, counselors, and others.

For those interested in The Whole Family Project or the Sign Language Classes, please contact Jacob Marshall at jmarshall@thewholeperson.org or 816-561-0304.

Welcome to Public Policy...

The Whole Person's Public Policy Department is pleased to welcome two new members to our team. Michael Riley and Twintenia Strother will focus on housing issues.

Before joining TWP, Michael Riley was the Regional Advocacy Coordinator for Missouri REALTORS. As coordinator, Michael helped manage a Political Action Committee for REALTORS and oversaw government relations efforts in Western Missouri. Prior to his time with REALTORS, Michael was a Community Affairs Liaison for U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II. While at Congressman Cleaver's Office, he advocated for the rights of homeowners, protecting constituents from foreclosure. He has experience in constituent affairs, fundraising

and community outreach along with contacts at all levels of government. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a Pre-Law emphasis from Kansas State University.

Twintenia Strother joins TWP having served as an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Grant administrator and Development Specialist for the Affordable Housing Commission in the City of St. Louis. She played an essential role in the development of several affordable housing projects set aside for persons affected by HIV & AIDS and extremely low income households. Prior to her work in St. Louis, Twintenia worked as a Compliance Manager for the City of Lee's Summit and a HOME and Community Development Block Grant administrator for the City of Kansas City, MO. Twintenia desires to create healthy communities and stable housing for those that have the least. She holds a Master's in Public

Administration in addition to her Bachelor of Science degree in History with a minor in Political Science.

Welcome to the TWP Public Policy Team!



Twintenia Strother (left) and Michael Riley (right) joined TWP this summer.

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

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

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.



EXPRESSIONS ART SERIES: LIGHT

OPENING NIGHT & RECEPTION

Friday, October 7, 6-10:00 pm
The Arts Asylum
1000 E 9th St, Kansas City, MO

Exhibit runs through December 2016

The Expressions Art Series is a free, public event that provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to show their art in a professional setting. The event celebrates the artists' abilities and unique talents, adding diversity to the Kansas City arts community and exposing audiences to art that otherwise might not be seen.

**6th Annual Exhibit Showcasing
Artists with Disabilities**

*Paintings • Mixed Media • 2D/3D Art
Photography • Performance Art*

**Silent Auction • Balloon Pop!
Music • "Hands-On" Art Experience**

PRESENTED WITH SUPPORT FROM



THE
PATRICIA
SWEENEY
MEMORIAL FUND



Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.