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LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

"Maximizing Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living"

Employment Services

The pandemic certainly impacted all services provided by Opportunities Unlimited; our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) experienced a sharp decline when many of these services were suspended. This past year we've been excited to re-open and expand these programs. One of our HCBS programs is Employment Services. Employment Services provides a number of services including programs with the local schools, Iowa Vocational Rehab (IVRS), and Supported Employment (SE). SE alone has hired three new job coaches since September to fulfill the needs of those who are working in the community setting. Job Coaches are the difference makers. If they hear the phrase "I'll never get this done," it is replaced with "You've done it before, and You can do it again." We must remember that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step and one person can make a difference. Our OU Job Coaches are supporting several individuals in the community who take pride in their jobs and are working in a variety of local businesses including restaurants, retail, lawn service, grocery, and hospitality. It's wonderful to experience the pride our persons served have in working and the positive support they often have from their co-workers and community.



OU Annual Golf Tournament

Opportunities Unlimited is hosting their 26th Annual Golf Tournament this summer! This tournament is OU's primary fundraising event and is scheduled for Friday, July 21st at the Sioux City Country Club. The tournament is an ideal time to partner with OU and provide support to many who benefit from our services; all while enjoying a beautiful day on one of our community's finest golf courses! As a non-profit organization, OU strongly relies on the Siouxland Community to help support our mission; one that allows us to continue to improve and excel in the rehabilitation, therapeutic, and community services we provide. We're humbled by the continued support and enthusiasm we see from the community.



OU Salutes Our Graduates

Congratulations to our OU Team Members on their graduations!

- Michael Benson – West High School
- Demi Gruis - West High School
- Josie Condon – Briar Cliff University
- Jennie Reidemann – Morningside University
- Maria Gonzalez – WITCC
- Ubah Mahamed – WITCC
- Kayla Hultquist – WITCC
- Shonna Butler – WITCC



Brain Injury Prevention

"Gotta Brain Getta Helmet"



Opportunities Unlimited continues to bring awareness of brain injuries to our community and has been promoting brain injury awareness through various initiatives. Our original program, "Gotta Brain Getta Helmet" is shared with second grade students throughout our community. By partnering with local educators, OU is able to provide valuable brain injury prevention curriculum that highlights the importance of bicycle safety and wearing protective equipment. Participating students create essays or posters to capture what they've learned from the program. With the support of Vern Eide, OU was able to provide nearly 1700 helmets to students this year! It has been rewarding to be able to promote



safety and brain injury prevention to students who eagerly take part in this initiative!



"You've Been Ticketed"



For the past nine years, Opportunities Unlimited has partnered with our local Dairy Queen and Sioux City Police Department for our community program, "You've Been Ticketed." This joint venture promotes bicycle safety and encourages children to wear helmets when riding their bikes. As members of the SCPD or Volunteer Trailblazers spot children wearing their helmets while riding their bikes, they may stop and issue a "ticket" which can be exchanged at DQ for a free ice cream treat!



Community Unity

North Sioux City kicked off a new program this year, which Opportunities Unlimited was invited to participate. "Community Unity" had a number of local organizations take part, which Opportunities Unlimited distributed bicycle helmets to children and promoted their "Gotta Brain Getta Helmet" initiative. While over 60 helmets were distributed, it was heartwarming to see so many children well aware of the program and owners of helmets. This safety awareness was a perfect precursor to the bicycle rodeo led by the North Sioux City Police Department.



Making the Most of Summer

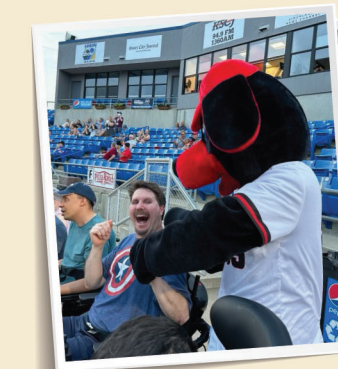


Persons served and staff of Opportunities Unlimited are making the most of summer by taking advantage of the attractions in Siouxland and neighboring communities. With summer in full swing, our staff are helping individuals develop life skills while taking part in fun activities. Some of the activities our staff and persons served have enjoyed include: YMCA, Omaha Zoo, disc golf, Sioux City museum, farmers market, movie theater, and local trails. We're fortunate to live in a community that has so much to offer and staff members who are committed to making memorable experiences for those whom we serve.



Knot Hole Gang

Thank you to the Knot Hole Gang for providing Opportunities Unlimited with tickets to cheer on the Sioux City Explorers! Our persons served have enjoyed planning these events at the park and spending time with their peers. The generous donation from this group of philanthropists have allowed our persons served to participate in some activities that otherwise might be more challenging for them to access. You'll be able to count on the group from OU to be rooting loudly for the home team!



MATP Day



Partnering with Special Olympics for the Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) was a great experience for several of our people served and 25+ staff and volunteers! Many of our people served have been participating in Special Olympics throughout the years; this event allowed even more individuals to have the opportunity to

take part in some of the activities available. We hope to make this an annual event!



Special Olympics State Competition



Once again, several individuals who access services from Opportunities Unlimited were victorious in the Special Olympics state-wide Iowa Summer Games! The Sioux City Knights have an amazing program which offers many different athletic events and opportunities to compete.

