

Hands of Heartland

October '22

Greetings, HoH friends!

We're excited for a new month, full of plenty of fun activities and opportunities to lift each other up! Hands of Heartland is lucky enough to have fantastic team members — new and old — to celebrate every month, and this newsletter is no different! Read on to find out what we've been up to!



ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcome, Dr. Angie Huber, HoH's new psychologist!

Hands of Heartland is excited to welcome Dr. Angie Huber to the team as our newest psychologist! Angie brings with her over 15 years of experience in the mental health and disability fields, and earned both her Masters and PhD from Walden University in clinical psychology. She is licensed in four states, and worked as director at St. Giles Living Center for six years. Dr. Huber also developed and ran the Behavior Program for Holism Behavior Health (a Division of Caregiver, INC), a program that spread across 3 states and included 38 clinicians.

Dr. Huber has big plans for enhancing behavioral health services here at Hands of Heartland, and we are excited to work with her toward bringing those enhancements to life! She plans to focus on developing the training curriculum that we provide to our team, giving them more hands-on training, and giving them the tools they need in order to appropriately and adequately support people regardless of the challenges they are facing.

Additionally, she wants to work toward providing functional behavior assessments in a timely manner,

aiming for a 90-day timeframe from referral. Dr. Huber would like to add behavior clinicians to the team, and grow so that each area has its own clinician over the next couple of years.

Her "big dream" is to be able to provide behavior services and high-quality assessments to providers outside of HoH, to any provider needing them. Angie would love to be able to provide comprehensive functional assessments and follow-ups for everyone needing the service in Nebraska and beyond. She is very passionate about the IDD population, and loves nothing more than being able to help individuals increase their ability to thrive in their community.

Dr. Huber currently lives in Texas, and will be traveling to Nebraska on a regular basis to work with HoH. She and her husband have 5 children and 2 grandbabies, and she loves spending time with her family. Her husband and daughter run a company, A & M Designs, which produces t-shirts and other personalized items. Angie enjoys helping with the business, hanging out with her grandbabies, and playing with their 2-year-old English bulldog, who is more spoiled than the children!

COMMUNITY

Spreading Awareness Through Literature

Fremont team member Rob Reed took the morning off last month to read to his grandsons' classes at Bell Elementary in Papillion, NE. After reading to the children, Rob was able to have a discussion with the students about his work at HOH.

Rob purchased two books from the HoH store in Fremont, one of which was Gabi the Puppy, from the series Dan the Fish.

The book is split into three parts:

- ✓ The first is a story about an animal who has a problem similar to those that children with disabilities face every day, in real life.
- ✓ The second part is a reflection from a child's perspective.
- ✓ The third part is a brief introduction of the adult who helped inspire the story.

The purpose of the book, written by author Jo Meserve Mach, is to inspire all children to be who they are. Presented in a creative manner, the Dan the Fish series hopes to show kids that there are others like them, who feel like they do, and that they, too, can overcome their challenges and difficulties.

These books can also be used as discussion starters in the classroom, for those in teaching programs and anyone working with people with disabilities. Our hope is that this series will bring understanding, encourage compassion, and help to end bullying of all children.

Jo Meserve Mach spent 36 years as an Occupational Therapist, and is the co-founder of Finding My Way Books, which offers tools to help children without disabilities realize that children with disabilities are kids just like them. Her books are recommended for parents, teachers, elementary school libraries, homeschoolers, and anyone who wants a more just and inclusive world.

SPOTLIGHT

Team Member of The Month

Kevin Adamson

It's time to highlight one of our outstanding team members again, and this time we're cheering on Kevin Adamson at our Kearney location! The following is a quote from the team member who nominated him:



"In short time, Kevin formed an amazing connection with someone we support. This person

has become more involved in outings and crafting among many more positive interactions while working with Kevin. Kevin has displayed extreme patience, commitment, and positivity to both people in services and other staff. He keeps a very light and encouraging attitude and helps to advise and support people to the best of his knowledge. Overall Kevin has been a wonderful addition to HoH and a staff member I admire greatly!"



SPOTLIGHT

Get to know Hands of Heartland

Kyle Smith

Kyle works in maintenance at our Bellevue location, and we have confirmed that when Kyle helps out, he goes above and beyond! When he is aware of an issue — at any house or center — Kyle will take care of things that are broken, and he'll usually have it fixed by the end of the day. Kyle is a huge asset to our team, and deserves to be recognized.

Thanks so much for being here, Kyle — we appreciate you!



COMMUNITY

Growing gardens...and community!

This summer, a group of individuals at our Fremont location traveled every morning to the 4-H extension office to help with their garden. They watered, weeded, harvested, and weighed all the produce that was harvested. The produce was then given as a part of the food insecurity program in Fremont. This program is a partnership with Uniquely Yours and the extension office. Our individuals love going, knowing they are helping to give back to families that may not be able to afford fresh produce.

CELEBRATING

October Team Member Birthdays

BELLEVUE

CORINE K (10/1)
DANIEL O (10/1)
EMILY J (10/2)
DAWN K (10/3)
BRENTON D (10/6)

GRAND ISLAND

ANTHONY V (10/6)
BLAYSE S (10/9)
TERESA M (10/13)

KEARNEY

JONATHAN W (10/7)
FRAN G (10/23)

KYLE B (10/7)

MARY S (10/9)

NYEMAL T (10/16)

JACKSON T (10/17)

DAVID D (10/20)

KALAN A (10/23)

WEST POINT

SIERRA N (10/4)
DEBBIE W (10/16)
ANGELA B (10/24)

OMAHA

AKOSSIVA G (10/25)

TYLER D (10/23)

KIMBERLY W (10/23)

CONNIE F (10/31)

AMAH L (10/30)

LINCOLN

EULALIO N (10/5)
RAOUL T (10/20)
GLENN C (10/28)

NORFOLK

TAMARA M (10/2)
KAYLA W (10/18)

CELEBRATING

September Anniversaries

BELLEVUE

ROCHELL M (1 YEAR)
KHCOLE W (1 YEAR)
ERIC B (2 YEARS)
RUSSELL B (2 YEARS)
DOMINIQUE F (2 YEARS)
AARON P (2 YEARS)
NYAKHAN R (2 YEARS)
KIMBERLY W (2 YEARS)
KIARA M (3 YEARS)
ANGELA N (3 YEARS)
BRANDON J (4 YEARS)
HEATHER J (11 YEARS)

GRAND ISLAND

FRAN G (1 YEAR)
TESHAWNA S (1 YEAR)

NORFOLK

LEAH S (1 YEAR)

