



October is Supported Employment Month!

Supported employment is an important program here at Hands of Heartland, and we're always excited to hear success stories from individuals, employers, and DSPs who are involved in the program!

SPOTLIGHT

Supported Employment Spotlight: Barry



Barry celebrated 20 years at MPG in August of this year! He started there with a school/work program, and then transitioned into full-time employment after graduating from Pierce High School. Barry was then job coached through an agency here in Norfolk. He has worked independently for many years there and has maintained his employment. Barry was actually job coached by three of HOH's current employees, Margo, Sheryl, and Kay! We love to see that he has done so well at his job. It gives us tremendous pride knowing that we played a small part in his long-term employment success!

Congrats, Barry!

COMMUNITY:

Blankets for Project Homeless

Our Norfolk location made and donated blankets to Project Homeless last month. The fabrics were donated by a generous community member. This was an incredible project, and we're grateful for the wonderful donation!



COMMUNITY

Halloween Fun

This is always such a fun time of year for our locations! On October 27th, the Lincoln location will be attending a Trunk-or-Treat event, and our Omaha locations will all be having a Halloween party together.

Our Bellevue location will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event on October 27th, which will be a fun opportunity to interact with the community.

COMMUNITY

BBQ and Fishing Day for Central Locations

Our Grand Island, Kearney, and McCook locations enjoyed a BBQ and Fishing Day at Yanney Park. It was a great day to have fun, enjoy tasty food, and spend time together!



COMMUNITY

Volunteering at Hillcrest Health Services

Our Bellevue and Omaha locations have been volunteering and participating in Bingo at Hillcrest Health Services locations in Bellevue and Gretna. This has been a fulfilling, fun way to volunteer and increase community interactions!

SPOTLIGHT

Rebecca Kpokoudjo Promoted to Area Director for Omaha

We're excited to announce that Rebecca Kpokoudjo has been promoted to Area Director for our Omaha locations!

Rebecca was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana and says she'll always be "part Hoosier." She moved to Nebraska about 30 years ago with her two boys. She fell in love with Nebraska on her first visit to the state and still loves it. Rebecca has worked in the field for 27 years, and in November, 19 of those years will have been with Hands of Heartland. Rebecca started out working with Hands of Heartland on weekends while working at another agency during the week. She was so impressed with Hands of Heartland, she quickly left the other agency to become a house supervisor here. Shortly after that,

she was a supervisor with residential for 17 years before making a change to vocational, and has been at the Harrison site for nearly two years. Having worked in both residential and vocational, she is excited to have the opportunity to enjoy both with this new position. Rebecca fell in love with this career at a young age while watching her mom work in the field. She has had the opportunity to work with a lot of amazing people at Hands of Heartland over the years and can't imagine doing anything other than working at this agency. Rebecca says it's an incredible feeling to be a part of this amazing team, and that she feels blessed to have the opportunity to assist in improving the lives of others. Congratulations, Rebecca! We're happy to have you here!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Kearney Ribbon Cutting and Open House

Our **Kearney location** held an open house for its Ribbon Cutting earlier this month. We enjoyed meeting people in the community, and sharing information about the work we do!



COMMUNITY

Annual People First Event

Hands of Heartland had a table up at this year's People First event. The mission of People First of Nebraska is to "teach people with disabilities how to speak out for themselves and others, make them aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens, support their self-advocacy, and support their development as leaders in the disability community."

SPOTLIGHT

Team Member of the Month

It's time to highlight one of our outstanding team members again, and this time we're cheering on Kasandra Barber at our McCook day site location! The following is a quote from the team member who nominated her:

“Kasandra is always willing to try new things with the people she supports. She partakes in water aerobics three days a week with a group and is always willing to help! She also ensures daily schedules and programs are being run and followed.”



CELEBRATING October Team Member Birthdays

BELLEVUE

DANIELLE O (10/1)
CORINE K (10/1)
ZARRIEYA H (10/2)
DAWN K (10/3)
BELLA C (10/9)
MA'SHAI H (10/10)
NYEMAL T (10/16)
KAITLYN B (10/16)
KIMBERLY W (10/23)
SHYBRETCHA E (10/31)
CONNIE F (10/31)

GRAND ISLAND

TARA C (10/28)

KEARNEY

JONATHAN W (10/7)
TABITHA B (10/14)
VALERIE C (10/14)
NATHAN C (10/18)

LINCOLN

EULALIO N (10/5)
JANELL R (10/7)
SAVANNAH C (10/8)
CARYN J (10/8)
JESSICA K (10/10)
MARGARET O (10/15)
JACKSON T (10/17)
RAOUL T (10/20)
JOSEPHONE P (10/21)

JESSICA G (10/30)
ALEX W (10/31)

NORFOLK

TAMARA M (10/2)
ELISA V (10/30)

OMAHA

KATIE B (10/5)
AYAN A (10/14)
STEVEN G (10/21)
TYLER D (10/23)
AKOSIWA G (10/25)

SOUTH SIOUX CITY
LEOBARDO G (10/9)

WEST POINT

DEBBIE W (10/6)

COORPORATE

ANTHONY V (10/6)

CELEBRATING October Team Member Anniversaries

BELLEVUE

GABRIEL A (1 YEAR)
GARETT N (1 YEAR)
MICKAELA S (1 YEAR)
KHCOLE W (2 YEARS)
KIMBERLY W (3 YEARS)
HEATHER J (12 YEARS)

FREMONT

ROBIN L (1 YEAR)

LINCOLN

SAMANTHA H (1 YEAR)
AMBER B (1 YEAR)
EMMA K (1 YEAR)
CARYN J (1 YEAR)

KEARNEY

CHAYTEN B (1 YEAR)
ELIZABETH D (1 YEAR)

NORFOLK

LEAH S (2 YEARS)

OMAHA

KRISCYNTHIA R (1 YEAR)
SHELLEY V (1 YEAR)
HERBIN A (1 YEAR)
ERIC B (3 YEARS)

CORPORATE

HILLARY D (1 YEAR)

