

LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

"Maximizing Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living"

Join the OU Team

We are looking for additional team members who will help us cultivate, rebuild, guide, and positively impact lives! As OU continues to expand its programs and services, so does our need for incredible team members. In recent years we have expanded our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) homes and programs and opened a new Community Based Neurobehavioral Residential program. If you are interested in a career that impacts the lives of others, apply to OU today! For more information visit www.opportunitiesunlimited.com.

*Join
Your
Team*



2019 Heart of the Mission

Each year, Opportunities Unlimited honors an employee that has consistently gone above and beyond their typical job duties to provide exceptional service to our persons served. The award also takes into account someone that lives the OU mission, "Maximizing Personal Potential Through Dignified and Purposeful Living" and shows respect to and is respected by his or her fellow co-workers.

We're thrilled to announce that the 2019 Heart of the Mission winner is Mona Tremmel. Mona has been employed with OU for eight years, serving as a direct support professional in our Residential Rehabilitation and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs. These programs support persons served who have been affected by traumatic brain injury and other special needs. Placing persons served first is natural to her and she truly embraces OU's mission. This presents itself in her everyday manner of using a consistent approach with persons served, utilizing active treatment that allows everyone to be involved, being engaged at all times in purposeful activities, and making certain that dignity is maintained. She uses her creativity and ability to engage persons served to help them flourish in their programs. She utilizes her free time and talents to assist with projects on behalf of OU – whether it is volunteering for events or preparing decorations for one of OU's many celebrated holidays.

Upon learning she had been awarded the "Heart of the Mission" award, Mona stated she was very surprised by this honor and she is just doing a job she loves. Mona was presented with a crystal paperweight and a monetary award for her dedication and service. Previous Heart of the Mission recipients were excited to welcome Mona to their elite group. Congratulations Mona!



MRHD Holiday Gift

The Missouri River Historical Development (MRHD) held their annual dinner and holiday event in December at the Main + Abbey Hard Rock. Much to our surprise, Opportunities Unlimited was one of six recipients awarded with one of their holiday gifts. Other recipients included Mission of the Messiah, Sgt. Bluff Family Community Center Parks and Recreation Board, Sioux City Children's Museum-LaunchPAD, Sioux City Conservatory of Music, and the Warming Shelter. OU was awarded \$30,000 to be applied to therapy equipment and improvements to the homes of persons served.

MRHD and their partner the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City have been supporting non-profits in our community for a number of years. We are grateful for their recognition of the work we do and impact we make on individuals affected by brain injuries and other special needs. This generous gift is certainly appreciated and will allow us to make improvements that would otherwise be difficult to complete.



MRHD Celebration Reception

To celebrate the Holiday Gift from MRHD in December, OU hosted a celebration reception at their Community Center. Not only was it intended to celebrate the great news with staff and persons served, but also thank MRHD for their gift and recognize the tremendous impact it will make directly on those who access services from OU. A special recognition of Jake and Maria McGowan and Bennett Jensen

was also shared in this event. These three young individuals wrote a grant, on behalf of OU, for their 4H project in 2019. Jake and Maria had also done so the two years prior. Their personal interest of OU and research of our services and desired projects helped place the needs of our organization in the forefront of MRHD. Although their grants were not selected at the time of submission, we know that their work on behalf of OU was noted. Thank you for helping to make a difference!



Festival of Trees

Many of our OU team members have gifts that they share with our organization and persons served. OU's Nursing Department happens to be blessed in the area of creativity, and once again they led the planning and creation of our tree which was donated for the Festival of Trees. Last year's "Grinch" tree was auctioned off for \$400, so the team set their goal high for a repeat response. The "Dog House" tree did not disappoint, and the OU tree once again was received well by the public and earned over \$400 for Lila Mae's House, the beneficiary of the 2019 event.

OU enjoys contributing to the Festival of Trees because all proceeds from the event benefit a charity or non-profit. As a fellow non-profit organization, we certainly appreciate the Siouxland Community's generosity toward local organizations who rely on the support of community members to achieve their mission. Our creative team has already planned their tree for next year, we're excited to support this local cause!



OU Celebrates Employee Anniversaries

Opportunities Unlimited honored team members who celebrated anniversaries during their annual Holiday Party and Mission Meeting. For over twenty-five years, OU has supported persons served affected by brain injury and other special needs. The direct care staff and extended team members are critical to the delivery of quality services that OU has long been recognized for.

The OU Staff who were honored during this celebration for their dedication and commitment to the organization are:

- Kayla Hultquist, HCBS Direct Support Professional – 5 Years
- Annette Dotzler, Nursing – 5 Years
- Mary Holder, Nursing – 10 Years
- Trish McAllister, HCBS Coordinator – 10 Years
- Jenn Barcus, Therapy Coordinator – 15 Years
- Jennifer McCabe, President & CEO – 15 Years

HAPPY
Anniversary!

"Our employees are our most valuable resource," stated Jennifer McCabe, President and CEO. "The employees we recognized for their five, ten, and fifteen year anniversaries have been critical to the success of our organization and delivery of exceptional services. We look forward to celebrating such milestones with many of our team members!" Those honored for their service were presented with an award and OU gear and/or engraved clock.

OU Hosts Marian University

Opportunities Unlimited partnered with The Stuck Bivens-Rose Group at Baird to host Marian University's Women's Volleyball Team in the 2019 NAIA National Tournament. This is the third year that OU has been partnered with Marian University, and one could say that the "third time is a charm" as Marian successfully made it out of pool play this year and on to win the entire tournament! Our persons served and staff took full advantage of the week-long event cheering on the Marian Knights and other teams who participated in the national tournament. It's been an honor to take part and host a team in this respected tournament. Interestingly enough, the Marian Knights had a successful fall season in that their football team also made it to the NAIA Championship game, which they lost to the Morningside Mustangs in a close game.

