

CU Giving Back



At Cobalt, we love recognizing the many ways our employees give back to the communities we serve. Our CU Giving Back article this month features Sam and his influential work with Heartland Pride.

Heartland Pride is a nonprofit organization that began in 2010 and serves the greater Omaha and Council Bluffs area. It supports LGBTQ+ people by creating inclusive environments, working towards equality for all, and acknowledging the contributions made by those in the local community.

Sam's involvement with Heartland Pride started last year. He had a professional goal to become more active with an organization that makes a difference in the local community and he came across an opportunity to apply for a board position. His application was accepted and he joined the board in the role of the Parade Chair. Anyone who has volunteered with a nonprofit knows that their boards work tirelessly to support their mission and Heartland Pride is no different. While it's a lot of work, Sam is proud of his involvement and serving on the board has been a great fit for him.

As Parade Chair, Sam, with the help of the board's secretary, planned and organized Omaha's Pride Parade and Festival over the summer. Despite the hurdles a large scale event can bring, the day was a success with more than 3,000 in attendance. The funds raised were then given out to other smaller organizations, awarded in the form of scholarships, and will be used to put on more inclusive events. Sam's focus has been on creating safe, inclusive spaces and activities for kids to be a part of to help them navigate the challenges in society which can lead to poor choices. He enjoys seeing the happiness that events, like the parade, bring to those that attend. It gives him the motivation to continue knowing his work is making a difference to at least one person.

Sam's professional goal of joining a board has turned into so much more. Volunteering alongside other individuals with a shared purpose has made them more than colleagues, they're friends doing work they love. Sam is making a difference and his caring heart is helping change the world.