Presenting Our 2nd Annual Holiday Concert
On a Winter’s Night

Featuring Jim Brickman and the Kansas City Symphony

The Mission Project is thrilled to present our 2nd Annual Holiday Benefit Concert on Friday, December 7 in Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Proceeds from the event will benefit The Mission Project and First Downs for Down Syndrome.

Our featured artist this year is the incomparable Jim Brickman. Jim is a platinum-selling recording artist and songwriter, and for over a decade has been a staple during the holiday season. With the Kansas City Symphony, Jim will present an evening of dazzling piano and vocal music that is sure to enhance your enjoyment of the season.

For the best seats in the house, we recommend Gold Circle tickets for $125 each. These tickets include a pre-concert party with an opportunity to meet Jim Brickman and our media emcees, Elizabeth Alex and JiaoJiao Shen of NBC Action News.

Other tickets range from $52 to $84 and can be purchased by calling the Kansas City Symphony box office between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm at 816-471-0400 or by visiting their website at www.kcsymphony.org.

Thanks to a recent grant from the David Wood Kemper Foundation, The Mission Project was able to purchase a third van to provide our growing number of participants with safe, reliable transportation to and from work. The 2013 Dodge Caravan SE was pronounced a “sweet ride” by the participants.
2012 in review:
A Letter from our President

This has been an extraordinary year for The Mission Project. We have counted many new milestones on our 2012 journey. The most significant of these is seeing our first sister organization, The Mission Project 2, begin serving six young adult participants. The Mission Project 2, also located in Mission, collaborated with us on this year’s fundraisers and joined us for various programs and activities as well. TMP continues to provide support and counsel to TMP2 as they launch their organization.

Our fundraising program was enhanced by our collaboration with the Kansas City Symphony and the Texas Tenors in December of last year. We look forward to enjoying Jim Brickman with the Symphony this year, and eagerly anticipate our 2013 concert when we will welcome the Texas Tenors back to the Kaufmann Center for an all-new program with the KC Symphony.

We have also begun working with First Downs for Down Syndrome as a fundraising partner. Many of you may be familiar with FDFDS from their work with the Kansas City Chiefs Offensive Line. FDFDS has brought a wealth of experience and resources to both the Run for the Roses and Symphony events. An important part of our partnership with FDFDS is tapping into the organization’s relationship with families with younger children who experience developmental disability. As we seek to broaden our recognition in the community, we hope those families will come to envision The Mission Project as a part of their child’s future.

Participant programming has continued to expand with the launch of not one but two book clubs and a walking club. TMP walkers are also contributing to the Mission community by picking up trash and helping to maintain a local park during their outings.

For the past eight years, TMP has been a 100% volunteer organization. It has been a great place to start, but we now feel the time is right to bring in professional leadership in the form of a Development Director. The Development Director will be responsible for maintaining and expanding the Mission Project’s funding from individuals, events, foundations and grants. Our goal is to develop a sustainable and diverse funding base that will allow us to move into the future with confidence.

In reflection, these accomplishments are the work not only of TMP families and participants, but also of our donors and supporters. Your investment in TMP has continued to bear fruit and allowed our participants to maximize their involvement in the community as neighbors, consumers, contributors and friends. The vision that we share inspires us to make the commitment to those we serve as we look toward 2013 and the future.

We extend our most heartfelt thanks to our donors and partners for your support this year. We value the trust you have placed in us to make the best possible use of your gifts and donations to achieve the goals of our program.

As we approach the end of the year and finalize our donations and contributions for the 2012 tax year, please consider whether a donation to The Mission Project fits into your plans. As always, a self-addressed envelope has been included with this letter for your convenience.

From all the families and participants of The Mission Project, please accept our wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy new year.

Warm Regards,

Fred Zang
Steering Committee President
Participants enjoyed their 2011 trip to YMCA of the Rockies so much that they decided to return in 2012. In addition to hikes through the meadow, the group enjoyed crafts, horseback riding, campfires and even made it into town to ride go-carts.

TMP Participant Leigh Anna Donelson accepted a service award from Mayor Laura McConwell (center right) in recognition of our work maintaining Pearl Harbor Park and Rock Creek Trail. Natalie Lucas (left) of Sylvester Powell Community Center nominated TMP for the award. Other members of TMP Steering Committee in attendance were Charlie Lamont, Marcia and Ed Soltz, Gordon Kempf and Bob Randall.

Participant Alexander Vesce and his mom Catherine enjoyed the golf tournament at Lake Quivira Golf Club in June.
Save these dates:

- **Saturday, May 4, 2013.** Sixth Annual Run for the Roses Kentucky Derby Gala with First Downs for Down Syndrome at the Kansas City Carriage Club.
- **Monday, September 23, 2013.** The Mission Project Golf Tournament at the Lake Quivira Golf Club.

Watch your mail or check our website 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, 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.*