

# LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

"Maximizing Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living"

## Nursing Students Learn at OU

What is a typical day in the OU Nursing Department? That is a really difficult question to answer, because there is no typical day. The nurses at OU have a multitude of responsibilities and they have been able to partner with some of our local institutions to help demonstrate various duties of a healthcare provider in this setting. Not only do OU healthcare professionals care for the physical and emotional needs of our persons served, but on occasion that of our staff as well. Nurses are often called upon to assist residential staff with care of our persons served and willingly work as members of the team alongside those of our residential colleagues.



Partnering with Morningside University, Briar Cliff University, St. Luke's, and Western Iowa Tech has been a great opportunity for supporting the educational training of local students while also helping them to better understand this area of healthcare.

## OU Awarded Three-Year Accreditation

CARF International announced that Opportunities Unlimited has been accredited for a period of three years for the following programs:

- Residential Rehabilitation Programs: Brain Injury Specialty Program (Adults)
- Vocational Services: Brain Injury Specialty Programs (Adults)
- Community Integration
- Organizational Employment Services



This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. This represents the 8th consecutive three-year accreditation that OU has achieved. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site review that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and referred to as CARF, the accrediting body establishes person served focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

## Service Day Projects

Opportunities Unlimited gladly opens our doors to schools, organizations, and businesses who encourage acts of service throughout the Siouxland Community. In light of the pandemic, we've had to limit the interactions of some of these service organizations but still were fortunate to work with a few. Morningside University has supported OU for a number of years now with their "Into the Streets" day of service projects. Bishop Heelan High School had a group of young women also lend their time and talents to OU.



Both these groups were helpful in tackling some yardwork projects which helped tremendously. These acts of kindness make a direct impact on our persons served and organization and we offer our sincerest gratitude to the students and community members who go above and beyond to make OU and the Siouxland Community a better place.



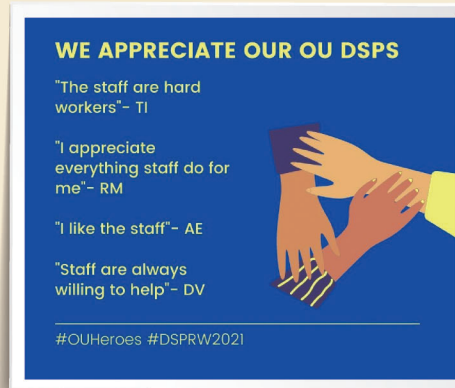
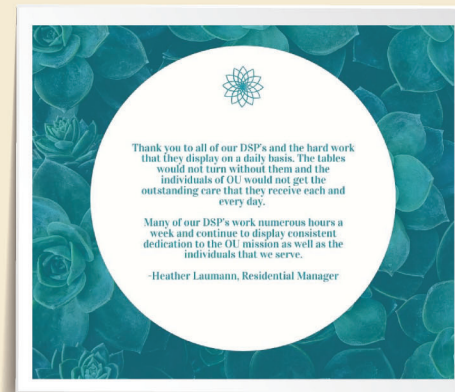
## We Love Our Staff

September 12-18 marked Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Appreciation Week, where OU



spent the week recognizing the team and the valued work our employees perform each and every day.

This national week of recognition is designed to celebrate the role of caregivers, including those who care for persons served with brain injuries and other special needs. "Our employees are our most valued resource," stated Jennifer McCabe, President and CEO. "They are dedicated to our mission and supporting our persons served. We look forward to this week and opportunity to honor them; they make an incredible impact on the lives of others." Throughout the week, there were various events and activities to help celebrate our staff. We would not be able to provide the valued services we offer without these great team members!



## End of Year Giving

OU is fortunate to be part of a community where people and businesses are generous and inclusive. Because of the caring nature of many, we are able to provide and improve upon the services we perform each day for our persons served. As the year draws to a close, we ask that you consider Opportunities Unlimited in your year-end charitable giving. All gifts, in any amount, are greatly appreciated and will allow us to continue to excel and expand our services to individuals and families in Siouxland. In 2021 we have much to celebrate, here are some highlights:

- OU employs several Certified Brain Injury Specialists and are one of the few ACBIS sites in the Midwest.
- OU's "Gotta Brain Getta Helmet" program has allowed thousands of children in Siouxland to be trained on the importance of brain injury prevention while also providing bicycle helmets to over 3,000 students in 2021!
- OU continues to provide job skills training in the community and successfully matches employers with persons served who have developed required vocational skills.
- OU's Community Based Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Services are very unique; with OU being just one of five providers in the state of Iowa!
- OU's CARF Accreditation demonstrates the level of commitment and excellence to services provided – in both the residential and community-based settings.
- OU continues its mission of "Maximizing Personal Potential Through Dignified and Purposeful Living" throughout the challenges of the pandemic and workforce crisis.

To learn more about supporting OU, please call us at 712-277-8295 or go to our website at [www.opportunitiesunlimited.com/donations](http://www.opportunitiesunlimited.com/donations).



## Halloween Fun

Opportunities Unlimited has always enjoyed Halloween and has celebrated with costume contests and trunk-or-treating. While the pandemic prevented us from hosting these events this year, we took every opportunity to keep the fun tradition alive and participated in the Tyson Events



Center Trick-or-Treating event. Over 2500 individuals participated in this Halloween occasion with 35+ local organizations on board to host these Siouxland

trick-or-treaters! It was a joy to see so many children, and their families, dress up in costume and participate in this holiday, which was hosted safely in a venue considerate of measures required for Covid-19.



## Siouxland Big Give

For the third consecutive year, Opportunities Unlimited participated in the Siouxland Big Give on October 5th. This day of giving, led by the Siouxland Community Foundation, supported approximately 100 local organizations. Opportunities Unlimited received over \$500 for therapy equipment this year! "I love participating in this community event that supports so many deserving organizations." – Anonymous Donor



## Siouxland Scavenger Hunt

Persons served from Opportunities Unlimited participated in the community scavenger hunt hosted by Paul Davis Restoration and the Downtown Partners. It was exciting to see individuals from the community interact with each other in this event which promoted teamwork and



friendly competition while seeking out so many of Siouxland's landmarks and points of interest. We're grateful for the sponsorship from Baird to allow our persons served to participate in this awesome event!

