On With Life’s 28-bed Post-Acute Inpatient Neuro Rehabilitation program is CARF accredited as a “Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program for Adults and Children” and provides intense therapy to individuals, ages 10 and older, who have sustained a traumatic brain injury, stroke, tumor, loss of oxygen or other neurological condition. As one of only a handful of programs in the world with this level of accreditation outside of a hospital, we are truly a unique, one-of-a-kind rehabilitation provider. Our extensive rehabilitation experience and expertise in the treatment of individuals with brain injury allow us to optimize each person’s goals and dreams.

“We couldn’t have continued helping and supporting Luis without the education and guidance from the On With Life staff. They changed our lives as a family.”

- Patricia Marin

sister of person served

715 SW Ankeny Road
Ankeny, IA 50023-9798

(515) 964-0567 (Admissions)

(515) 289-9615 (General)

1-800-728-0645

onwithlife.org
Emma was a 17-year-old high school senior driving home from baby-sitting when her vehicle was struck by a drunk driver who ran a stop sign. After spending the next six weeks in a coma, Emma arrived at On With Life unable to walk, talk, eat, or swallow. After four months of intense inpatient rehabilitation, including On With Life’s very first “practice” prom held in her honor, Emma returned home to the life and community she loves. She completed her senior year and in the fall, attended Iowa Central Community College, just like she had always planned. Emma is now working toward an Associate’s degree in early elementary education with a B average and plans to transfer to Buena Vista University and pursue a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education degree with an emphasis in special education.

Dr. Tom Iverson was working as Provost of Central College when he fell off the roof of his Pella home and sustained a traumatic brain injury. Tom was taken by air ambulance to a Des Moines hospital, where he would remain in a coma for three weeks. During that time, his wife Diane toured On With Life and knew right away that it was where Tom should be. Tom transferred to On With Life just as he started to emerge out of his coma and spent the next seven weeks receiving intense rehabilitation. His remarkable recovery allowed him to return to his role as Provost of Central College for three more years before announcing his retirement. After his recovery, Tom also served on the On With Life board, becoming the first person served to ever do so. In 2010, the Iversons moved to Tom’s childhood home, a 4,500-acre ranch in a remote area of Montana, where Tom and his nephew now run the ranch, complete with 200 cow/calf pairs.

"This accident may have knocked me off course for a short time, but I didn’t allow it to change my plans. It is really important that I still live a life I want,” said Emma. “It’s an adventure, and even I surprise myself sometimes by what I can do."

"Being able to serve on the On With Life board and return to Montana and run a ranch is a true tribute to the care I received at On With Life,” said Tom. “They helped me rehab to a point where I was and am able to serve in this capacity and I will be forever grateful."
OUR REHABILITATION TEAM

The compassionate and dedicated culture felt and seen at On With Life is directly related to the dedication and passion of our entire team. From therapy, to nursing, to case management, to administration, to the environmental and dietary teams, each of our team members understands that they play an important role in the lives of those we serve. At On With Life, we walk alongside persons served and their families throughout the rehabilitation journey – we are all in this together.

THERAPY TEAM

Our therapy team works together to provide a trans-disciplinary approach to the rehabilitation journey. Physical therapists use the latest technology and equipment available to help regain strength, endurance and balance. Occupational therapists enhance life skills and evaluate/address visual skills, movement, and cognition. Speech language pathologists enhance cognitive abilities, executive functioning, receptive and expressive language skills, and motor control and implement alternative means of communication when deficits exist. Therapeutic recreation specialists understand the interests and talents of each individual and focus on community reintegration activities to make the rehabilitation experience meaningful, fun and functional. Our music therapist promotes cognitive, social, emotional and physical well-being along with vocalization, self-expression, rhythmic movements, orientation, relaxation and enhances overall self-esteem. Our medical nutritional therapist is a registered dietitian who assesses the nutritional needs of each person served to maintain safe swallowing, address medical needs and maximize nutritional status.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Our neuropsychologist and clinical counselor assess strengths and needs in the areas of cognition, behavior management, mental health, substance abuse and sexuality, providing information and guidance for rehabilitation plans. They also counsel persons served and their families and work closely with our social workers and consulting psychiatrist to minimize emotional barriers.

REHABILITATION NURSING

Our rehabilitation nursing team plays a vital role in the rehabilitation experience as its role is to help individuals remain medically stable so they can fully participate and benefit from intensive therapy and clinical intervention. On average, when individuals arrive at On With Life, they are taking 15 medications and experiencing 10 or more co-morbidities, such as diabetes, hypertension or pain, each of which needs to be managed within an individualized plan of care. Our nursing team provides a range of specialized services to meet the complex medical and emotional needs of individuals with brain injury. Education is also an important role of the nursing staff who work with persons served and their families to teach prevention and medical management and provide training in preparation for discharge.

MEDICAL TEAM

Our physicians supervise the planning and implementation of each individual’s treatment plan. Our medical director is a board certified internist and our rehabilitation medical director is a board certified physiatrist. Our consulting psychiatrist helps treat mood state and levels of agitation to optimize rehabilitation outcomes. Our rehabilitation teams work closely with these physicians and other specialists to maximize functional outcomes. The level of medical acuity of our persons served averages 50% higher than other skilled facilities in Iowa.

SOCIAL SERVICES/CASE MANAGEMENT

Our Case Management team is often the first contact with persons served and families during the evaluation process and closely monitors persons served throughout the rehabilitation journey. They maintain consistent contact with family members and external case managers to communicate information, understand cultural and spiritual preferences, address critical issues and coordinate discharge planning. This team also assists with applications for funding, provides referrals for short- and long-term resources, encourages advocacy and provides education before and after discharge, including planning and coordination for return to work and school.

SUPPORT SERVICES

On With Life offers a number of additional support services that are an important part of the rehabilitation process, including peer mentoring, vocational services and spiritual support services.

"The focus at On With Life is to help persons served and their family get on with their lives, and that is exactly what they did for us. There is no doubt in my mind that Teagan is where he is today because of his time at On With Life.”

- Carrie Rouse

wife of person served

“At On With Life, we were shown by providers – therapists, nurses, counselors and physicians – that they loved her and were committed to her care. It was meaningful to see so many of them at her graduation to tell her that she was an inspiration.”

- Jeanie Thomas

mom of person served
The injury, the entire family is affected. Our focus on family
provided.
recreation, music therapy and peer mentoring are
such as neuropsychology, clinical counseling, therapeutic
average of three hours per day, five or more days per
Persons served at On With Life receive core therapy
maximize the survivor's improvement. We have admitted
The entire rehabilitation team
abilities and potential, and deserves a treatment plan
each brain injury survivor is unique, with specific needs,
As specialists in brain injury rehabilitation, we know that
promise
condition:
stroke, tumor, aneurysm or other neurological
emerged from their DOC and 60% returned
rehabilitation goals.
the higher the likelihood that individuals will reach their
Our nationally recognized Disorders of Consciousness
program addresses the unique needs of adolescents and adults with severe brain injury who present with low levels of consciousness. This program includes specialized physical interventions to address body positioning, muscle tone and medical stability. Our team provides environmental stimuli, monitors for signs of arousal/awareness, and adjusts the stimuli in order to maximize the survivor’s improvement. We have admitted more than 250 individuals into our DOC program and of those, 76% emerged from their DOC and 66% returned home at discharge.
Our Family Guest House is a comfortable home
environment available for overnight stays for family members of persons served as they support their loved
The inpatient rehabilitation process. The
A built-in technology system allows therapists to
measure real-time improvements in mobility.
FAMILY HOUSE
Our Family Guest House is a comfortable home
environment available for overnight stays for family
members of persons served as they support their loved
one during the inpatient rehabilitation process. The
five-bedroom, 3.5 bath house is located on the Inpatient
THERAPEUTIC GROUNDS
In the next two years, 1.5 acres of green space on our
Amkens campus will transform into a multi-functional
therapeutic ground space which will include accessible
outdoor therapy areas, walking trails with varying
surfaces and interwoven paths, a music zen garden,
putting green, raised planting beds, butterfly garden,
amphitheater, basketball court, and an all-inclusive
playground.
THERAPY DOG
White pet therapy has always played a role at On With Life, we now have
our very own therapy dog who spends her days assisting
therapists. Lola has become a valuable team member in the rehabilitation process as she helps persons served with balance, mobility and strength challenges. She also provides an emotional connection and motivation for persons recovering from brain injury.
THERAPEUTIC ENVIRONMENT
Our recent $5 million expansion and remodeling project allowed us to double the amount of dedicated therapy space and add additional equipment, including a 100 foot ceiling mounted walking gait track, a practice apartment and a specialized therapy car used to help persons served and families re-learn how to transfer in and out of a vehicle.
AQUATIC THERAPY POOL
An underwater variable speed treadmill and varying water depths of our new 12’ x 20’ warm water pool allow clinicians to treat multiple individuals at different stages of weight bearing status and movements to be completed much more easily and efficiently than on
land. A built-in technology system allows therapists to
measure real-time improvements in mobility.

MISSION FOCUSED
On With Life is a not-for-profit organization created by families more than 30 years ago. Our mission, “joining hands, hearts and minds to help persons living with brain injury get ‘On With Life,’” is something we live every single day and can be felt the minute you enter the doors of On With Life.

INDIVIDUALIZED, COLLABORATIVE CARE
As specialists in brain injury rehabilitation, we know that each brain injury survivor is unique, with specific needs, capabilities and potential, and deserves a treatment plan that is highly specialized. The entire rehabilitation team at On With Life works together with persons served and

INTENSIVE REHABILITATION SERVICES
Persons served at On With Life receive core therapy services (physical, occupational and speech therapy) an average of three hours per day, five or more days per week, with evening therapy available most days. In addition to core therapy services, additional services such as neuropsychology, clinical counseling, therapeutic recreation, music therapy and peer mentoring are provided.

A FOCUS ON FAMILY
We understand that when a loved one sustains a brain injury, the entire family is affected. Our focus on family support and involvement in the rehabilitation process has been core to our mission since we opened in 1991. The more we can support and encourage active participation by families in their loved one’s rehabilitation process, the higher the likelihood that individuals will reach their rehabilitation goals.

DISORDERS OF CONSCIOUSNESS PROGRAM
Our nationally recognized Disorders of Consciousness (DOC) program addresses the unique needs of adolescents and adults with severe brain injury who present with low levels of consciousness. This program includes specialized physical interventions to address body positioning, muscle tone and medical stability. Our team provides environmental stimuli, monitors for signs of arousal/awareness, and adjusts the stimuli in order to maximize the survivor’s improvement. We have admitted more than 250 individuals into our DOC program and of those, 76% emerged from their DOC and 66% returned home at discharge.
CONTINUUM OF CARE
We are proud to provide a continuum of specialty services for persons served who have sustained a traumatic brain injury: stroke, tumor, aneurysm or other neurological condition:
• Post-Acute Inpatient Neuro Rehabilitation
• Outpatient Neuro Rehabilitation
• Supported Community Living
• Long-Term Skilled Care for Youth and Younger Adults
• Neuropsychological Evaluation and Consultation
• Independent Living at the Apartments of OWL Creek

PROGRAM UPDATES

ADMISSION CRITERIA
The person to be served:
• Has acquired a brain injury or other neurological disorder. Persons who also present with a spinal cord injury may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
• Has the potential to participate in, and benefit from, comprehensive rehabilitation services.
• Is medically stable and no longer requires acute hospitalization.
• Breathes independently, without medical assistance.
• Does not demonstrate a severe behavioral, psychiatric or personality disorder that poses a threat to self or others, or that requires intense or long-term psychiatric intervention.
• Is age 10 or older (persons from age 10 to 17 need permission from the State of Iowa).
• Has either a legally appointed decision maker or a family representative responsible for decisions and/or informed choices in cases of a minor or adult not capable of informed decision making.
• Has means of payment for services.

Please visit our website (onwithlife.org) for more information on On With Life’s ability to manage specific co-morbid diagnoses and treatments.

DISCHARGE CRITERIA
The person to be served:
• Has improved sufficiently so he or she no longer needs the services provided within the Inpatient rehabilitation program.
• Is no longer medically stable and cannot benefit from the Intensive rehabilitation program.
• Has a responsible party determine that he or she no longer wants to participate in the comprehensive rehabilitation program.
• No longer has a viable funding source for Inpatient rehabilitation services.
• Has the means to pay, has failed after reasonable and appropriate notice to pay for services (funding sources accepted include health insurance, Medicare, Iowa & Nebraska Medicaid, private pay and workers’ compensation insurance).