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LEADER

A Quarterly Publication of Opportunities Unlimited

Siouxland Choice Awards

We are incredibly grateful to our amazing community for voting Opportunities Unlimited in the Siouxland Choice Awards!

We were honored to be nominated in 5 categories and thrilled to be named a finalist in 4 of them! Even more exciting — we were voted BEST (#1) in:

- ★ Best Specialty Care
- ★ Best In-Home Care
- ★ Best Non-Profit

And we were also recognized as a FAVORITE for Best Place to Work!

We are truly humbled to be supported by so many in various categories. This recognition is a powerful reminder of the compassionate, high-quality services our team delivers consistently every single day.

Thank you, Siouxland, for believing in our mission and the work we do. ❤️



Chamber Ribbon-Cutting Event

The Sioux City Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting event at Opportunities Unlimited to celebrate the build and opening of two new homes through our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Program! Recognizing the need in our community for this type of service, OU is thrilled to be able to expand this program, allowing us to serve eight additional individuals through this level of care. The continuum of care that OU provides has been very intentional and we are excited to celebrate these milestones with our community.



Heart of the Mission

Each year, Opportunities Unlimited honors an employee that has consistently gone above and beyond their typical job duties to provide exceptional service to our persons served. The award 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.

We're thrilled to announce that the 2025 Heart of the Mission award was presented to Lee Holder!

Lee is someone who demonstrates dedication and full commitment to the mission of Opportunities Unlimited and has done so for many years. Day after day, he does his best to ensure that everything runs smoothly, anticipates needs before they arise, and is always willing to get places in order to lend a hand. He is creative, resourceful and always willing to go the extra mile because of his care about the organization and those we serve. He has built great rapport with the individuals served as well as all other OU team members, vendors, and those in the community. He's supporting every OU event, volunteer opportunity, and doing whatever is asked of him. His hard work and dedication to the OU

team, individuals served, and overall facility grounds are greatly appreciated. While leading OU's facilities department, Lee has built a team that displays a sense of humor, determination, and one that can be dependent on for any support needed.

Lee was presented with a crystal paperweight and a monetary award for his dedication and service.

Celebrating OU Anniversaries

5 YEARS

Debra Weese • Lauryn Wendte
Maria Garcia Aldrich
Morelia Perez-Felipe • Rana Anderson

10 YEARS

Andrea Ruelas
Tory Norby

20 YEARS

Jannet McAvoy

25 YEARS

Leona Rogers
Fatima Palmer

Congrats

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; 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.



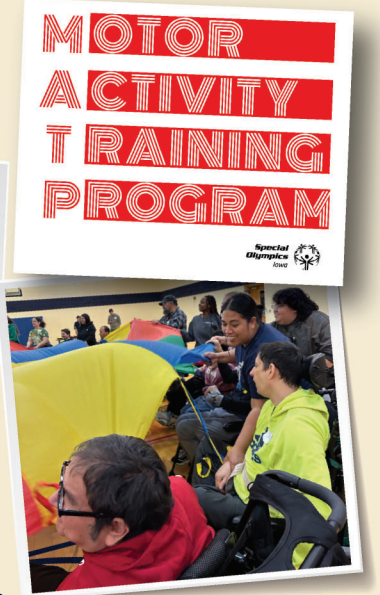
Team members from OU participated in the Iowa Brain Injury conference, held in Des Moines. As an exhibitor, OU also had the opportunity to speak to conference members on the continuum of services offered by our organization. Participating in these conferences is another way to stay connected with colleagues and learn more about industry trends and topics related to brain injury. OU also had two members of our leadership team participate in the Brain Injury Association of America Neuro Rehab Leadership Summit. This multi-day summit provides a number of educational sessions and networking events focused on industry trends, best practices, human resource management, and legislative topics.



MATP Day



For the fourth 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, mini golf, basketball, football, curling, 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!



OU Annual Golf Tournament

Opportunities Unlimited is preparing for the 29th 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 17th 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



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Team members and persons served participated in the 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Sioux City. The weather didn't quite cooperate as it did the year prior, but nonetheless the small but mighty OU group of volunteers was proud to represent. We're honored to have been part of this wonderful community tradition for the past four years – and we're already looking forward to many more. This also was an opportunity for OU to generate some awareness and excitement for our upcoming Irish Road Bowling event in October!



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South Sioux City School Students Visit OU

We were honored to welcome students from the Health Pathway Program at South Sioux City High School to our organization. Students enjoyed a tour of our Community Center and had the opportunity to connect with our persons served and OU team members. Through these interactions, they learned more about the services we provide and explored meaningful career paths in our field. Being part of this experience and having our persons served engaged in the panel was meaningful and brings true sense to the value of the services we provide.



"As a previous employee of Opportunities Unlimited, and a current teacher to future health care professionals,

it was a wonderful opportunity for them to see first-hand the services we offer as a community. As they learn what it means to work in health care and what opportunities they have beyond the typical health care careers, getting out into the community and seeing the potential for careers right here in Siouxland is invaluable to their education. I am so thankful to Jen McCabe for the chance to pair what I have been teaching within the classroom to the real world as we continue to support the future health care professionals of our community." – Rachel Goetz



Parking Lot Party

Taking advantage of one of the first beautiful "spring-like" days, our persons served and staff enjoyed a fun-filled "Parking Lot Party!" With fresh air, sunshine, music, and friends, the day was full of laughter and smiles. Everyone had a great time playing their favorite outdoor games and soaking up the warmer weather. Moments like these remind us how special it is to come together and celebrate the simple joys.

