

LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

KTIV's Jacob Howard Visits OU

We were honored to welcome Jacob Howard from KTIV to lead a discussion with our persons served and team about weather. Any time we are able to host a special event or guest, it is something that is very meaningful to our clients. Not only was Jacob's presentation wonderful, his interactions with our persons served were very engaging and authentic. A few even had the opportunity to demonstrate leading the weather forecast and several were excited to have their pictures taken with this local celebrity! Thank you, Jacob and KTIV for leading this fun event for OU.



OU Annual Golf Tournament

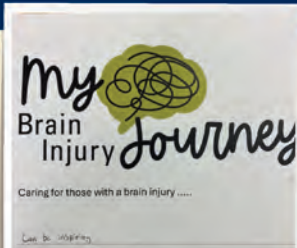
Opportunities Unlimited is preparing for the 28th Annual Golf Tournament and we're looking for your support! This is one of OU's primary fundraising events and is scheduled for Friday, July 18th at the Sioux City Country Club. As a non-profit organization, OU strongly relies on the Siouxland community 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 hoping that the rainy day we had last year will be replaced with sunshine and beautiful weather! For more information on how you can support OU in this event, please contact Susan Vondrak at 712.277.8295 or svondrak@opportunitiesunlimited.com



Brain Injury Awareness Month



March is Brain Injury Awareness Month and members from Opportunities Unlimited have been busy celebrating and advocating on behalf of those whom we serve. In honor of persons served, a proclamation was shared at the Sioux City Council meeting and again at an event at OU, attended by our persons served. We're grateful that our civic leaders continue to support our organization, mission, persons served and causes which are the foundation for services we provide. OU leaders also participated in "Hill Day" at the state capitol where they met with local legislators to speak on behalf of legislation that has an impact on the services we provide. Team members from OU participated in the Iowa Brain Injury conference, held in Des Moines. As an exhibitor, OU also had the opportunity to speak to conference members on the continuum of services offered by our organization. Participating in these conferences is another way to stay connected with colleagues and learn more about industry trends and topics related to brain injury.



MATP Day

For the third year, OU's dedicated team members and volunteers helped to make the Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) Day a



success! This event, led by Special Olympics Iowa, is an opportunity to bring together our persons served and introduce them to team sports, especially if they've not been able to participate in the traditional Special Olympics programs. Our events this year included bowling, corn hole, bocce ball, mini golf, basketball, football, and axe throwing! Following each of the events, everyone enjoyed the parachute activity in the gym along with the award ceremony and lunch. We're proud to make this an annual event for OU and our community!

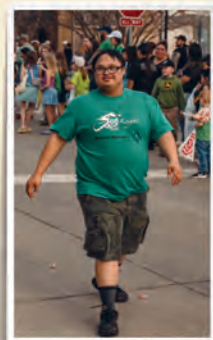
Heart of the Mission

The Heart of the Mission is an annual award which honors an employee that has consistently gone above and beyond their typical job duties to provide exceptional service to our persons served. It 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. Our 2024 Heart of the Mission was awarded to Erin Rupp, a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in our Day Hab and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program! Erin is one who demonstrates leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment. She has the remarkable ability to inspire and motivate her peers, encouraging them to approach their work with patience and understanding. Her commitment to the dignity and success of the individuals served is apparent in her everyday performance and she has a creative nature that allows others to think on their feet, adapting quickly and making strong decisions that drive progress. She creates a climate that keeps everyone engaged and energized, fostering an environment where everyone is able to thrive. Erin has worked in many different capacities while at OU, offering her expertise in various departments. The impact she has made on the lives of those she serves, and their families, cannot be overstated. She is a great asset to the organization and her contributions continue to have a profound and lasting impact on everyone she works with. She embodies the very essence of the OU mission. Congratulations Erin!

St. Patrick's Day Parade



Team members and persons served enjoyed participating in the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Sioux City. The weather was absolutely perfect and was enjoyed by those who were walking along the OU float as well as those who came to watch and celebrate. This also was an opportunity for OU to generate some awareness and excitement for our upcoming Irish Road Bowling event in September!



Training with IVRS

Opportunities Unlimited invited members from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) to lead a day of training for those in our Employment Services Department. We look forward to expanding this segment of our business which offers services of Job Development and Job Coaching to those in Siouxland.

We also had the privilege of meeting with members from the Tyson Event Center and recognizing them for their great partnership and collaboration! The Tyson Event Center has hired individuals supported by OU's Job Coaches, providing competitive integrated employment opportunities. Their efforts have been a valuable source of

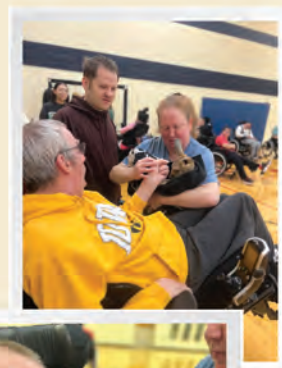


employment for these individuals. Competitive, community-based employment is always the ultimate goal for the job candidates we assist.



Judge Judy Visits OU

We welcomed a special visitor to OU - a kangaroo named Judge Judy! This was a wonderful opportunity for our persons served and team members to see, and hold, a baby kangaroo. This event was made possible with the coordination of Margo, one of tenured DSPs, who knew it would



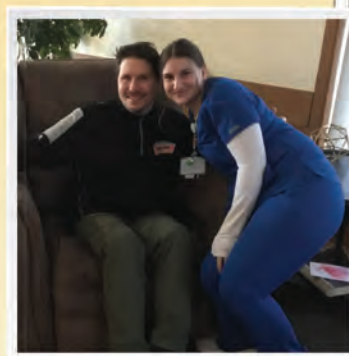
be meaningful for many to experience something like this first-hand. We hope Judge Judy can make another guest appearance in the future!



"Maximizing Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living"

Nursing Students at OU

This spring the Opportunities Unlimited Nursing Department has had the chance to host medical students from our local universities and colleges as well as from the University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine. The students are each spending a couple of weeks at the University of Iowa-Sioux City Clinic for their Community Medicine rotation. While in Sioux City they visit various medical providers to become familiar with treatment care options for Primary Physicians. While spending time at OU, students have the opportunity to shadow the therapists and healthcare team, visit the facilities and most importantly interact with OU persons served. The goal of these observations is to become familiar with treatment options and expand their familiarity with brain injury treatment. The OU persons served and nurses have enjoyed the opportunity to meet the students and share their brain injury journey with them.



Celebrating OU Anniversaries

5 Years
Ashley Borman
Sandra Burns
Carissa Janssen
Christy Jensen
Toni Mattiace
Brittany Pritchard

10 Years
Kayla Hultquist
15 Years
Mary Holder
20 Years
Jenn Barcus
Jennifer McCabe

♥ ♥ **HAPPY** ♥ ♥
Anniversary