



Hands of Heartland March

2023

Hello again, and welcome back to the Hands of Heartland newsletter! Can you believe how quickly March blew in? We've got some fun things happening here at HoH this month, and are excited to share them with you!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Norfolk Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

One of our favorite things to do is connect with the communities that our locations get to call home! Our Norfolk location is looking forward to doing just that at their Norfolk Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting coming up on March 22nd!

RECOGNITION

Jennifer Meints Receives Advocate of the Year Award

We are so excited and proud to announce that our Community Outreach Director, Jennifer Meints, has received a prestigious award for her work in legislative advocacy within the developmental disability field! The Arc of Nebraska 2023 Advocate of the Year Award recognizes "...individuals strongly involved in the legislative advocacy process that have assisted in communicating with legislators about the issues people with developmental disabilities and their families face." Below is a snippet of the presentation speech given at the awards ceremony:



Jennifer is a staple in the disability community... She has worked to find ways to bring together stakeholders in response to numerous complex issues, from children kicked off of the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver to her leadership on Special Education.



Get to know Hands of Heartland

Featuring LaVae Hargrave

We want to take a moment this month to highlight someone in a sector of HoH that doesn't always get a lot of attention: Administration!

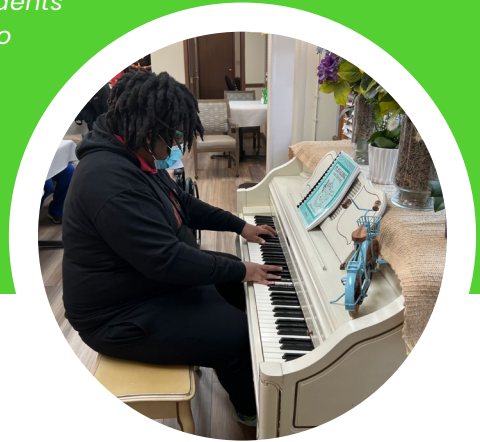
Team member LaVae Hargrave was recently recognized by one of her peers for her performance and dedication, and we wanted to share what he had to say!

“LaVae performs a service for those we support that often goes unrecognized. She provides financial services, making sure the individual's bills are paid, ensures their accounts have sufficient funds for their special purchases, and provides banking support through funds transfers and account application. When LaVae has a person stop in for special cash needs, she drops everything in order to help them. She interacts with them to make their visit as pleasant as possible. Personally, LaVae helps me support my assigned person to ensure I have provided them the same high-level service they deserve. I find her to be an asset to our people and to Hands of Heartland.”

Featuring Caleb Nelson

One of our Lincoln team members has shared a lovely story about a talented HoH individual in Lincoln, and we simply had to include it in this month's newsletter!

“The HOH Lincoln Transition program has its own rock star, and his name is Caleb Nelson! Caleb's passion is music and sharing his talent with others. Caleb has a gift of being able to hear a song a few times and then be able to go to the piano and play it for you. On Friday afternoons, the transition students go to the Havelock Manor Nursing Home to spend time with the residents. Some of our students join them in playing games. Caleb sits at the piano and pours his heart out into the music he performs. The first time Caleb played at Havelock Manor, residents who rarely come out of their rooms came out to listen to him play. We consider this a win-win! Happy Havelock Manor residents and happy Caleb, because he's doing what he loves to do! Kudos to Caleb for sharing his love and passion for music!”



SPOTLIGHT

Team Member of The Month

Grace Monson of West Point

It's time to highlight one of our outstanding team members again, and this time we're cheering on Grace Monson at our West Point location! The following is a quote from the team member who nominated her;

“Grace has been a wonderful asset to the West Point team! She shows up for work on time and stays late when she is able to. She'll even pick up shifts when we need some extra help at the houses or working in-home hours. Grace is such a kind person and has a wonderful relationship with all of the individuals she works with on a day to day basis. Thank you for everything, Gracie!”

ANNOUNCEMENT

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month! #DDAM2023

It's Developmental Disability Awareness Month, and we are excited to participate in a variety of activities this month! We kicked off March with a visit to Sam's Club North in Lincoln to spread awareness on developmental disabilities.

Other things happening at HoH for this important month are:

Lincoln

We are excited to attend the upcoming Governor's press conference honoring Developmental Disability Awareness month next week! We will be passing out cards to State Senators at the State Capitol that say "Plant Smiles, Grow Love," in order to help share our mission! These cards come with flower seeds that recipients can plant and watch grow. We'll also be delivering snacks to DD offices and VR offices.

Bellevue/Omaha

Will hand out cards made by Hands of Heartland while out in the community.

West Point, Fremont & Norfolk

Our staff and participants from all of these awesome locations will be delivering cases of water to the local fire department, and treats to the local police department.

Grand Island, Norfolk

Our Grand Island and Norfolk area staff and participants will hand out "kindness bags" throughout the month randomly in the community, and will deliver treats to the local DD office.

CELEBRATING

March Team Member Birthdays

BELLEVUE

SHEMAIAH (3/3)
BOBBY (3/5)
TURQUOISE (3/7)
RACHAEL (3/14)
ABLA (3/18)
AMANDA (3/18)
LEIGHA (3/22)
OYINKANSOLA (3/26)
ASHLEY (3/28)

LINCOLN

MACY (3/7)
LARK (3/8)

WEST POINT

NANCY (3/23)
VICTORIA (3/28)

NORFOLK

RAHIM (3/1)
BRETT (3/11)
TIMARIE (3/13)
CRYSTAL (3/13)

GRAND ISLAND

ELIZABETH (3/6)
CHELSA B (3/11)
TONYA (3/26)
GRACE (3/29)

FREMONT

CYNTHIA (3/16)

CELEBRATING

March Team Member Anniversaries

BELLEVUE

HERBIN (1 YEAR)
ISMAEL (1 YEAR)
BRANDON (1 YEAR)
KOUBA (1 YEAR)
GABRIEL (1 YEAR)
BARBARA (2 YEARS)
LATATAYANA (2 YEARS)
BRETT (3 YEARS)
OPEYEMI (4 YEARS)
SHAVON (4 YEARS)
EMILY (5 YEARS)
CATHERINE (6 YEARS)
BARAC (9 YEARS)

FREMONT

FAYE (2 YEARS)

WEST POINT

ANDREA (1 YEAR)
MCKAYLA (1 YEAR)
RACHEL (2 YEARS)

GRAND ISLAND

BRENDA (1 YEAR)
DYLAN (1 YEAR)
ANTHONY (1 YEAR)

LINCOLN

SHANE (1 YEAR)

