

Our Vision

TNC Community works to be the region's foremost provider of high-quality services to persons with developmental disabilities by providing individuals the opportunity to achieve their goals in a safe and healthy environment.



A Message from the Executive Director



We're off to a great start to 2017 at TNC Community!

We're hiring a number of new staff members and celebrating milestones with others. Long time employee Alice Chishimba graduated from UMKC last month and was recently promoted to TNC's new Residential Support Manager for our Claymont, Jefferson and Kaill locations.

This month marks 15 years of dedication and service from Ardith Scheer, our Director of Health Services. Ardith is an absolute joy and plays an integral part in making TNC Community the region's foremost provider of quality support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Feel free to send them a congratulatory note at

achishimba@tnccommunity.com and scheer@tnccommunity.com.

Last week, our Associate Executive Director Joan Ibale and I attended a briefing hosted by the Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities in Jefferson City, MO. The daylong session included a presentation from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) on the FY 2017 DMH budget, critical issues and highlights including employment, the Missouri Model of Crisis Intervention and direct support staffing shortages.

Introduced by Rep. Jim Neely, HB 626 focuses on the rights of individuals under guardianship/conservatorship and modifications to those procedures. The bill also includes draft language from Missouri's Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (MO-WINGS). [Follow this link to learn about MO-WINGS.](#)

[Click here for more information about HB 626.](#) If you, a friend or loved one will be impacted by this bill, we encourage you to reach out to your Missouri Senator and Representative. To locate your legislator, [click here](#) and just type in your five-digit zip code.



Dirty Duo Registration NOW OPEN

Get down and dirty on Saturday, June 10 at the Kansas City Dirty Duo 5K.

The Dirty Duo 5K is TNC Community's largest fundraiser. Don't miss the mud, mystery obstacles, mud, music, mud and MORE MUD! It all happens on the scenic trails of Unity Village in Lee's Summit, MO.

Registration includes food, fun, live entertainment, a one-of-a-kind Kansas City Dirty Duo 5K finishers medal and race day t-shirt. Assemble your crew, grab a costume (costumes aren't required, but hey, they're pretty cool and you could win a prize!) and join us for the muddiest 5K in Kansas City!

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Just email development@tnccommunity.com. For volunteer opportunities, email ebrown@tnccommunity.com.

ALL PROCEEDS benefit TNC Community.

[Click here for more information and to register for the Dirty Duo 5K](#)



Volunteer Group Unveils New Name and Logo

Our volunteer group has a new name and a new look. Now, all we need is you!

Connect with TNC through PGFF!

The Parents, Guardians, Family and Friends (PGFF) is a dedicated team of volunteers who share their time and talent with TNC Community. This group is also

open to former TNC Community Board members and local community members. The volunteer opportunities are endless. The impact? Lasts a lifetime.

PGFF serves as its own 501(c)(3); separate from TNC Community and meets quarterly. Join us for our first PGFF meeting on January 30, 1 p.m. at TNC Community, 12404 E. US 40 Highway, Independence, MO. Questions? Call (816) 373-5060.

Spectrum: Autism, Art and Music Exhibit Opens at Jazz Museum

Spectrum is an innovative and powerful exhibition featuring artist Juliette Hemingway.



"I'm hoping my artwork will bring a little bit of joy to patrons and non-patrons alike. I also want people to be aware that autism is not a disease. It's a way of life. I am an artist, but more important, I am a mother, who just happens to have a child with Autism. Autism is a part of my life and therefore a part of my art," says Hemingway.

You can find the exhibit at the American Jazz Museum Art Gallery, 1616 E. 18th Street, Kansas City, MO. Spectrum: Autism, Art and Music will run until Sunday, April 30.

[Click here for more information](#)

Record Gains In Employment For People With Disabilities

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi President,
RespectAbilityUSA.org

RESPECT ABILITY

According to the National Trends in Disability Employment (nTIDE), now marks the longest run of employment gains for Americans with disabilities since the Great Recession.

Indeed, in the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Jobs Report released this week, the employment-to-population ratio for working-age people with disabilities increased from 26.6 percent in December 2015 to 28.7 percent in December 2016 (up 7.9 percent; 2.1

percentage points). Those are still horrific numbers. But finally, the trend is going in the right direction...

[Click here to read the entire article](#)

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