

Prom night at the Kearney Archway!



Happy April! We hope spring is treating you well, and bringing a fresh perspective! While we don't have any announcements this month, we do have plenty of exceptional HoH team members to put in the spotlight!

### Spotlight

## Supported Employment

Our Supported Employment program is one of the most important services we offer here at HoH. This program is designed to help the individuals we work with achieve a rewarding, fulfilling life through community employment opportunities.

### Featuring Allison Kirby

Allison started working with Vintage Heights Veterinary Clinic in December of 2021, and started working three days a week in the grooming area. She learned rather quickly how to bathe dogs and cats, and was then offered another area to learn. Allison now not only does grooming, but also helps with the kenneling part of the vet. She gets to play with the animals outside and make sure they are fed and watered until their owners arrive. When talking with Allison about her job, she told us that she absolutely loves it at Vintage Heights, and gets along very well with her peers.



## Recognition

# Team Member of the Month

It's time to highlight one of our outstanding team members again, and this time we're cheering on Mercedes Hammond at our West Point location!



## Mercedes Hammond (West Point)

Mercedes is the lead at Walnut house and is an awesome member of our team! She picks up shifts when she can during the day, and has put together staff books designed to help new staff be successful with the shift expectations. She has taken on extra roles to assist with some of the behind-the-scenes, day-to-day operations in West Point. We're so lucky to have Mercedes with us at HoH!

### Want to nominate someone for Team Member of the Month?

Thank you to everyone who nominated a team member last month! While selecting a winner was not easy, it is such a joy to see that Hands of Heartland has awesome team members who are appreciated by their peers, as well as our organization as a whole. Please keep them coming! If you'd like to nominate a team member, please email [TMR@handsofheartland.com](mailto:TMR@handsofheartland.com)

## April Spotlight

# Get to Know Hands of Heartland

Get to know a very important facet of our organization: the people we work with, and our team members!



## Jessi Lode

Director of Team Member Support

Jessi Lode has worked in nearly every industry at multiple levels but most of her experience is in working with people. In her teens she was trained in Crisis Negotiations through the Indiana EMA, and was an E911 Dispatcher for the Greensburg City Police Department for multiple years. She went on to earn her Bachelor's of Science from Central Connecticut State University in Business Management.

Starting in 2016, Jessi volunteers as Treasurer of the Board for Omaha Chapter, Inc., a local non-profit who's goal is to provide a safe place for people recovering from

alcoholism and addiction.

Jessi started working with Hands Of Heartland in 2019 as an Accounting Manager, then moved to Operations Manager and is currently the Director of Team Member Support. As opportunities/challenges arise at HOH, Jessi is excited to help, even when that means becoming an Advanced Mandt Instructor or working as a DSP.

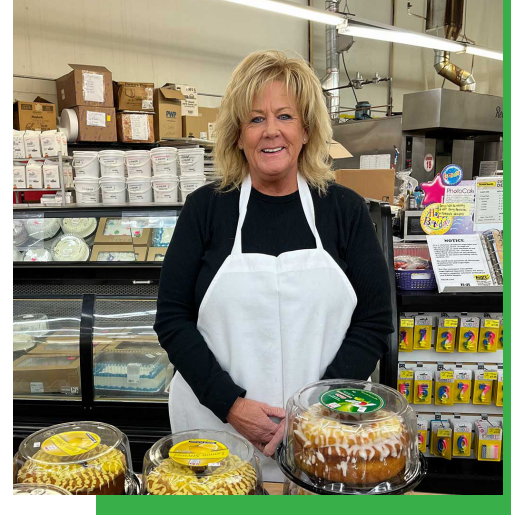
Jessi's passions are enjoying life with her husband and 3 children, helping others to achieve their goals, learning new things, riding her motorcycle, camping in the mountains with her family, running half marathons, eating sweets, and anything positive and fun.



## Team Member Highlight

### Patsy Chapin

Patsy Chapin joined HoH in 2020 and works in our Lincoln location, and has worked in the field for over 34 years, bringing a lot of experience and knowledge to Hands of Heartland. Patsy is a job coach and enjoys working to help improve the skill base of the people she works with. Some of Patsy's greatest qualities are compassion and her ability to connect with people.



## Featuring

### Reid H.

Reid H. in our Bellevue/Omaha location has been with Hands of Heartland Day services since January of 2021. Reid is a hard worker and enjoys working and helping at day services with daily tasks. Reid works hard to earn money, as his goal is to purchase a Tesla and a jetpack. Reid loves electronics and any speaker that will blast loudly. Reid is outgoing and friendly, and also enjoys time in the community.

## Celebrating

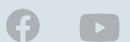
### April Anniversaries

JACKSON T (1 YEAR)	ERIC H (3 YEARS)
MICHELLE C (1 YEAR)	ROBERT D ( 3 YEARS)
NOAH O (1 YEAR)	ALEXANDRA S (3 YEARS)
SAMANTHA P (1 YEAR)	ALEX P (4 YEARS)
ANGELA P (1 YEAR)	MATTHEW H (4 YEARS)
SADIE S (1 YEAR)	JENIE L (5 YEARS)
JAMES K (2 YEARS)	MARK G (7 YEARS)
LEANNA W (2 YEARS)	SEAN B (17 YEARS)
GANNY P (3 YEARS)	

## Celebrating

### April Birthdays

LUANN K (4/1)	SEAN B (4/10)	JOCELYN P (4/15)	LINDA S (4/23)
DAVIDA R (4/1)	TONYA M (4/10)	SANDRA H (4/18)	JUSTIN M (4/24)
AVERY D (4/2)	JENNIFER N (4/10)	KRISTA W (4/18)	BARBARA C (4/24)
MERCEDES H (4/2)	CARLEE S (4/11)	ERIC H (4/20)	STEFANIE M (4/25)
NICOLE F (4/6)	CALEB W (4/11)	SARAH R (4/20)	CALVIN W (4/25)
BECKY M (4/6)	NICHOLE S (4/12)	PATRICK M (4/21)	TIM A (4/26)
NICHOLE Y (4/6)	LUCY S (4/12)	MCLANIE M (4/21)	JEANNINE A (4/28)
SHANNON H (4/7)	EUGENE E (4/13)	MEGAN M (4/21)	KIMBERLY C (4/28)
DEBRA C (4/7)	LEANNA W (4/14)	KIMBERLY T (4/22)	
MARK C (4/9)	CEDRIC H (5/15)	KIARA M (4/22)	



Share feedback  
We'd love to hear from you!

Share your content ideas with Jessica Lode  
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