

# LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

"Maximizing Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living"

## Join the OU Team

Come and work at Opportunities Unlimited where you will cultivate, rebuild, guide, and positively impact lives! While our organization supports many individuals through our residential and community-based programs, our need to expand our incredible team of dedicated, hardworking professionals is ever present. If you are interested in a career that impacts the lives of others, apply to OU today! For more information go to [www.opportunitiesunlimited.com](http://www.opportunitiesunlimited.com)



## Gotta Brain Getta Helmet

Each year, Opportunities Unlimited's "Gotta Brain Getta Helmet" program donates helmets to Sioux City second graders. In addition to providing students with helmets, we partner with local educators to provide valuable brain injury prevention curriculum that highlights the importance of bicycle safety and wearing protective equipment. On



average, OU has distributed approximately 300 helmets each year. However, with the support of grant funding from local organizations, including DQ, we are able to provide every second and third grader in the Sioux City School District a helmet this year! While the Covid-19 virus has prevented us from leading the school assemblies in person this year, everyone has adapted well to our virtual assemblies. It has been terrific to be able to promote awareness and prevention to a group of students who eagerly take part in this initiative!



## DQ Smiles and Stories

Opportunities Unlimited was one of several local organizations awarded a grant through the DQ Smiles and Stories grant program! They charitably commit \$100,000 annually to this program, and OU was fortunate to be one of the recipients! This grant award will go directly to OU's "Gotta Brain Getta Helmet" program, which promotes bicycle safety in the Siouxland community. This generous gift will make a direct impact on the youth of our community. Thank you DQ!





# Brain Injury Awareness Month

The month of March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month. Although Covid-19 prevented some of the celebrations and activities that we have been accustomed to participating in while spreading awareness, we took every opportunity to partake in activities and events in new ways.

## Proclamation & Celebration

In honor of persons served, a proclamation declaring March as Brain Injury Awareness Month was held by the Sioux City Council. We are grateful that our civic leaders continue to support our organization, persons served, and causes which are the foundation for services we provide. We look forward to hosting the reading of the proclamation at our facility along with the ever-favorite - cake reception!



In lieu of the community celebration and reading of the proclamation at OU, our persons served were able to celebrate with some new fun activities, including a photo booth and trivia as it relates to brain injury, statistics, and prevention.



# Siouxland Choice Award

For the first time, Opportunities Unlimited was nominated, and named as a top three finalist in the 2021 Siouxland Choice Awards for Assisted Living Facility in the Health & Fitness Category! Over 230,000 votes were placed in the 100+ categories. What an honor to have been nominated for this award, then selected in the top three by voting members of our community. We are well aware of the value of services provided in our residential, rehabilitation, and community-based services, but to have it acknowledged by the people of Siouxland is even more meaningful!

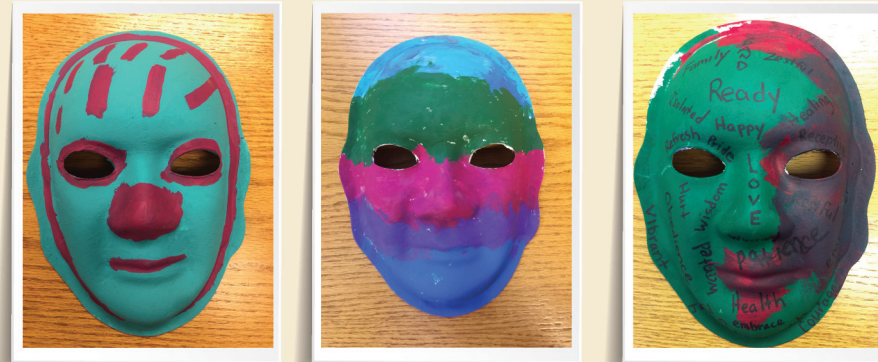


## OU Salutes our Graduates

- Shonna Butler – LPN, Western Iowa Tech
- Kayla Hultquist – LPN, Western Iowa Tech
- Laura Mildenstein – BSN, South Dakota State University
- Tauna Mayhorn – Business Administration & Mass Communication, Morningside College
- Dani Lane - Human Service Counseling, Wayne State College
- Laurny Wendte – Social Work, Western Iowa Tech

## Unmasking Brain Injury

In association with the Brain Injury Alliance, Opportunities Unlimited has participated in a program called "Unmasking Brain Injury." This initiative not only promotes awareness of the prevalence of brain injury, but also offers survivors a voice and opportunity to help educate others of what it's like to live with a brain injury. By using art therapy, they are able to show others that persons living with a disability due to their brain injury are like anyone else and have a story to share.



## State and National Conferences

Virtual conferences prevailed at the state and national levels this year for the various conferences, which OU continues to support and participate. Members of the OU team were able to take part in both the Iowa and Nebraska conferences this year, just one way in which the team stays connected with colleagues and stays abreast to industry trends and topics as it relates to our industry. The Brain Injury Business Practice College, a national conference, was also attended virtually this year. As an ICF and RCF provider supporting those affected by brain injury, it is beneficial to connect with other leaders throughout the country in this annual event.



## OU Annual Golf Tournament

Opportunities Unlimited is preparing for their 24th Annual Golf Tournament and we are asking for your support! This tournament is OU's primary fundraising event and is scheduled for Friday, July 16th 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 of golf 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. For more information, please contact Susan Vondrak at 712.277.8295, svondrak@opportunitiesunlimited, or www.opportunitiesunlimited.com.

