



Hands of Heartland February 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning Services in South Sioux City

Hands of Heartland is branching out! **Beginning on March 1st, we will begin providing services in South Sioux City for people in that area.** The services provided will be intermittent services such as Supported Employment, Independent Living, and Supported Family Living. We will also work on job placement for individuals wanting jobs through Voc Rehab. We're thrilled to have the opportunity to help support people in a new area, and to see where this new location in our Northeast Region takes us!

COMMUNITY

Charting the Life Course

We love seeing programs designed to help the people we work with improve their lives and achieve their goals, which is why we want to pass along this exciting resource from Nebraska DHHS! The "Charting the Life" course is designed to "...help individuals receiving services to celebrate their strengths and identify areas where supports and services can be used to help individuals achieve their goals and help people live better lives."

If you're interested make sure to head to the DHHS website and register quickly!



COMMUNITY

Bellevue Valentine's Dance

Hands of Heartland participants and staff had a blast at our Valentines Dance at Bellevue on February 10th! The dance had a live DJ, food, drinks, and plenty of fun. Thank you to everyone who came and had a good time, and we can't wait for the next event!



SPOTLIGHT

Get to know Hands of Heartland

Please join us in congratulating Sara Smith for being promoted to Training Manager!

Sara started with Hands of Heartland in October of 2022 as the Training Coordinator. In the few months that she has been here, she has made

great strides in ensuring an effective new hire orientation as well as ensuring our team members stay current in their certifications.

Sara worked for the State of Nebraska in the DMV division for three years providing training for all new hires across the state. Prior to that, Sara worked in the United Kingdom as a recruiter in the direct care field. In her personal time, Sara enjoys watching English football, cooking, and spoiling her Boston Terrier, Poppy.



SPOTLIGHT

Team Member of The Month

Tonya Cooper of Grand Island

It's time to highlight one of our outstanding team members again, and this time we're cheering on Tonya Cooper at our Grand Island - Ruby location! The following is a quote from the team member who nominated her:



“Tonya has gone above and beyond since she has become lead to ensure needs are being met, staff are being trained well, and communication is happening between shifts. She has started routines for the ladies that have helped them to thrive.”

COMMUNITY

Legislative updates!

The Nebraska Disability Advocates is providing a fantastic educational resource, and will be hosting monthly "Disability Education Series" webinars on "diverse topics of interest to the disability community."

The next webinar is happening on February 9th at 1:00PM, CST. The topic is: Current Legislative Bills that Affect the Disability Community. If you would like to register for this webinar, [you can do so here](#).

UPCOMING

**March is
Developmental
Disability
Awareness Month!**
#DDAM2023

Next month is Developmental Disability Awareness Month! Stay tuned for what HoH has in store, and learn more about DDAM [here](#).

According to the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, "The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live."

CELEBRATING

February Team Member Birthdays

BELLEVUE

ROB V (2/2)
ANDY S (2/4)
MATTHEW H (2/6)
STELLA T (2/6)
SIENNA F (2/10)
SERGE G (2/13)
DIANETTE R (2/15)
KIMBERLY C (2/20)
ALEX P (2/23)
TIFFANY V (2/26)

LINCOLN

KARLA S (2/12)
HEIDI P (2/15)
RASHEED B (2/18)
JULIANNE P (2/19)
JEN M (2/20)

WEST POINT

LAURALEE H (2/24)

NORFOLK

CRISSY H (2/4)
MACY K (2/12)
KAY E (2/16)
ANDREA L (2/25)

GRAND ISLAND

SHELBY S (2/1)
BRITTANY S (2/6)
MICHELLE C (2/21)
SHANTEL M (2/23)

FREMONT

CHELSEA K (1/29)

KEARNEY

EMILIE A (2/20)

TEXAS

BETTY D (2/25)
DAVID R (2/27)

CELEBRATING

February Anniversaries

BELLEVUE

ANA D (1 YEAR)
DANIELLE O (1 YEAR)
OJUOK T (1 YEAR)
JENNY R (1 YEAR)
RHONDA H (5 YEARS)
LAVAE H (13 YEARS)
PATRICK M (13 YEARS)

WEST POINT

SHERYL L (1 YEAR)
TAMARA M (1 YEAR)
MICHELLE C (2 YEARS)

GRAND ISLAND

EVELYN Q (1 YEAR)

TEXAS

CHELSEA K (1 YEAR)

FREMONT

KRISTY R (2 YEARS)

