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Heartland Counseling Services' 2nd Annual Gala Celebration

Over 200 people came together to recognize important community members and raise funds in support of mental health. The event, held at Marriott South Sioux City Riverfront began with a silent auction, gift card wall and appetizers and then moved into a seated dinner with special awards and announcements emceed by Heartland Counseling's Executive Director Jennifer Jackson and guest Dr. Thomas Padgett. The evening culminated with a live auction with the infamous Randy Stabe as auctioneer as well as dancing with local DJ Dario.

Four very special people were honored for their dedication to serving others in Siouxland – Rosalie Two Bulls, Dr. David Paulsrud, Gladys Smith, and Art Silva. These individuals have and continue to make a lasting impression and amazing impact on individuals and the community as a whole.

The Dr. Stanley Reiss Award for Dedication to the Mental Health Field was awarded to Rosalie Two Bulls. A member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Rosalie grew up in Winnebago and served on the Winnebago Tribal Council for three terms. She dedicated her life to helping others, working with those in poverty, and advocating for women. Receiving her undergraduate degree from Briar Cliff, Rosalie went on to get her master's in social work from Arizona State in 1981. Rosalie worked at several mental health settings across several states as a mental health director and retired from her long career in Macy NE seven years ago as the Director of Guidance and Development at Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center.

Recognized with the Kermit Dahlen Award for Dedication to the Substance Use Field was Dr. David Paulsrud. A trained orthopedic surgeon turned medical director at Jackson Recovery, Dr. Paulsrud's passion of working with people became his life's purpose. Kermit expressed that Dr. Paulsrud is one of the smartest addictionologists that he's ever met, he studied the disease of addiction and was a wonderful, effective teacher to all levels of staff at Rosecrance Jackson. Although Dr. Paulsrud retired from Rosecrance Jackson Recovery Centers two years ago, the joy that his work gave him is still evident with every interaction he has with others. Due to family obligations, Dr. Paulsrud was unable to be in attendance so his colleague, Rachel Wurth, accepted the award on his behalf.

Gladys Smith was the recipient of the Virginia Cochran Award for Distinguished Clinician. Gladys has a bachelor's in psychology from Briar Cliff and her master's degree in social work from the University of Nebraska, Omaha. She started her career at the Florence Crittenton Home then moved to Boys and Girls Home and Family Services for 28 years and Jackson Recovery Center for nearly ten years. Tracy Merchant, former colleague, stated that Gladys's knowledge and expertise of working with adolescents is beyond excellent. An experienced clinician with over 35 years of clinical experience and a dedication to working with adolescents in residential treatment, Gladys now continues her career in private practice with Mental Health Associates in Sioux City.

Receiving the Rebecca Eckhardt Award as Friend & Advocate of Mental Health was Art Silva. Retiring in '07 from his dealership business, Art found himself quickly needing to do something. Art had served on the Boys and Girls Home and Family Services board of directors for nearly 20 years, he was retired and that's when the board asked if he would be interested in leading the non-profit. He has been the CEO for the past 12 years and works with his leadership team to serve the community and advocate for children's mental health. Art stated that this has been the hardest job in his career but also the most rewarding. Art hosts a weekly radio show about mental health, he's meeting with legislators to discuss mental health, and is continuously collaborating with other agencies in town to better our communities mental health.

Heartland's Executive Director Jennifer Jackson thanked everyone for attending and congratulated the award recipients. Jennifer also shared information on the growth of Heartland from starting 46 years ago with four staff members to nearing 50 at the end of 2022 and projecting 75 staff by the end of 2023, and stating "it should be no surprise to anyone that mental health needs have increased dramatically over the past few years, that the stigma is gradually reducing, and that people are finally seeking help."

In just five years, Heartland has gone from having one full-time therapist in one school district to having multiple full-time therapists in 15 school districts. Heartland's Permanent Supported Housing Program serving chronically homeless individuals began four years ago and currently has 32 apartments under the Program in Woodbury and Dakota Counties with planned expansion to another 18 apartments next year to get much needed wrap-around services to our homeless population and get them off the streets.

Gala sponsors included Giving Heart Sponsor: Tanisha Andersen Foundation; Wine Sponsor: Seaboard Triumph Foods; Dessert Sponsor: UnityPoint Health; Hopeful Heart Sponsors: CW Suter, Ho-Chunk Inc, Tyson Foods, and Unity in Action; Sharing Heart Sponsors: Family of Dr. Stanley Reiss and, Kermit Dahlen; Table Sponsors: Aflac, Aventure Staffing, BankFirst, Catholic Charities, Dr. David Paulsrud, Olsson, R Perry Construction, Rosecrance Jackson Recovery Centers, Seaboard Triumph Foods, Wells, and Winnebago Tribal Council of NE; donors: FiberComm, Great West Casualty, LP Gill, and Nichols Rise & Associates; the many individual donors and ticket purchasers, and all those who donated auction items.

Heartland Counseling is a nonprofit organization providing quality mental health and substance abuse services and education for the tri-state Siouxland community and lives by their motto: "Changing lives. Healing hearts. One day at a time!" For more information on Heartland Counseling Services, how you can receive mental health or substance abuse services, or how you can donate to the capital campaign or to help others in their journey to positive mental health, visit www.heartlandcounselingservices.org or call 402-494-3337.

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