



TNC Insights

Fall 2018 Vol. 5

From the Executive Director



As a partnering agency with the United Way of Greater Kansas City (UWGKC), every year we look forward to being involved in various activities with this great organization.

In recognition of UWGKC's 100 years of service in the Kansas City area, we were excited to participate in the Day of Caring and Birthday Celebration at the Major League Baseball Kansas City Urban Youth Academy. A BIG thanks to the volunteers from Dupont Nutrition & Health for sprucing up one of the group homes in South Kansas City and to the United Way for being such a great supporter of TNC Community.

[Take a look at the photos here.](#)



In September we had a blast recognizing all things TNC at our annual "TNC Day" picnic at Macken Park. This is one of my favorite events as individuals and families we support gather with all of the staff, community partners, members of our Board of Directors and the Parents Guardians Family and Friends organization to eat, laugh, dance, play games and talk about good times. It's just like your typical family gathering! Look for your invitation to next year's TNC Day. We'd love for you to party with us! [View some pictures online.](#)



Help me congratulate our very own Associate Executive Director Joan Ibale for being accepted into the Independence Chamber of Commerce's L.E.A.D. program! Joan joined TNC in 2005 and has been an extraordinary light of leadership and integrity. We are very fortunate to have her on #TeamTNC. It has been a pleasure to work side-by-side with Joan so I'm sure she will excel in this venture and will continue to enhance the programming and operations at TNC.



Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of Vanessa Whitney. Known to most as "Momma," Vanessa received supportive services from us for several years. Read more about our dear family member in the Celebration of Life story below.

Thank you to all the volunteers, donors, employees and families that keep TNC Community moving forward as the premier provider of quality care for individuals with disabilities.



Sincerely,

James Landrum, MSW
Executive Director

A Celebration of Life: Vanessa 'Momma' Whitney

Initially associated with the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital, TNC provided support for individuals across the country. But a few years later, the organization was localized and began receiving support from the Department of Mental Health from the State of Missouri. With all of the adjustments that took place, one would think TNC Community was being prepared to make room for a very special person; a sweet spirit; a Momma.

As a young woman in her 20s, Vanessa Whitney joined TNC Community in April of 1978; a few days shy of her birthday.

Although with minimal speech and relying on a wheelchair for mobility, Vanessa never hesitated to treat anyone she interacted with like family. Giving hugs, kisses, making beautiful artwork, looking after her housemates, Vanessa soon earned the name, "Momma" from agency staff and friends.



She was the "mother" of one of the group homes in South Kansas City. If she wasn't out attending community events or at church, you could always find Momma in the kitchen talking to staff and watching over everything and everyone in the home.

During her time with TNC, Momma connected with one of the volunteers who worked in her home. "Momma Amy" enjoyed spending time helping out; going on outings, making artwork and tending to Momma until she had to return to Texas. Just last year, Momma was reunited with Momma Amy when TNC staff helped her coordinate a trip to Texas to see her dear friend.

Momma passed away on October 2, but to know Momma was to know unconditional love. She will be missed.

FREE BASIC Relationship and Leadership Strategies Seminar



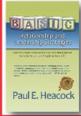
"Paul takes what many others speak about and presents it in ways anyone can understand."
- Dick Brooks, Owner Sandler Training

Wednesday, October 17
3:30 p.m.
TNC Community, 12404 E. U.S. Hwy 40
Independence, MO 64055

A keynote presentation by
Paul E. Heacock

Accomplished speaker and author of BASIC
Relationship and Leadership Strategies -
Commonsense Ideas on How to Get Along Better
with the Important People in Your Life, Paul
Heacock will share an ingenious approach to
successfully handling personal and professional
relationships.

"A product of significant insight."
- Maria Hunt, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Avila University



Learn how to implement skillful leadership in any situation
during Paul's signature 60-minute, entertaining and
interactive session.

SEATING IS LIMITED!
Register for this FREE event today!
Call (816) 373-5060 or email
ebrown@tnccommunity.com by
Monday, October 15

Accomplished speaker and author of BASIC Relationship and Leadership Strategies - Commonsense Ideas on How to Get Along Better with the Important People in Your Life, Paul Heacock will share an ingenious approach to successfully handling personal and professional relationships.

Wednesday, October 17
3:30 p.m.
NO COST TO ATTEND

SEATING IS LIMITED!

Call (816) 373-5060, visit <https://bit.ly/2CzWyI0> or email ebrown@tnccommunity.com by Monday, October 15.

Learn how to implement skillful leadership in any situation during Paul's signature 60-minute, entertaining and interactive session.

[Register here](#)



Save the Date for The Chamber's Halloween Parade Oct. 27

Look for TNC Community at one of the largest Halloween Parades in the Midwest! The Independence Chamber of Commerce will host a SPOOKTACULAR Halloween Parade on the Historic Independence Square.

70th Annual Halloween Parade
October 27
10:00 a.m.
Historic Independence Square

[Click here for more information.](#)



Now Offering CPR & First Aid Training

If you've been putting it off, don't wait any longer. TNC Community is offering CPR, First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens training.

To register, [click here](#) or visit the [Events section](#) of the [TNC website](#).

October 25
Bloodborne Pathogens @ 8 a.m.
First-Aid @ 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
CPR @ 1-3:30 p.m.

Grab your colleagues, friends and family. Our training sessions are open to all. Please check tnccommunity.org or call (816) 373-5060 for details.

Film Tells Story Of Disabilities In Hollywood

by Shaun Heasley |
disabilitycoop.com

Director Jenni Gold, who uses a wheelchair, interviewed some of the biggest names in entertainment for her documentary "CinemAbility: The Art of Inclusion." (CinemAbility)



A new documentary featuring a who's who of Hollywood A-listers is delving into the history of how disabilities are portrayed on screen.

The film "CinemAbility: The Art of Inclusion" analyzes how disability has been represented in movies and on television over the last 120 years, examining everything from silent films to modern-day blockbusters. Weighing in on the evolution are Ben Affleck, William H. Macy, Marlee Matlin, RJ Mitte, Jamie Foxx, Geena Davis and Helen Hunt, among others.

The 97-minute feature is hosted by Jane Seymour. Jenni Gold, the film's director, said she was inspired to pursue "CinemAbility" to offer historical context, but soon realized that the story was much bigger.

"There was more behind these characters and depictions than the stereotypes that emerged, which in some instances are still adhered to," said Gold, the only director member of the Directors Guild of America who uses a wheelchair.

"In fact, what we found was much richer, in that there is a strong correlation between these depictions and how people with disabilities are treated, and as portrayals have become more well-rounded and realistic, actual people with disabilities have become more accepted socially, and more integrated into society," she said.

"CinemAbility" released Oct. 5 on iTunes and other video-on-demand platforms.



Anytime is a Good Time to Give to TNC

You can have a real impact on the lives of individuals and families supported by TNC Community. Click on the links below to learn more:

- [Memorial Tribute](#)
- [Wills, Trusts, and Estate Giving](#)
- [Workplace Giving or Sponsorship](#)
- [AmazonSmile](#)



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



Fridays and Saturdays

Live Jazz
Mutual Musicians Foundation
1823 Highland Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108
1-5 a.m.

October 10

Independence Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting
Independence Chamber of Commerce
210 W. Truman Rd, Independence, MO 64055
8 a.m.

October 11

Teachers of the Deaf: Night at the Nelson-Atkins
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
4525 Oak St, Kansas City, MO 64111
5 p.m.

October 12

Indigo Hour: Da Truth Band
Blue Room Jazz Club
1600 E. 18th St, Kansas City, MO 64108
5 p.m.

October 23

TNC Community Board of Directors Meeting
12404 E. U.S. 40 Highway 40, Independence, MO 64055
3:30 p.m.

October 23

eitas-Developmental Disability Services Board Meeting
8511 Hillcrest Rd, Kansas City, MO 64138
5:30 p.m.

October 30

Adaptive Yoga
Mid America Rehabilitation Hospital
5701 W. 110th St, Overland Park, KS 66211
6 p.m.

