

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. 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 OUR TEAM



Covid-19: Impact and Updates

Covid-19 continues to have an impact on Opportunities Unlimited, affecting service delivery within all programs. Our Residential programs have continued with service delivery in the homes, with our creative direct support professionals working together to keep persons served engaged and active. While some of the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) begin to pick up, they are still offered on a limited basis and with caution. The Siouxland community has been tremendous at supporting our organization – through gift cards and cash donations for staff members as well as help with PPE, face masks, and other needed items.

iPads were purchased for each of our homes to help aid in communication with loved ones as well as the opportunity to engage with their peers in different games and



activities. The use of technology has been a welcome addition to help stay connected with others while staying in their homes. Plastic screens were purchased for each of the homes to provide another layer of protection while persons served participated in visits with their loved ones. These screens are available at each home as well as the community center and have made it possible for persons served to have face-to-face visits with their families. OU also hosted a vaccine clinic in January and successfully had over 100 persons served and staff complete their Covid-19 vaccine!



OU continues to take a very cautious approach to navigating through this pandemic.

While supporting individuals with brain injuries and other special needs, we realize the vulnerable populations we serve and the need to take every safeguard and precaution that is recommended. Although this is a very stressful time and we've had some real challenges to work through, it has been amazing to see the resiliency of our employees and the support of our community.



OU Celebrates Employee Anniversaries

The team members of Opportunities Unlimited were not able to gather for their annual holiday party, but did recognize employees who celebrated key milestones in their OU career. The OU Staff who were honored in 2020 for their dedication and commitment to the organization are:

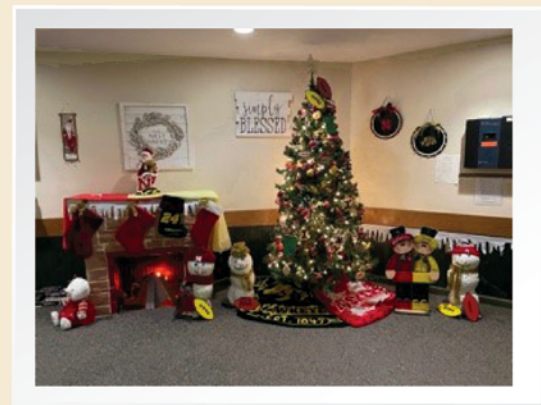
- Kevin Grell**, QIDP, Residential Coordinator – 5 Years
- Tammi Johnson**, Employment Services – 5 Years
- Bailey Kramer**, Residential & Therapy Direct Support Professional – 5 Years
- Tory Norby**, Speech Language Pathologist – 5 Years
- Andrea Ruelas**, Residential Direct Support Professional – 5 Years
- Jacqueline Wisner**, Residential Direct Support Professional – 5 Years
- Aida Guzman**, Residential Direct Support Professional – 10 Years
- Jannet McAvoy**, Residential Direct Support Professional – 15 Years
- Teresa Waterbury**, RN, Healthcare Services – 15 Years
- Fatima Oshinbango**, Residential Direct Support Professional – 20 Years
- Leona Rogers**, RN, Healthcare Services – 20 Years

“Our employees are our most valuable resource,” stated Jennifer McCabe, President and CEO. “The employees we recognized for their five, ten, fifteen, and twenty-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 watch.

HAPPY
anniversary

Christmas Tree Contest

OU has enjoyed decorating a tree each year to be donated and auctioned in the local Festival of Trees event. While Covid-19 sidelined that local experience, OU decided to carry on the tradition of tree decorating with their own competition. Each OU residential home decorated their Christmas Trees with a theme and decorations determined by the persons served and staff of each respective home. This friendly competition was opened up to the community for public voting for the winning tree. Our Sunrise home was selected as the winner – with just one vote separating them from second place. They were awarded a pizza party to help celebrate their victory. Each home benefitted from a newly decorated tree with a theme specific and special to them!



2020 Heart of the Mission

The Heart of the Mission (HOM) Award is OU’s most distinguished award and honors an employee that has consistently gone above and beyond their typical job duties to provide exceptional care to our persons served. This award also takes into account someone who lives the OU mission, “Maximizing Personal Potential Through Dignified and Purposeful Living” and is held in high regard by his or her fellow co-workers and persons served. 2020 was no typical year, and two employees were honored with the Heart of the Mission Award! Please join me in congratulating Diana Gonzalez and Brittney Johnson!



Diana is an outstanding staff member who comes to work and gives 100%; her work ethic is one that is much appreciated. She always comes to work with a motivated attitude and ready to do her job. Diana has high expectations of her co-workers and does her best to hold them to that level. Since Diana’s time at OU, she has earned the Direct Support Professional of the Year from the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa, which is a reflection of how much she is valued by the individuals served, her co-workers and neighboring facilities. Diana is one that those around her can depend on and her consistent leadership and integrity displayed daily are just a few reasons why she displays our mission at OU and why this award is so deserving.

Brittney has been with OU for a number of years and has had an impact in many different departments. Brittney has worked in the Residential homes, Therapy department, and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS); she brings many qualities to the team. Brittney is a staff member who takes initiative and wherever her time spent is, it is in a very organized fashion. She is a problem solver and builds great rapport with persons served, team members, and families. Her outgoing personality, consistent work ethic and positive relationships she has built with the team while living our mission are some of the reasons she was nominated for this award.



Diana and Brittney were presented with a crystal paperweight and a monetary award for their dedication and service. Congratulations Diana and Brittney!



2020 Outcomes

Opportunities Unlimited supports a number of individuals through the various Residential and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs. OU provided services to over 200 individuals in 2020, the breakdown for those served in each program is as follows:

- 32 Individuals in the ICF/ID Program
- 7 individuals in the CNRS Program
- 8 individuals in the HCBS Homes Program
- 72 individuals in the HCBS Program
- 28 individuals in the Day Habilitation Program
- 65 individuals in the Employment Services Program

Siouxland Give Big

For the second year, OU participated in the Siouxland Big Give on October 6th. This day of giving, led by the Siouxland Community Foundation, supported approximately 100 local organizations. Opportunities Unlimited received over \$500 for their Annual Angels Program. “OU provides high quality services to individuals with special needs. I love to support them and take part in this day of community giving.” – Anonymous Donor

