

Hands of Heartland

December

2020



Create-ables at Home!

Keeping the individuals we serve connected has become a top priority for us during the COVID-19 outbreak. One of the ways we've been able to increase communication is by making Create-ables a service that can be continued from home! To do this, we hold online Zoom classes on several topics like exercise, Bingo, cooking, and DIY craft projects throughout the week. For the craft

projects, supplies are delivered to the individuals' homes at the beginning of the week, giving everyone time to show off their skills and follow along with new projects as the days go by. These project zoom calls reach all of the HOH locations, and the participants have really enjoyed them so far!

Along with HoH's zoom calls, our individuals are selling DIY kits through Facebook as a way to earn extra money for supplies. This is a way to promote our Maker Space while we are closed until the pandemic conditions decline. These kits are the same ones the people we support are working on themselves throughout the week. Create-ables have also participated in outdoor pop-up shops this past fall, and appeared as a vendor during a holiday market last month. This was a wonderful way for our individuals to sell some of the projects they created, and get their handiwork into the public eye.

Introducing

Cheri Rychly, Area Director

We're happy to introduce our newest area director, Cheri Rychly! Cheri will oversee operations in Eastern Nebraska; primarily Fremont, Columbus, Wahoo, and Blair.

Cheri began her journey into this field at the age of 15, when she volunteered with a church group at Camp Easterseals. One woman's words from that summer will forever stick in her mind: "You are really good at this, you would be a good physical therapist!"

While Cheri didn't become a physical therapist, she did know that she was destined to help people. She continued to work at Camp Easterseals each summer until she graduated from high school, when she began working as a DSP, and then manager of three group homes. In 1998, she started as a Service Coordinator and spent 20 years with the State of Nebraska as a Service Coordination Supervisor. Two years ago, she left Service Coordination and joined the Autism Center of Nebraska to follow her dream of opening a different type of quality service for the Dodge/Washington area.

When the opportunity came along to join Hands of Heartland, she knew it was an opportunity she couldn't pass up!

Cheri is married to Jeff, and has 2 girls, Abby and Molly. Between coaching both of her girls' travel softball teams and driving to dance and gymnastics, you can find them outdoors camping and fishing.

Welcome to the team, Cheri! We're so glad to have you here!

[read more](#) 

The Grand Island Location is now Open!

We announced the plans for our Grand Island location earlier this fall, but we're thrilled to announce that this facility is now officially open and running! We will be providing a variety of habilitation and respite services to the Grand Island area, including the nearby cities of Hastings and Kearney. We will officially be moving into this office in January: 1607 S Locust Street, Suite F Grand Island, NE 68801.

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Team Member Spotlight

The team member spotlight is here again, and we're so pleased to highlight Michael Sherry!

Michael works well with the individuals we serve, and always takes his time when running their programs with them. As a result, our individuals truly enjoy their time with him. Michael takes on tasks without complaint, and is skilled at creating fun activities for the people we support. He's often heard asking, "What else needs to be done", and "how can I help?"

Thanks for all your hard work, Michael. We appreciate you!

Want to nominate someone for Team Member of the Month?

We know how important it is to recognize good work when you see it. If you are a Direct Support Professional here at Hands of Heartland and want to make sure a team member is recognized for their effort and dedication, please send Jeff Wise your nominations through SComm, or email him at jwise@handsofheartland.com.



Celebrating December Birthdays!

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| JAMI C. (12/2) | TERESA R. (12/21) |
| TYRIE O. (12/5) | ALEXANDRA S. (12/21) |
| JENNY P. (12/6) | BETH C. (12/22) |
| BRANDON J. (12/7) | MARCIANO T. (12/22) |
| CHERYL L. (12/10) | SHEANNE M. (12/24) |
| NICOLE V. (12/10) | NICOLE V. (12/24) |
| ERIKA B. (12/11) | FEARLESS C. (12/26) |
| ANDREA G. (12/12) | HINDE I. (12/26) |
| ALI H. (12/12) | TANAYA M. (12/26) |
| BRENDA M. (12/13) | MARY A. (12/28) |
| KENNETH C. (12/14) | JUANA R. (12/28) |
| ABDULKADIR O. (12/15) | CARRIE W. (12/28) |
| JAMES K. (12/16) | ASSOFUNA T. (12/29) |
| DAWN S. (12/20) | LISA H. (12/30) |
| JOHN W. (12/20) | IGNACE D. (12/31) |

Honoring December Anniversaries

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| KRISTIN W. (1 YEAR) | RAHIM A. (3 YEARS) |
| MELISSA R. (2 YEARS) | SARAH R. (6 YEARS) |
| SHEANNE M. (3 YEARS) | MICHELLE T. (8 YEARS) |
| MAHAMUD H. (3 YEARS) | PATRICIA U. (12 YEARS) |
| STEVEN D. (3 YEARS) | |

Share feedback

We'd love to hear from you!

Share your content ideas with Jessica Lode at jlode@handsofheartland.com

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