

LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

OU Awarded Three-Year Accreditation

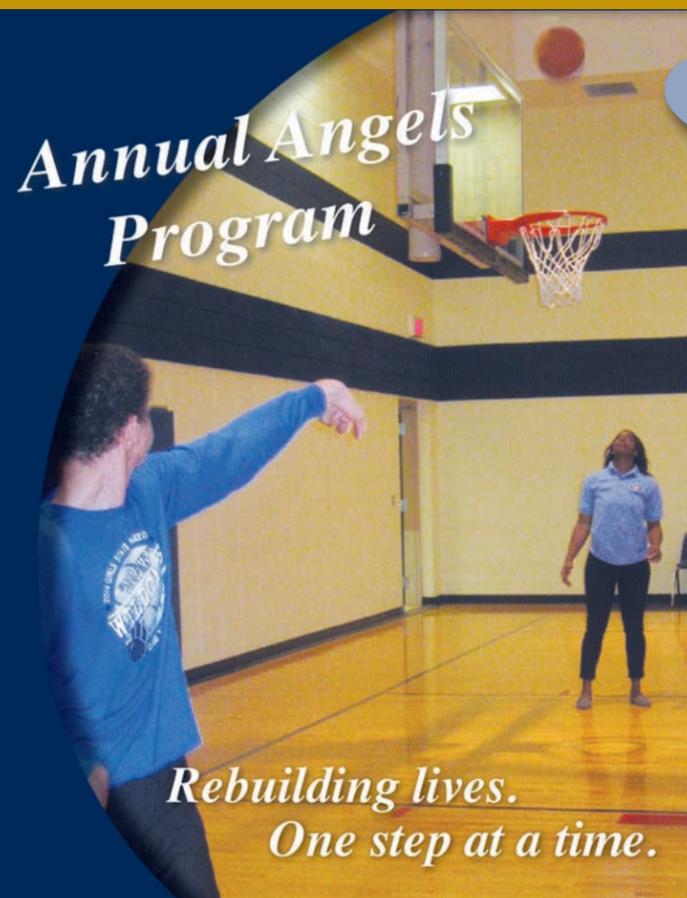


CARF International announced that Opportunities Unlimited has been accredited for a period of three years for the following programs:

- Residential Rehabilitation Programs: Brain Injury Specialty Program (Adults)
- Vocational Services: Brain Injury Specialty Program (Adults)
- Child and Youth Services
- Community Integration
- Home and Community Services
- Organizational Employment Services
- Respite Services
- Supported Living

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 6th 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 visit 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 now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes person served focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.



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OU Awards “Heart of the Mission” and Service Awards



Previous Heart of the Mission Winners

Each year, Opportunities Unlimited honors an employee that has consistently gone above and beyond their typical responsibilities and job duties to provide exceptional service to our persons served. The award represents a person who exemplifies our mission of “Maximizing Personal Potential Through Dignified and Purposeful Living.” This person is nominated and voted by a group of his or her peers as well as the Leadership team. Jennifer McCabe, President and CEO, is proud to announce the 2015 Heart of the Mission Award winner, Margo Whitehead. Margo has been with OU since 2002. Margo supports persons served in our residential department, and she is an individual who regularly goes over and beyond. Putting persons served first is natural to her, and she constantly is working behind the scenes to get things accomplished. She has been referred to as a “silent leader” for the way in which she leads others – persons served as well as staff. She helps

train new employees and is good at problem solving and improving services and processes. Margo takes great pride in her job as well as the organization.

This year OU also recognized staff who accomplished various milestones in their service to OU. Those individuals celebrating 5-10-15-20 years of service include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Holly Chartier – 20 Years | Jannet McAvoy - 10 Years |
| Donna Kritzer – 20 Years | Teresa Waterbury – 10 Years |
| Fatima Stoos – 15 Years | Aida Guzman – 5 Years |
| Leona Rogers – 15 Years | Katy Williams – 5 Years |
| Megan Cross – 10 Years | |

Congratulations to each of these individuals for their valued service!



Receivers of 5, 10, 15 and 20 Year Awards



Margo Whitehead & Jennifer McCabe



OU is Involved in SIOUXLAND



Opportunities Unlimited is actively engaged in the Siouxland Community. Not only does this allow for community integration which is essential to the services provided, but it strengthens OU’s relationships with many throughout our community! Here are a few highlights of our year and community involvement:

- OU welcomed and practiced with teams for the NAIA Girls Basketball and Softball tournaments, hosted in Sioux City
- OU partnered with Dairy Queen and the Sioux City Police Department for a new program, “You’ve Been Ticketed” which provided DQ treats to children observed wearing their helmets
- OU staff and persons served participated in the “Feed Just One” program at LeMars Gehlen High School
- The 12th Night Revelers performed at OU as part of the Mardi Gras Krewe de Charlie Sioux Celebration
- Children and adolescents from our HCBS program visited the Pumpkin Patch

- OU participated and supported the Summer Solstice Bike Ride
- OU provided helmets to hundreds of children through our “Gotta Brain, Getta Helmet” program as well as the “Every Kid Needs a Bike, Every Bike Needs a Kid” program
- The Sioux City Art Center continues to provide art therapy to persons served
- The OU Golf Tournament was another resounding success with the help of OU staff, persons served, and community members
- Family Day brought persons served and their families, as well as neighbors together for a summer day of food, refreshments, games, and fellowship
- OU donated a decorated tree for the Festival of Trees
- Nursing students from Briar Cliff University and Western Iowa Tech came to OU to job shadow
- Morningside College and Briar Cliff University students came to OU for their service learning

OU Hosts 2nd Annual “Trunk-or-Treat”



This year OU hosted it’s Second Annual Trunk-or-Treat event! Twelve Staff members, one sorority group from Briar Cliff University, one SCPD car, and our special friends from Hope Springs Church pulled their cars into the parking lot, decorated and opened their trunks, filled them with treats, and waited for children and their families to arrive. The cars not only were decorated for Halloween, but also had activities for everyone to participate. While the evening started out warm, it quickly turned chilly as the sun began to set. This, however, did not slow down our determined trunk-or-treaters who were able to warm up with a cup of hot cocoa.

This event is one that staff look forward to as much as the children. We want to thank local businesses for the donations that helped with the goodies we were able to give away. A special thank you to Fareway, Chick-Fil-A, and Culvers. With these donations, they were able to support our safe, family-friendly night of fun.



A Time of Giving

The Christmas Season is a time of giving and OU is blessed to have different organizations support our persons served. Throughout the year, organizations have been generous with their time, talents, and gifts. We have had supporters help clean our facilities, repair fences, manicure our landscaping, lead leisure activities, and support our Annual Angel program. Individuals and organizations have been so gracious in their kind acts and donations, and we make every effort to be good stewards of the gifts given to OU. Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts, to those who have supported our organization and persons served.

