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# LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

"Maximizing Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living"

## Siouxland Big Give

Opportunities Unlimited participated in the Siouxland Big Give, led by the Siouxland Community Foundation. The Siouxland Big Give is a 24-hour time of giving where Siouxland area supporters are invited to support their favorite local charities. Held on October 3rd, the goal is to match the passions and generosity of local supporters with local non-profit organizations. 100 organizations were included in this event and OU identified something new, "Adopt-A-Home" as their featured project this year. While we always take pride and care of our facilities and homes, we do need to make some improvements and enhancements and are looking for community support to assist with this. With matching donations from our board members, we were happy to set a new record with over \$7,000 raised!

**THANK YOU!**

5th Annual  
**SIouxLAND BIG give**  
OCTOBER 4, 2022  
[SIouxLANDBIGGIVE.ORG](http://SIouxLANDBIGGIVE.ORG)

## Fun in the Fall!

Persons served of Opportunities Unlimited have been taking full advantage of the activities available to us in the Siouxland community. Halloween is certainly a holiday with a long history of celebration at OU. Unfortunately, our "Trunk or Treat" event was cancelled due to the weather, but a Halloween party for persons served and staff was held after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. In addition to a costume contest, there were a number of activities held to engage our persons served.



Our Day Habilitation program re-opened in July and participants have been taking part in several community activities. Those participating in the program work together each month to plan their schedule and activities which has included scavenger hunts, cooking session at Hy-Vee, YMCA, and walks on local trails to name a few. We look forward to expanding our Day Hab program to five days per week in November!

Our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) department continues to expand and they hosted their first sOUper Saturday event in over two years. A pizza and dance party attracted many and it's uncertain as to whether our persons served, or staff, had the best time!

**sOUPER SATURDAY**





## Celebrating DSP Week

Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week is a nationally recognized week of celebration to honor those who care for others in this necessary support profession. While we always appreciate and value our DSPs, this is a week to acknowledge the complex skills and professional values it requires to be an effective DSP – one of the most challenging yet rewarding occupations. We celebrated our DSPs throughout DSP Week, held September 11-17. Each day we had something special for them as just one way to honor them. We value all the great work they do to improve our persons served lives and reach their personal goals. We are very lucky to have such amazing people working with us and here to support our mission.



## Service Day Projects

We love our volunteers! Once again, our organization was fortunate to be on the radar of various school initiatives that promote community and service day projects. This year we had students from Morningside University and Bishop Heelan lend their time and talents to tackle various projects with outdoor landscaping, vehicle cleaning, and other helpful projects within our Community Center. These acts of kindness make a direct impact on the lives of our persons served and staff. We offer our sincere gratitude to the students and community members who go above and beyond to make OU a better place.



## OU Family Day

OU Family Day is an annual event that persons served, their families, and our staff enjoy at OU. We haven't had the opportunity to celebrate this in recent years, and our 2022 Family Day was one of the most attended events we've ever had! We were fortunate to have a day of beautiful weather, especially for those family members who traveled to join us. Families and persons served were able to enjoy lunch together, spend time playing games, and simply enjoy time to visit with others. We had over fifteen staff volunteer their time to prepare food, lead activities, and ensure everyone had a great time.



## Annual Angels

As you take into account your charitable donations and end-of-year giving, please consider Opportunities Unlimited and our Annual Angels program. Our Annual Angels program provides needed items for our persons served. All are on a very limited fixed income and the Annual Angel program has provided for items for them such as clothing, winter coats, personal hygiene products, haircuts, and occasional opportunity to participate in favored events such as concerts, movies, and dinner. All gifts, in any amount, are greatly appreciated and will allow us to continue to excel our services to individuals supported by OU.

## Home Renovation

Opportunities Unlimited has successfully completed one home remodel this year and actively pursuing a second home remodel. Our ICF homes are over 25 years old, and while we do our best to maintain them with occasional updates, we strategically planned to take on this project in 2022. Our facilities team did an incredible job working with vendors and contractors to make this initiative come to fruition. The finished home project included new kitchen cupboards and countertops, new flooring and paint throughout, new patio door, and updated lighting and appliances. Those who have moved into the new home are enjoying it; making our desire for some cosmetic updates to our other homes as a higher priority as identified in our "Adopt-A-Home" project.

