

Siouxland Businesses and Organizations Help Keep the OU Activity Rolling

Phrases like “it takes a village” or “community support” are often used to describe how non-profit organizations are able to operate. This summer, as the residents and the kids supported by Opportunities Unlimited are out and about throughout Siouxland those phrases ring true.

OU is honored to be a part of a community that embraces our mission and our good work. With monies received from the local chapter of the Ronald McDonald House Charities persons served have enjoyed outings to Sioux City Explorers games, the Plymouth County Fair, ice cream socials and mini-golf.

Earlier this year the Promenade Theater in downtown Sioux City asked movie goers if they would like to contribute \$1.00 to Opportunities Unlimited as they purchased their tickets. Through this effort they raised nearly \$1000! With this gift persons served at OU have already enjoyed movies like Monster’s University, Man of Steel, The Heat and Turbo.

In another display of both community support and corporate citizenship, Siouxland Hy-Vee stores along with the shopping public combined to collect more than \$1,500 for OU’s Annual Angels Fund. The Annual Angels funds are utilized to provide the individuals served with items and opportunities that would otherwise be unattainable due to limited funds. To learn more about the Annual Angels fund or to make a contribution to this worthy effort visit: www.opportunitiesunlimited.com/Angels.

The Norm Waitt Senior YMCA generously donated 10 day passes to OU. These passes are being utilized to keep the kids fit, improve range of motion and promote teamwork and socialization.

Through a Dominick McDermott Trust grant OU was able to purchase new car seats, strollers and adaptive lunchtime equipment to better serve the children.

Grants from the Shopko Foundation and from Family Dollar Stores have helped to provide snacks, drinks and games for the individuals served at OU.

The funds from these grants and donations have also been used to fund trips to the mall, arcades, swimming pools and the Omaha Zoo.

We are truly humbled and proud to be part of such a giving and supportive community. With this level of support you’ll be sure to see OU staff and persons served out and about. Don’t be shy – say hello!



OU Helps Hone Job Skills

Opportunities Unlimited has terrific Vocational Services which has supported several individuals throughout the past twenty years. Vocational Services has been able to help individuals learn the skills required in the modern day workplace and Vocational Services also has contracts with businesses to offer meaningful employment opportunities to individuals at OU.

As students are gearing up for the 2013-14 school year, local school districts partner with Opportunities Unlimited to develop students’ skills in the vocational arena. The curriculum focuses on life skills to help aid in independence, followed by “hands on” learning in the Vocational Services department and in the community. The mission of Opportunities Unlimited is to “Maximize Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living” while providing individualized services to assist one to

achieve their vocational goals. These goals may be to develop commitment to job, develop task related skills, enhance personal values, problem-solving and decision-making skills, enhance maturity, develop relations with others, communication and knowledge of safe situations. Collaboration between an individual served, OU and other entities is essential in developing job skills for all persons working.

Opportunities Unlimited Pre-Vocational Service Program is available to individuals who qualify for services within the State of Iowa or who choose to privately contract for services. If you know of a person that could access Pre-vocational services or Year 13 through schools, give us a call (712-277-8295).



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LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

What a Summer It Has Been!

Home and Community Based Services continue to flourish, with another busy summer participating in various community activities!

Persons served have enjoyed some of the typical summer activities such as swimming at the pool, playing at community parks, hiking on trails, playing mini-golf, shopping at the mall, visiting the art center and museums, and playing/watching baseball. In addition to these summertime staples, several have enjoyed other activities such as the Children’s Museum of Sioux Falls, the Omaha Zoo, and the Plymouth and Woodbury County Fairs!

Participating in community activities is an ideal opportunity for persons served to work on their supported community living (SCL) goals while spending time with their peers and doing something special. For some of these individuals, it was the first time they had been to one of these Midwestern points of interest, and they had a fabulous time getting to experience something new!



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“Summer is a season that we anticipate with great joy at OU, and this summer was no different! Children enjoyed well-planned activities and adults were able to get out more than ever due to exceptionally mild weather. With summer, community events and activities are in abundance, and persons served enjoy participating in them, given the wide variety of occasions that are available to all of us.

We are really fortunate in Siouxland to have so many options. Hundreds of miles were put on OU vans making sure that individuals were able to enjoy all that the Siouxland communities have to offer. From trips to the zoo, children’s museums, parks, ice cream parlors, libraries, sporting events and the arts, persons served enjoyed a full summer with many, many activities. Summer is our favorite time of year!”

- Stephanie L. Brown, President and CEO

“Maximizing Personal Potential through Dignified and Purposeful Living”

Opportunities Unlimited Receives “Above and Beyond” Award

Opportunities Unlimited Residential Councilor Lucas Mann is a busy man. In addition to his inspiring work at OU, Lucas is a National Guard Reservist at the 185th Air Refueling Wing. At the 185th Lucas serves as a Chaplain’s Assistant and a member of the Honor Guard.

“I am very proud and passionate about what I do for my country,” stated Lucas. “At OU, they feel as passionate as I do about the military.”

It was this mutual respect for country and service that led Lucas to nominate Opportunities Unlimited and our President & CEO, Stephanie Brown, for the “Above and Beyond” award issued by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). This is the second time Brown has received the award.

In his letter of support to the ESGR about OU, Lucas noted the flexibility in his scheduling when a last minute conflict arises such as a military funeral where he answers his Nation’s call and performs his duties as an Honor Guard.

He also noted that the OU leadership and management respect his duties as a member of the armed forces and are always willing to accommodate for out of town duties or trips to the base that may pull him away from OU.

“OU has been a great experience for me so far and I cannot wait to see what the future holds,” concluded Lucas.



A "Tweet" Brings Out the Fire Department



Jumpy Monkey® Premium Coffee, through its Twitter account (@Jumpy_Monkey), offers followers a chance to win a free bag of Jumpy Monkey® Coffee each week for a follower that "retweets" its promotional message.

In June, Firefighter and avid Twitter user Phil Marchland, from the Sioux City Fire Department was the winner. A Twitter conversation ensued about claiming the bag of coffee and soon that evolved into members of the Fire Department making a trip to Opportunities Unlimited with a fire rig to offer a tour and speak to individuals served and children from Home and Community Based Services about the work that the department conducts throughout Siouxland.

The firefighters shared stories about their work that ranges from firefighting to hazardous material spills to their training to respond to terrorism threats. They demonstrated equipment and tools from the rig and, of course, flashed the lights and sounded the sirens.



To keep up on the latest news at Jumpy Monkey® Coffee you can follow us on Twitter @Jumpy_Monkey and for the latest news about fires, crashes, safety information and emergency weather alerts you can follow the Sioux City Fire Department @Sioux_City_Fire.

Summer to Remember

By Keegan age 20

Baseball has started for me for the last time. This will be the summer to remember because it is the first time I will be in a house on my own. My brother is thinking this is a summer to remember as well. He is leaving for Iowa State in August. This is a good thing for him. We are both working a lot during the summer. In the fall he'll be at Iowa State studying really hard. He's the first one in the family to go to Iowa State and the first one in the family to go to college.

I've never been in college. I've never been so happy living here at OU. I dreamed of this for a long time. Maybe God wanted me to live here in the first place, who knows? I do.



Fun, Sun and Golf – OU's 16th Annual "Fore the Children" Golf Tournament

On Friday, July 19, 2013 Opportunities Unlimited held its 16th Annual Golf Tournament "Fore the Children". The OU tournament is one of the premiere golf tournaments in the region and it serves as OU's biggest fundraiser of the year.

This year's tournament, held at the Sioux City Country Club, featured more than 140 golfers and 80 volunteers from OU and the community.

The day's festivities began with an exciting event – 1,000 golf balls raining from the sky from a helicopter as part of a "benefit within a benefit".

At approximately noon, prior to the tournament tee off, the sky above the Sioux City Country Club was alive with the sound of helicopter blades. OU employees, with the help of KMEG/FOX 44 as the media sponsor, set out months before the tournament with the goal of selling 1,000 golf balls as raffle tickets. Each ball sold for \$10.00 will be used to purchase bike helmets for Sioux City second graders as part of OU's "Gotta Brain, Getta Helmet" safety and brain injury prevention program.

That morning, Mitch Merrill, the Sioux City Country Club's PGA Master Professional and his team placed a pin on the fairway of hole number one. As the balls rained down, spectators were on hand to watch and wave the pilot to the left or right to try to get him closer to the target.

The three numbered golf balls that landed closest to the target won one of three grand prizes.

The golfers began the day with registration and delicious lunch with burgers and bratwurst and then they set off for 18 holes of golf on the well-manicured course.

Several of the holes featured snacks and drinks at the tee boxes and golfers were able to tap into their competitive side with contests such as longest putt, target drive, longest drive and closest to the pin in two.



OU was well represented with staff and community volunteers manning every tee box to greet the golfers, share personal stories about OU and to distribute drinks and snacks.

Following the golf outing participants gathered in the formal dining room for a steak dinner, a short presentation by OU President and CEO Stephanie Brown and the distribution of exciting prizes for the top teams and contest winners.



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Working at OU



Chloe Kambach began her OU career in December of 2010 as a Waiver Specialist, supporting individuals with special needs in their homes and throughout the community. One of the things that she enjoys most about working at OU is supporting the children and helping them with their goals. She loves to see what they have learned and how they have grown. Some of the goals that she has helped persons served develop include working on budgeting and purchasing goals, communication, and safety. In her 2 ½ years at OU, she has learned to be patient and have a better understanding of how everyone is different. After graduating from Bishop Heelan School, Chloe began her college experience at the University of Iowa. Her time at OU has had a huge role in shaping her college major and career plans as she is now pursuing speech pathology. Chloe has shared that her time at OU has helped her grow as a person. She is more aware of community and has two other jobs in Iowa City that have allowed her to continue supporting those with special needs. She is more passionate about life and appreciates what she has and the joy that comes from helping others.

Chloe Kambach

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www.opportunitiesunlimited.com

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