

# THE MISSION PROJECT

*Discovering a world of independence, a life of possibilities*

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### TMP is on Facebook!

Learn what's happening in Kansas City and other communities as The Mission Project helps young adults with special needs live and work on their own. Like us today!

## Texas Tenors and KC Symphony to benefit The Mission Project

Friday, December 9 at 8:00 pm

The Mission Project is pleased to present America's Got Talent singing sensations The Texas Tenors and the Kansas City Symphony in concert together at the all-new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Don't miss this unique opportunity to support The Mission Project and celebrate the holiday season in the country's most exciting new performing arts center.

Tickets are available at \$50, \$60, \$70 and \$80. We are also offering a limited number of Gold Circle Seats for \$125. The Gold Circle Seating includes premier seating, a meet & greet with The Texas Tenors after the concert on the stage in Helzberg Hall and a CD signed by the Tenors.

For tickets, visit [www.kcsymphony.org](http://www.kcsymphony.org), call the Symphony Box Office at (816) 471-0400 or purchase your tickets in person at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts Box Office.

"This holiday concert is such an incredible opportunity for The Mission Project to raise money for young adults with developmental disabilities who want to live, work and belong to a community, just like everyone else their age," says Bob Randall, president of The Mission Project Board of Directors. "These young adults want independence, and we can give

it to them – all while enjoying a memorable holiday concert in one of the nation's most beautiful performing arts centers."



## Amelia Zang-Carta:

# Feeling at home in Mission

Five years ago, Amelia Zang-Carta wasn't able to cook, clean or manage her own finances. She spent most of her time with family members or alone surfing the Web.

Today, the 30-year-old has her own apartment, cooks, pays the bills and spends her time with a close circle of friends who all live within walking distance. Although Amelia admits cleaning still isn't at the top of her list, she does it anyway.

Amelia's parents, Fred Zang and Judy Carta, credit The Mission Project for helping their daughter grow into the independent adult she is today. No longer does Amelia's diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome hold her back from living a full life like other young adults her age.

"Amelia is so much more self-assured and socially aware," says her mom, Judy. "While she had some real challenging behaviors in the past, she is now much more flexible and understanding of others' perspectives. She enjoys getting together with friends, and likes inviting



*Amelia Zang-Carta held a newly-banded hummingbird last summer during a demonstration at the YMCA of the Rockies.*

friends to walk over to a nearby café in Mission for dinner. She is much more independent."

Being a part of The Mission Project has allowed Amelia to "try her wings" in a safe environment, have a group of same-aged friends who live nearby, and also live in an apartment complex with folks without disabilities like other young adults," Judy says.

Amelia is also busy. She holds positions in two departments at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She works in The Center for Children's Health and Development as a research aide and at the Dykes Medical Library.

She is an avid Jayhawks, Royals and Chiefs fan and enjoys Acting Class with the Barn Players, Fitness with Lee and the monthly Problem-Solvers class – activities all offered through The Mission Project.

As for her future, Amelia would like to return to school and pursue a career in medicine or biochemistry.

But what Amelia loves best about her new life with The Mission Project is having people around who like her, "feeling more independent, being more grown up and being responsible."

"It feels like home," Amelia says.

*The Mission Project enables capable adults with developmental or cognitive disabilities to live independently and safely in community with minimal support. To ensure The Mission Project is fulfilling its mission, we asked participants and members how they got involved in The Mission Project, what they've learned and how they've grown. In this and future issues of UpDate, we'll introduce you to the individuals who make up The Mission Project by sharing their stories with you.*

## *New participants and new activities:*

# TMP adds 3; Car Club Roars to Life

### **The Mission Project Adds Three Participants**

Three new participants have recently joined TMP, bringing the number of young adults we serve to 18.

**Jonathan Kempf** hails from the Northland and is employed at Children's Mercy Hospital.

**Alexandra Connor** is a graduate of Shawnee Mission East and works as a Courtesy Clerk at Hen House.

**Jesse Janus** and his family recently moved to the area from Ohio. He is currently working Fridays at a restaurant and is looking for additional work opportunities.

We welcome these new participants and their families to The Mission Project.

### **Racing in Mission**

The hot new club in Mission these days is Car Club. Building on participant Corey Graham's interest in cars, Car Club kicked off its inaugural season June 12 at the

Mission Speedway, otherwise known as the Sylvester Powell Community Center parking lot. Getting ready to race radio-controlled cars turned out to be a complicated process. In order to race

The first races were simple straightaways to allow the drivers to become acquainted with their cars and build their driving skills. They soon moved on to a circle and ended the season by mastering a figure 8.

Many hands are needed to run a racetrack. Official starters for the races were Ellen Dirnberger and Ben Wise. Jonathan Berry's sister Janet was official timekeeper and scorer. Others served as pit mechanics keeping all the drivers in the race.

The season concluded on November 13 with an awards night

at Johnny's BBQ where drivers received trophies for a range of achievements. Needless to say, all are looking forward to the 2012 season.



*Susan Webb, Sara Niederhauser, Lauren Stern and Kelly Randall display their 2011 Car Club Trophies.*

several cars at once, the selection committee had to find a car with multiple frequencies. Once a car was chosen, assembly and painting were next.

**Give the Gift of Independence** *As the year draws to a close and the 2011 tax season approaches, will you consider making a donation to The Mission Project?*

*Your contributions enable our participants to hold jobs by providing transportation to work. You support our participants' health by providing membership to the Sylvester Powell Community Center, where the participants take classes ranging from karate to water aerobics. You provide the opportunity for our participants to work with professional educators on academic and social skills that equip them to live and work successfully in the community.*

*There is no other organization like The Mission Project – in Kansas City or across the country – yet there are thousands of young adults with special needs right here in our metro area who could thrive in such a program. You can help ensure they get the chance.*

*Donations to The Mission Project are tax deductible.*



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## Save these dates:

- ❖ **Friday, December 9, 2011.** The Texas Tenors and the Kansas City Symphony at the Kaufmann Performing Arts Center to benefit The Mission Project.
- ❖ **Saturday, May 5, 2012.** Fifth Annual Kentucky Derby Run for the Roses Gala

Watch your mail or check our Web site for details.

I want to support the programs of The Mission Project Inc. I have enclosed my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to: The Mission Project, 7317 Halsey, Shawnee, KS 66216. This donation is \_\_\_ for general support or \_\_\_ in honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_ . Please send acknowledgement to (name)\_\_\_\_\_ at (address)\_\_\_\_\_

You also can donate online. Go to [www.themissionproject.org](http://www.themissionproject.org), click on Support. Us and PayPal Direct Donation. You don't need to have a PayPal account. The Mission Project is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

*We wish to thank Frank and Greg Oswald of Sir Speedy of Olathe for printing UpDate, a quarterly publication of The Mission Project Inc. When you finish reading this issue, we hope you'll share it with friends.*