

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.

**Congratulations to the
UDMO
Employee's Of the Month**

Established in November 2023

The Employee of the Month Award highlights employees who possess a high-quality work performance, diligence, and dedication in carrying out their duties and advancing the mission of Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (UDMO).

March 2024

MARCH
Employee of the Month



Kristi Radtke
1st Five Developmental Support Specialist

I am honored to nominate Kristi Radtke for Employee of the Month, as she consistently goes above and beyond in her role within her program. Her dedication to the families we serve is unmatched, and her work reflects an exceptional level of care, organization, and commitment.

One of her standout qualities is her immaculate data input, ensuring that every detail is accurately documented and that families receive the highest level of support. Her precision and diligence in maintaining records not only streamline our processes but also enhance our ability to track and improve outcomes for the families we serve. She has been the main reason for hitting our contractual performance measures in the fiscal year.

Beyond her outstanding administrative work, she is an incredible advocate for our initiative. Her active attendance at various community partnership meetings has given a face to a phenomenal program, strengthening relationships with key organizations and expanding access to crucial resources for families. Her presence in these spaces reinforces our commitment to collaboration and ensures that families receive the support they need.

February 2024



Congratulations
FEBRUARY
Employee of the Month
Jean Biggs
Accountant

Jean has put in place some much needed structure to fiscal items which the director just hadn't had time to dig into. She's also done a great job preparing monthly board reports. She has always been a sponge for knowledge and takes on any task that's required.



Jean loves learning about all our programs, how we help the people in our communities and connecting to staff outside of fiscal!

Jean worked her tail off over the past few months to get through our audit and keep fiscal on track when the fiscal director wasn't available. Just as importantly, she has a wonderful personality and brings a positive attitude to the office everyday!



February 2024

FEBRUARY
EMPLOYEE OF THE
MONTH

Mary Enderson
Substitute at Estherville



MARY ALWAYS SHOWS UP! ALL THE CHILDREN LOVE HER, HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START. SHE IS INVOLVED IN EACH CLASSROOM

MARY IS ABLE TO HELP ABSOLUTELY ANYBODY. SHE COMES INTO THE CLASSROOMS DAYS SHES NOT EVEN SCHEDULED TO WORK. SHE IS VERY CRAFTY, SHE IS ALWAYS DONATING BOOKS/CRAFTS SUPPLIES TO THE CLASSROOM



WORDS CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE MARY! IF MARY DOESN'T HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR; THATS UNUSUAL. SHE IS ABLE TO CREATE ANYTHING; A CRAFT, A FIRETRUCK OUT OF CARDBOARD ALL CHILDREN CAN FIT IN. HAVING A BAD DAY? MARY HAS CHOCOLATE! SHE HAS A CALM VOICE. SHE IS PATIENT WITH THE CHILDREN.



January 2024

Congratulations!
January
Employee of the Month
Karhyn Alcantara
1st Five Developmental Support Specialist



She is beyond reliable! Always willing to pitch in and help share her wealth of knowledge & resource experiences and updates. Willing to help with onboarding of new staff – always has a smile on her face and a positive word to support others.

I FEEL SO BLESSED THAT KARHYN IS A FOUNDATIONAL PART OF OUR TEAM! UDMO SURE DIDN'T LET 'ONE OF THE GOOD ONES' SLIP THRU THE CRACKS! WE ARE LUCKY THAT SHE IS AN UDMO TEAM PLAYER! EVERYONE WHO GETS TO INTERACT WITH HER IS LUCKY TOO!

Karhyn is professional, has exceptional communication w/coworkers, families & community partners. She goes above & beyond in sharing information on resources with other staff/families willing to alter her work schedule to accomodate family schedules or community events

January 2024

Congratulations! January Employee of the Month



I have seen a lot of growth in Kim as an individual and employee by the way she shows empathy and is open-mindedness towards different family situations. She is fun to work with and a great home visitor to have on our team.

Kim Graham Home Based Teacher @ Estherville

Kim is a dedicated employee whose flexibility and open mindness has contributed to the positive culture in the building, and healthy professional relationships with families.

Kim has shown to be a dependable, approachable team player. No matter what the need is, we can count on Kim to volunteer or step in. Kim took leadership of the donation station which requires organizing and cleaning the room periodically. Every morning she is in the hallway greeting and helping kids get to their classroom.

Kim has been very helpful in many areas of the building. She helps with outside duties such as scooping when needed and taking out the stop sign. She volunteers to help in the classroom when coverage is needed. Kim has been supportive and helpful towards the newer home visitors.

The children absolutely love her! She always has a smile on her face. Kimmi is always there when you need advice.

December 2024

Congratulations!
Employee of the Month
Tara Carney - Assistant Teacher @ Spencer

Tara is always willing to give a helping hand to a classroom that is needing extra help or hands. She helps in our classroom by transitioning the children and understanding their needs. Tara has stepped in both roles as teacher and assistant teacher.



Tara takes it upon herself to organize, keep busy, and help where is needed. She has a smile on her face and is willing to step in. She is very dependable and reliable employee.

I appreciate when Tara had a work day, she took it upon herself to clean and organize in our classroom to make the transition of coming back after the holiday break more smooth for both the teachers and children. We appreciate her help at Head Start.

November 2024

CONGRATULATIONS!

NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Even with the hassle of new two new state systems at once, employee has remained positive and willing to work through any hurdles.

Jason Petersen - Outreach Specialist in Dickinson County

Jason is very pleasant and welcoming to everyone that walks through the door. Despite his office being one of the busier ones, he is always willing to lend a hand to other counties specifically with processing Li-Heap apps.

Jason truly has a passion for helping those in need. His drive & dedication to the mission truly shows with the outpouring of support and partnerships throughout the community.

November 2024

Congratulations!

NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE

OF THE MONTH

Peg Cavanaugh

Assistant Teacher @ Storm Lake

Peg shows up with the most positive attitude each and every day. Even on the hardest days, she brightens up our classroom with an effortless smile. Without even knowing it she motivates me to become an even better version of myself. The kids and I love her so, and we are lucky and grateful to have her as a part of our classroom family.

Peg is always on top of cleaning, re-stocking everything in our classroom. When the kids are needing extra help, she has so much patience with them and goes above and beyond to help each child succeed in their own way!



Peg is very deserving of this award because she is always willing to try new things, especially technology and in-kind related. I want her to know how grateful I am as it is not always easy, but she goes into learning new things with a positive attitude.

October 2024

Congratulations
October Employee of the Month

Dawn Hoffman



Administrative Assistant @ Central



Dawn has a great eye for detail, when it comes to decorating for the holidays the office building looks great and is very inviting.



Dawn is very organized, has a smile and a greeting for everyone she sees.



Dawn is very helpful with items being purchased with the credit card that are not showing up in MIP.



Dawn is great at keeping the hotel and flight registrations in order and entered in MIP right away. She takes on many roles within the office including: ordering office and or cleaning supplies, bathroom/kitchen cleanliness ect.

October 2024



OCTOBER
Congratulations!
Employee of the Month
STEVE TROJAHN
Custodian @ Spencer

- Steve has gone above & beyond- DAILY! Steve not only does janitorial duties but continues to fix or clean things ASAP especially when he can see us trying to clean things ourselves. Steve will clean anything he can see has a spot of dust (including the windows above our classrooms. Steve makes sure everything is safe and clean for the kids.
- Steve has contributed the success of safe & healthy learning & working environments. He contributes with integrity in his cleaning and contributes problem solving when things break.
- We are very lucky to have Steve. In a short time Steve has been with us multiple staff, kids & parents all make comments about how clean and good it smells in our school. His job is noticed and very much appreciated!
- Steve was hired just this Summer, he has made a genuine effort to get to know all staff within out building. He brings a positive attitude to work each day and assist anyone in any way he can.

