

Tree of Life



Meet The CEO

(story Continued) When asked what her best/worst experience as a caregiver has been, her response was: Best experience – When someone non-verbal used an iPad for the first time and said through it, “I love you mom”. Worst experience – Often times when somebody you have supported passes. It’s never easy and does not get easier.

She stated that her best experience as a CEO has been our company picnic when she gets the opportunity to see everyone from UHI happy and enjoying themselves.

To bring our interview with Natasha to a conclusion, we asked if she has any regrets. Her response was “I don’t believe in regrets, everything is a learning experience. Even when you fall, you take it in a positive way and learn a lot from not repeating the same mistakes.”

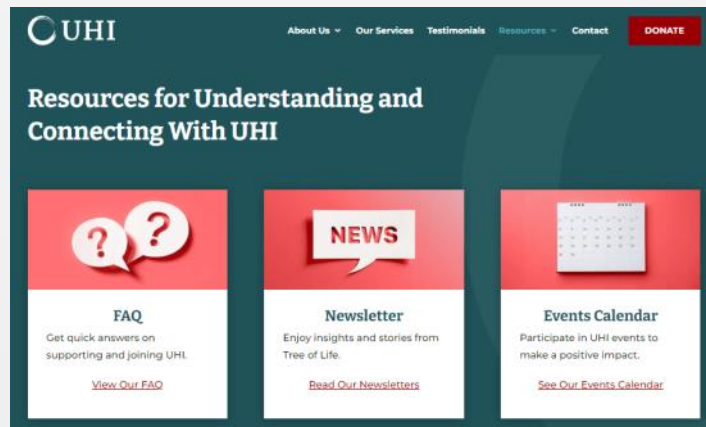
Lastly, we asked what advice she has for team members who aspire to grow in UHI. She stated “Be a leader where you are. Be involved in committees, it’s there that you can ask more questions and learn more.”

Inspiring Quote

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

– Arthur Ashe

UHI.LIFE



Get Your Questions Answered at UHI’s New Website: UHI.LIFE

Upcoming Events

- 9/20-Paws for a Cause at Melrose Vineyards
- 9/21-UCC's 60th Anniversary Celebration
- 9/20-22-Winston-Dillard Melon Festival
- 9/21-22-Seven Feathers Fall Classic Rodeo
- 9/26- Silent Book Club - Roseburg Library
- 10/5-Blocktober Fest-Downtown Roseburg
- TBA- Brosi Sugar Tree Farm Harvest Festival
- TBA- Wildlife Safari Zoobilee

See UHI Social Media for Event Updates

Little Free Library

UHI has it’s very own branch of the Little Free Library program on the Jackson Street side of the Jacobson Center. The concept of this library is take a book, leave a book. Kellie Ward spearheaded the project with Assistant Manager Zach Miller and the UHI Maintenance team assembling, staining, and setting it up.

The library is for everyone, with the goal of fostering awareness of the IDD community in Douglas County. If you’d like to take a selfie with #UHI, you can help to get the word out. Donations are gladly accepted of books for all ages.



Waldo's Adventure

With a mental checklist in hand, I made sure everything was in place for Waldo's, much anticipated, trip to the newly built park at Ford's Pond. Amy, his dedicated nurse, had meticulously gathered all the necessary gear, ensuring that he was ready for the adventure ahead. Waldo loves getting out of the house, going on walks, and listening to Latin music.

Upon arriving, I was taken back to my childhood, filled with the exhilaration of going to the park. Seeing Waldo and Amy play on the ground-level Merry-Go-Round, roll up to the top of the playground, and even make music with a giant xylophone, it hit home that no matter the challenges, everyone deserves the freedom to experience the fun of going to the park.



"I'm so thankful that I could share in Waldo's adventure. With the help of team members and accessible places like Ford's Pond, Waldo can continue to venture out and experience new things." Nathan Collins



UHI Annual Picnic

Our annual company picnic was so much fun! There was no shortage of food, cakes, games, fun, gifts and good prizes. We enjoyed seeing those we support, team members, and their families. Congratulations to those who won gift baskets this year!

This year we hosted about 80 team members, 27 supported individuals and 135 guests. What a turnout! Our Director of HR, Kellie Ward, was very entertaining dressed as a clown, which was most appropriate for our "Under the Big Top" theme.



We'd like to acknowledge and thank the following: The picnic committee, a group of leadership members that came up with great ideas for everyone to enjoy and create memories. Jenna Lanyon, our UHI Events and Teams Specialist, for her extremely hard work making this event possible. Brigette Timm, our UHI Activities Coordinator, for gathering and creating those beautiful baskets full of goodies. All the members of leadership that volunteered at the picnic. See you next year!



Celebrating 35 Years of Care

Can you believe it? Mike Purvis finally retired after 35 dedicated years serving of the supported people within Umpqua Homes.



Mike made his career as a caregiver after serving in the military. He applied for Umpqua Homes when there were only a few sites operating. He worked most of his years at Oak, formerly Oriole, and most recently, he was taking care of the ladies at Laurel. It was actually at the former Oriole where Mike met his late wife with whom he was happily married to for many years.

Mike had a passion for those he supported and always bonded with whoever needed his gentle care. The military taught Mike the importance of following routines which he believes helped him in his role. As one of the pioneer staff in Umpqua Homes, Mike received an appreciation award from our CEO, Natasha, for all his years of dedication to the organization. We wish Mike the best and congratulations on your retirement!



Meet The CEO

Natasha Atkinson came to UHI 7 years ago as our CEO. You can find her office on the second floor at the Jacobson Center. Natasha came to UHI with a bundle of experience and fresh ideas that have greatly benefitted the company and energized the leadership team. One of the many things she's done, and continues to do, is advocating for wage increases of DSP's. Natasha started her career when she, herself was a DSP. Her and her family operated a foster home for those with special needs.

After that, she was a Program Manager and then a Director of Residential Operations before coming to UHI. Here at UHI, she is responsible for the people we support and all the team members that support them. She is also responsible for ensuring that all policies are implemented and that rules and regulations are followed.



In addition to those responsibilities, Natasha wears many other hats. She believes Roseburg needs to have better solutions for housing and transportation. That is why she is on many committees, lobbies in the legislature, and is active in our community.

Natasha states "I want to be part of the solution. In UHI, our goal is to own all of our houses by December, expand one more to supported living, and expand our merge with Sunrise." (story continues on next page)