

Connecting people with disabilities to the resources they need

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## 'Tis the Season

This is that wonderful time of year when we turn our attention to giving thanks and seeking out those perfect gifts for the special people in our lives. It is also a good time to begin considering how we might give back to our community and to organizations that are near and dear to our hearts with a special year-end gift of cash or appreciated assets such as shares of stock.

**We encourage you to remember The Whole Person when making your year-end giving selections.**

- Did you know that your gift of \$1,000 will underwrite ramp construction materials for two people with physical disabilities through our Home Modification Program? Since the program's inception in 2015, TWP has completed over 60 projects – including approximately 30 ramps – in the homes of people with disabilities in our community. Larry, who described himself as a 61 year old homebound shut-in, says his life was forever changed for the better when he got his ramp: "As a marvelous result of my new ramp, my life is great again and everyone at The Whole Person has given me back my life and my freedom to be able to go out in public again."
- Your gift of \$500 will support the purchase of 18 *Living Well with a Disability* handbooks that are used in our Independent Living Skills and Youth Transition programs.
- Your gift of \$250 will cover the cost of workplace site visits for 30 days to coach a job seeker with a disability at the start of a new career.
- Your gift of \$100 will pay for 10 sets of "Sign Language Flash Cards" that are used to teach sign language to a non-verbal child and his or her family through our Whole Family Project.

**Please Consider Making a Year-End Gift to The Whole Person this Year!**

You may donate via the website at [www.thewholeperson.org](http://www.thewholeperson.org) or contact Terri Goddard, Resource Development and Community Relations Manager, to discuss your annual contribution or begin a conversation around a "planned gift" you may consider for the future.

'TIS THE SEASON  
*To Give Back*

**Some gifts  
can change lives**

**Your generous gift  
supports vital programs  
that empower  
people with disabilities**

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

**Show your support  
for independent living  
by donating to**

**TheWholePerson.org**

## 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

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

## Program Updates

Dear Friends of The Whole Person,

As TWP's Director of Programs, I am writing to update you on some of the exciting work that several of our programs have been engaged in recently.

- This fall, the Youth and Adult Support Services teams brought our Youth Transition Course to area schools including Lees Summit North, Grain Valley South Middle School, and Smithville and Ray-Pec High Schools. I am also pleased to report that communications with the Kansas City Missouri School District have laid the groundwork to introduce our Transition Course for students with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood. Last summer, the department served 90 students through "Pre- Employment Transition Services" in partnership with Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation. Summer classroom discussions included job exploration counseling, workplace readiness and instruction on self-advocacy.
- The Employment Services and the Youth and Adult Support Services staff collaborated in the planning and delivery of Disability Mentoring Day on October 26 and November 3, an annual event connecting consumers throughout the community with mentoring opportunities provided by employers on both sides of the state line.
- TWP's "Blindness Low Vision Experience (BLV)" activities offer opportunities for people with vision-related disabilities to achieve greater independence and access to the community through physical and outdoor activities, art and cultural events. In 2016, the group experienced tandem bike riding, "Bowling Blind," hiking at a state park, skiing, a visit to the Kansas City Zoo's special tactile exhibit, and a guided



tour of the World War I Museum with a hands-on experience with authentic artifacts from cannons to gas masks. Other activities ranged from bus ridership training and a health and a popular wellness class called "Stretching Without Looking."

- The Whole Person's Money Follows the Person (MFP) program provides options counseling sessions to people in skilled nursing units, offering information about MFP to assist nursing home residents who would like to transition to community living.
- TWP's Telecommunication Access Program continues to collaborate with The Missouri Assistive Technology Project to demonstrate and provide special phone equipment and other assistive technology products.
- Our peer support groups continue to be active. In addition to the Blindness Low Vision Experience Group, they include the Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group, Deaf Peer Social and Support Group, Life with SCI/D, Brain Injury Peer Support Group, LGBTQIA Social Support Group, and the Consumer Advocacy Group.

As always, The Whole Person appreciates any and all feedback on services and activities. We look forward to working with consumers to plan activities, classes, and support that enhances independent living.

*Jay Robertson*

## 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 (TAP)
- Mental Health Services
- Transition Services
- The Whole Family Project
- Blindness Low Vision Experience
- Youth and Adult Services

# A Night of Art: Adaptive Art Class at Nelson

In 2016, staff from The Whole Person and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art began working together on improving the museum's accessibility for people with disabilities. TWP staff participated in the museum's Accessibility Advisory Committee. A partnership to offer accessible art classes evolved from this community connection.

On August 19, the Life with Spinal Cord Injury/Disability Peer Group and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art collaborated to offer an Adaptive Art Class. Ten peer group members with varying levels of paralysis visited The Nelson for the opportunity to try different modes of painting and clay work. Members began the night touring the Modern Art section of The Nelson to gain inspiration and discuss the feelings that the artists may have been trying to express.

Once in the classroom, peer group members chose from three different activities. One painting activity involved placing a piece of paper into a box and adding drops of paint. Members then added several types of balls to the box, including marbles, tennis balls, smooth round balls and balls made out of suction cups. Artists rocked the boxes back and forth to move the balls around on the paper. The sizes and textures of the balls created a variety of patterns on the paper and also helped to blend the paint colors.

At another station, artists used different types of brushes to create varying strokes. With a canvas taped to the wall, artists used long sticks with sponges, feathers, wired brushes or regular brushes taped to the ends



*Members of the Life With SCI/D group tour the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art on a recent outing.\**

to create various types of strokes using black paint. The long sticks were an adaptation that helped peer group members with limited hand function to hold the brushes and create strokes on the canvas.

The last station featured clay tiles. Artists could choose from a range of tools for creating patterns in the clay. Hand accommodations – such as U-Cuffs and foam build-up – made it

easier for the artists to use the tools in creating their artwork. Museum staff also adjusted the table heights to accommodate wheelchairs.

Many people find art to be therapeutic because it provides an important outlet for emotions. Artistic creation can also be used as a means of occupational therapy for those with limited mobility who need to work on their grip and range of motion.

By offering art classes and similar activities, the Life with SCI/D Peer Group provides opportunities for members to socialize and meet others with similar disabilities in order to build a stronger community. Our goal is to open a world of possibilities for people with disabilities, including participation in accessible, recreational activities.

Individuals interested in joining the Life with SCI/D Peer Group can contact Candice Minear at 816-595-3334 or by email at [cminear@thewholeperson.org](mailto:cminear@thewholeperson.org).



*Quinten Stoops enjoys the hands-on art project at The Nelson.\**

\* ©2016 The Nelson Gallery Foundation. All reproduction rights reserved. This photograph may not be reproduced in any medium without specific written permission and acknowledgment of ownership by The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.



# 2016 FACES OF TWP



**1.** 825 Studios poses with COO Mike Willey at our Planting Independence Program. **2.** Col. Greg Gadson was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Celebrations Awards Luncheon. **3.** TWP consumers and staff pose with Kansas City Mayor Sly James at our July Jubilee. **4.** TWP Consumers traveled to Jefferson City in March for Disability Rights Legislative Day. **5.** Candice Minear poses with KC Wolf at a KC Chief's Ability Day. **6.** TWP staff and friends help with the Adaptive Sports Day. **7.** TWP staff helping at AIDS Walk KC. **8.** Members of Heartstrings helped Lisa Cherry buy a treat when they visited TWP to work on their sales skills.



# 2016 FACES OF TWP



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9. & 10. The Expressions Art Series Class of 2016 participated in the opening reception in October. 11. Candice Minear helps out at the Silent Auction table at the Expressions Art Series opening reception. 12. The Golden Stars performed at the Expressions Art Series opening night reception. 13. TWP COO Mike Wiley and his family enjoy one of several Royals games attended by the staff.

## EVENT CALENDAR

For specific locations and times of the events listed, visit our calendar at [thewholeperson.org](http://thewholeperson.org).

**NOV. 23:**

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

**NOV. 24-25:**

TWP Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**NOV. 28:**

BLV: Stretching Without Looking

**DEC. 1:**

LGBTQIA Social Support Group

**DEC. 6:**

Kansas City Spinal Cord Injury Association Holiday Party

**DEC. 7:**

TWP Holiday Open House

**DEC. 7:**

Peer Support Group Holiday Party

**DEC. 8:**

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

**DEC. 13:**

Life With Spinal Cord Injuries or Related Disabilities (SCI/D) at MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital

**DEC. 14:**

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

**DEC. 26-JAN. 2, 2017:**

TWP Closed for Holidays

**JAN. 11:**

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

**JAN. 12:**

Brain Injury Peer Support Group

**JAN. 25:**

Mental Health Peer Mentoring Group

Jingle & Mingle!

Holiday Open House

Wednesday, December 7

3:00-7:00 p.m.

(Peer Groups 6:00-8:00 p.m.)

3710 Main Street, KCMO

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS!**



# Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Twice a year, The Whole Person organizes a community service project called Planting Independence. "Planting Independence – One Yard at a Time." This volunteer opportunity assists consumers with disabilities with some much-needed yard work and helps them get a handle on their yard maintenance. This year was a big success! From spring to fall the number of homes TWP served grew from 19 to 25. The number of volunteers who participated also increased this fall, when over one hundred volunteers from across the KC Metro converged on the homes of consumers on Saturday, October 22, 2016 for a day of service.

One group of volunteers came from NuMotion. NuMotion is an organization that provides complex mobility products and maintenance to individuals with mobility disabilities. In the past, NuMotion has partnered with other organizations in the Kansas City community as volunteers, but mostly for fundraising activities. This year, the Vice President of the regional office, Mike Seidel, decided they would try something different.

"The Whole Person's Planting Independence gave us an outlet to offer direct assistance to consumers where needed. As an organization



The volunteer group from NuMotion enjoys helping at the Planting Independence event.

that provides services to people with disabilities, NuMotion feels it is very important to give back to the community we serve. This opportunity offers a more direct connection with an individual, and our staff can see the difference they have helped make in someone's life by volunteering."

Volunteer opportunities like this also provide a chance for groups to work on team building skills.

"I looked at this opportunity as a team building project for our staff to work together to achieve a goal. This opportunity not only helped the individuals, but it also helped us work better together as a team, allowing us to hopefully take what we learned back

to our office to provide more efficient service to our customers," Mike said.

Asked if NuMotion would participate in an activity like Planting Independence again Mike stated, "Absolutely. It is not only important to give back to your community, but it makes you feel good in having helped others. We definitely encourage others to participate in the future. The gratitude the consumer showed us may have very well been greater than the service we provided them."

To volunteer with The Whole Person contact Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Grooms at [kgrooms@thewholeperson.org](mailto:kgrooms@thewholeperson.org) or by calling 816-627-2322.



Mike Seidel (far right) cleans up branches on October 22 with Paul Wilkie (center) and Justin Peterfish (left) from NuMotion.

a store named . . . . .<sup>TM</sup>

STUFF

**SHOPPING PARTY**  
for The Whole Person at:  
**STUFF**  
316 W. 63rd St., Kansas City, MO  
816-361-8222  
[pursuegoodstuff.com](http://pursuegoodstuff.com)

'Tis the Season for Giving!

**Please join us for a special shopping party for TWP!**  
**Thursday, December 22, 5:30-7:00 pm at STUFF!**  
**TWP will receive 15% of your purchase!**

*STUFF sells artist originals, handmade gifts, fine art, artisan jewelry, small batch home and body products, indie cards, stationery and rugs. STUFF is co-owned by two sisters and features the work of artists from their area, throughout the USA and from International artisan groups. The store is dedicated to creativity!*



# Welcome to TWP!

On October 10, 2016, the Youth & Adult Support Services department welcomed a new addition to the team, Rachael Nelson! Rachael joins TWP with experience working for the Springfield Center for Independence. Rachael was an advocate in the youth department and worked some in the Consumer Directed Services department as well. Rachael is passionate about teaching independent living skills and is excited to be a part of TWP! We are excited to have her and we are looking forward to the skills and expertise she brings to the table. Welcome Rachael!



*Rachael Nelson settling in at TWP.*

A few words from Rachael:

"I grew up in the Kansas city area, but left to go to college at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. While there, I earned my degree in Psychology and worked for the Southwest Center for Independent Living as a youth advocate for 4.5 years. I recently moved home to be closer to my family.

"I really enjoy being outdoors and being active. I love to go camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. I am very passionate about health and fitness. I have been doing CrossFit for over a year now and I absolutely love it. I am very excited to be working at a CIL again. I'm looking forward to getting to know the consumers and my co-workers."

## Community ASL Classes at TWP



*The Whole Person is hosting American Sign Language (ASL) classes for the community October through December this year. Clark Corogenes, Deaf Services Specialist and Jacob Marshall, The Whole Family Project Specialist, teach the classes in our community room. This is the second class we have held and it filled up two weeks before the first class. TWP will offer another class in the spring of 2017. Look on our calendar ([thewholeperson.org](http://thewholeperson.org)) for details!*

# Somewhere to Go Home to

*Ensuring each consumer has a safe and decent place to call home is a housing service.*

Each day our consumers incur preventable challenges brought on by society's oversight of accessible housing and reasonable public accommodations. Living with a disability should not exclude one from the essentials of a healthy home or other standards of living. As advocates, it is our objective to support independent choice, but to also provide resources that add intelligence to the decision making process, especially with regard to housing opportunities.

When it comes to housing knowledge and our consumers, each advocate must learn to identify the five critical aspects of a healthy home and housing assessment examination:

1. At the time of intake and/or initial referral, advocates must determine whether or not the consumer is in a safe place to call home.
2. Verify if the place they've called home is legally assigned to them and/or a family member.
3. Assess the households' income to debt ratio to determine if they are at risk of losing their existing housing due to limited income or for other reasons.
4. Allow the consumer to express their interest in housing options or satisfaction with their current housing.
5. Lastly, establish a housing plan of action to address the housing concerns identified.

When the consumer's housing needs have been assessed, specific information may be provided to staff and partners that will help establish a housing plan that meets the consumer's immediate need, whether emergency shelter or permanent housing. Housing plays a critical role in all aspects of a healthy lifestyle; we make certain that TWP provides life changing information and referral resources for those needing a place to call home.



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

3710 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111  
[thewholeperson.org](http://thewholeperson.org)

**Holiday Open House!**  
**December 7**  
**See details below!**

### JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Signing up for our email list is a great way to stay connected to TWP. Visit [thewholeperson.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tgoddard@thewholeperson.org), or call 816-627-2220.



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

## Jingle & Mingle!

Join The Whole Person for a  
**Holiday Open House**  
**Wednesday, December 7**  
**3:00-7:00 p.m.**  
*(Peer Groups 6:00-8:00 p.m.)*  
3710 Main Street, KCMO

*TWP wants to celebrate the season with all who participate in our programs and services and our community.*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

*We will have a photo booth with Santa, live music, carolers, holiday cookies, appetizers, beverages & reindeer games!*

All Guests should  
**RSVP by December 5**  
to Lea Klepees at  
[lklepees@thewholeperson.org](mailto:lklepees@thewholeperson.org)  
or call 816-659-9403  
if you will be attending!

*'Tis the Season to be Merry!*